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# The Exorcist



## **Synopsis**

Robert Glenister and Ian McDiarmid star in a gripping BBC Radio dramatization of William Peter Blatty's classic horror novel. Summoned to a case of apparent possession, Father Karras is at first skeptical, then horrified. The victim "a 12-year-old girl named Regan" seems to be controlled by a malign supernatural force that makes her swear, blaspheme, scream in agony, and perform appalling acts. Attempting to find a rational explanation for the girl's behaviour, Karras tries to talk to Regan, only to find himself locking horns with the demon inside her head. Its many voices mock him, tormenting him with his weakness, doubts, and buried guilt. With his faith in God and humanity tested to the limit, Karras turns to the ultimate solution: exorcism. The film version of *The Exorcist* is widely considered to be one of the most terrifying movies ever made. This new, full-cast radio drama is just as chilling, suspenseful, and shocking, while also retaining the depth and psychological complexity of Blatty's original novel. Adapted by Sony Award-winning dramatist Robert Forrest, it stars Robert Glenister as Karras, Alexandra Mathie as the Demon, and Ian McDiarmid as Merrin.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

When originally published in 1971, *The Exorcist* became not only a bestselling literary phenomenon, but one of the most frightening and controversial novels ever written. (When the author adapted his book to the screen two years later, it then became one of the most terrifying movies ever made.) The deceptively simple story focuses on Regan, the 11-year-old daughter of a movie actress residing in Washington, D.C.; the child apparently is possessed by an ancient demon. It's up to a

small group of overwhelmed yet determined humans to somehow rescue Regan from this unspeakable fate. Purposefully raw and profane, this novel still has the extraordinary ability to literally shock us into forgetting that it is "just a story." The Exorcist remains a truly unforgettable reading experience. Blatty published a sequel, Legion, in 1983. --Stanley Wiater --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

""The Exorcist" is as superior to most books of its kind as an Einstein equation is to an accountant's column of figures." "--New York Times Book Review""Wonderfully exciting." "--Newsweek""Read the book! It's an experience you will never forget." "--St. Louis Post-Dispatch" --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

This book gave me chills! Fans of the movie will appreciate this. I am somewhat of a horror "aficionado" (ie: avid reader/watcher) and was pleasantly surprised by this book. It gives insight into the characters inner thoughts and resolves some of the (admittedly small) plot holes in the movie. The true nature of evil is always fascinating (to Christians and non-Christians alike) and while I did find some of the subject matter offensive (ex: blasphemous, language, content,etc) it wasn't gratuitous and it always advanced the plot in some way. Easily offended people, impressionable people and those under 18 probably shouldn't read this book.

Allow me to start by saying that I am a fan of the macabre and horrific but I tend to lean more towards true crime. I have tried to read horror fiction before with only predictable success (King, Lovecraft, Poe, etc). Interestingly enough, recently my fascination with all things dark and terrifying was taking me down the road of exorcisms and demonic possession and I was searching kindle books for something to "scratch that itch," so to speak, and while I was not looking for fiction and I was not looking for "The Exorcist" specifically, boy am I glad I took the chance. I will say too, because I think it's important to mention, I don't find the movie particularly scary. While the story - the concept for the book and film - certainly is scary, the movie just didn't grip me and scare me like so many said it would (I am willing to acknowledge that I might be slightly more warped than the next guy and this might also be a contributing factor to my lack of fear but I digress). First, very generally speaking, this book is written phenomenally. The characters are complex and brooding. The scenes are dark and rich and you can almost feel the cold, smell the smells, feel the terror. There are some surprises that I didn't recall from the movie that made for some pretty scary moments that ultimately made this book one of my all time favorites! Highly recommended!

After having finally read this, I see what a great job the movie did. The inner monologues were wonderful, something a movie can't portray. Especially those of Father Karras. I liked him much better in the book than in the movie. He was much more courageous than portrayed in the film, as was Father Merrin. The writing was a bit dated, but so what? I was terrified for years to read The book because the movie affected me so deeply, but it was fine.

One of my favorite movies now one of my favorite books. On rare occasions I read the book after seeing the movie. I am very glad I did . Every role in the book was beautifully and strongly shown in the movie . Maybe the acting directing etc were so good that the plot characters and themes etc got a wonderful fulfillment from the book in my mind. The combination movie first then book worked very well for me.I am a very hard grader . This is one of the few five star reviews I have given.

I have seen the movie dozens of times and for some reason have never read the book. Until now. Everything that was in the movie was in the book but the book had characters that were minor in the movie became major characters in the book. The married couple who were managing the house-who had one hell of a secret-and her secretary were major characters here. Also the dinner party where Regan says "You are going to die up there" was in so much detail. There was a psychic at the party that was never discussed in the movie.The talk of black magic and rituals were mildly brought up in the movie but here there is much discussion. Very powerful-I could not put down.The movie is in my top five horror movies of all time and the book is now in my top five horror books.The book flowed fast and did not slow down. If you love the movie and have not read the book. ORDER IT NOW! I was reading it at night and did not want to leave my room because there was no light out there...who knows what could be lurking out there...Terrifying, compelling and most importantly entertaining.Enjoy....just keep the lights in your house on if you read at night!Brilliant!

And you will be compelled, carried along on a river of emotions.....those of the divorced actress.....of the psychiatrist and Jesuit priest.....of faith, belief, disappointment, triumph. The 40th anniversary edition explores more fully the role of faith in the struggle. I expected to be titilated.....I was moved.

It was such a pleasure reading The Exorcist: 40th Anniversary Edition. After having read the last several pages of this seminal masterpiece, there were many questions in my mind regarding

religion, especially when one experiences a personal crisis in the Jesuit/Catholic faith, such as the tortured young priest, Father Karras. Father Karras is my most favorite character of The Exorcist because I can empathize, to some extent, his tortured feelings of personal loss-that of a close loved one (his mother) and his own self-doubt in the plight to exorcise Regan MacNeil of the demon that has mercilessly possessed her. In a full sense, Father Karras is himself "possessed" by his own personal and religious demons and this I DEFINITELY can relate to, in a similar way because I've often discovered that I'm "possessed" by my own personal demons of self-doubt and low self-esteem, which mainly stem from a very troubled emotional past. As for the climactic exorcism scene, I was EXTREMELY riveted and could feel the tension mounting as I turned the last several pages. Almost 2 years prior to reading this legendary novel, I had FINALLY seen the 1973 movie The Exorcist (I borrowed a dvd copy from my hometown library and watched it with my friend on a Saturday morning) in its entirety and enjoyed it SO MUCH that I decided to purchase the Collector's Edition blu-ray, which also includes the Director's Cut of the film (which I plan to watch some other Saturday morning-won't EVER dare to view it at night-LOL!!).

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