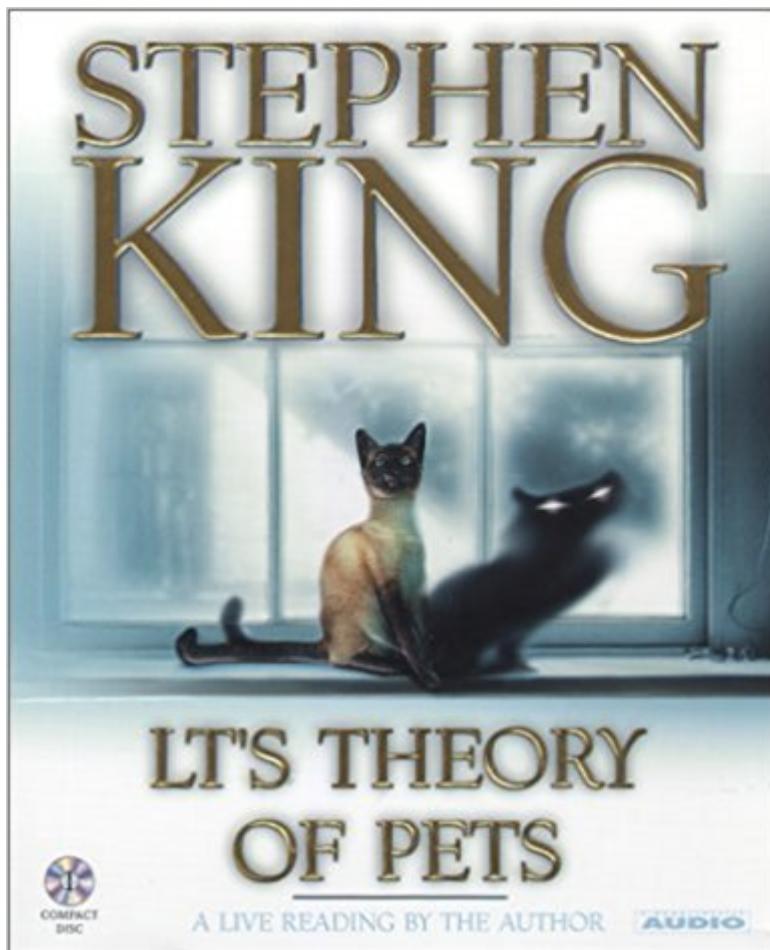


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LT's Theory Of Pets



Synopsis

A Rare Live Stephen King Recording! Stephen King delivers a haunting, heartfelt performance as he shares a story about the bonds between husbands, wives and pets. LT has a theory about pets, particularly his Siamese cat. It had been their cat not just his cat, but that was until he came home one day to a note on the fridge. His wife had left him. The cat stayed behind... Recorded live at London's Royal Festival Hall, LT's Theory of Pets demonstrates yet again that Stephen King is a master storyteller.

Book Information

Audio CD

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Customer Reviews

King's fans will likely snap up this audio-only recording of King reading an unpublished short story to an audience at London's Royal Festival Hall. King warms up the audience, humorously warning them to beware of possible murderers lurking in the back seat of their cars as they drive home, adding, "I don't want to scare you...." The story itself is mostly a comical one: a man tells how he gave his wife a cat for a present, and his wife gave him a dog, but each ended up with the other's pet. The antipathy each felt for their own pet (with anecdotes of the dog throwing up in the husband's shoes, the cat clawing at the wife's drapes, etc.) reflected the disharmony in the marriage itself, until the wife walked out. In typical King fashion, the humor turns to horror at the end. King has narrated many of his novels for audio and has an easy, relaxed style that works well here. He easily assumes the roles of both the man and his best friend, who tell different parts of the story, and makes his voice slightly higher for the woman's dialogue. King loyalists should be pleased to add this mid-range item to their collections, but those on the fringes might wonder if the story would

perhaps be a better money value as part of a collection. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Stephen King is the author of more than fifty books, all of them worldwide bestsellers. His recent work includes *The Bill Hodges Trilogy* (an Edgar Award winner for Best Novel), *Finders Keepers*, and *The End of Watch* (and the story collection *The Bazaar of Bad Dreams*). His epic series, *The Dark Tower*, is the basis for a major motion picture starring Idris Elba and Matthew McConaughey. It is also now a major motion picture starring Bill Skarsgård. King is the recipient of the 2014 National Medal of Arts and the 2003 National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. He lives in Bangor, Maine, with his wife, novelist Tabitha King. Stephen King is the author of more than fifty books, all of them worldwide bestsellers. His recent work includes *The Bill Hodges Trilogy* (an Edgar Award winner for Best Novel), *Finders Keepers*, and *The End of Watch* (and the story collection *The Bazaar of Bad Dreams*). His epic series, *The Dark Tower*, is the basis for a major motion picture starring Idris Elba and Matthew McConaughey. It is also now a major motion picture starring Bill Skarsgård. King is the recipient of the 2014 National Medal of Arts and the 2003 National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. He lives in Bangor, Maine, with his wife, novelist Tabitha King.

First, the good stuff. Stephen King makes for a great reader of his material. On this audio version, we've got him reading live to a group of students, it sounds like, and he has some introductory remarks that are pretty amusing. And he really mines the humor of his story, and the audience laughs a lot, as does the listener. For admirers of King, this is a real treat. We sort of get to share the story with the other listeners. However, the story itself is pretty thin. The humorous stuff, mostly at the beginning, is quite amusing, though it feels a bit padded (the husband detailing his problems with a dog that throws up in his shoes is funny, but goes ON and ON!!). It almost feels like King wrote this story to be a stand-up act for himself. But as the story takes a turn for the serious, it gets yucky and unbelievable. The husband whose wife has left him (and the wife may have become the victim of a serial killer, for no good reason other than that's what King wanted) clings to hope that she is alive, but his imaginings of what she is now doing with herself are exploitative, cheap and don't ring remotely true. (For those of you who read *IT*, remember how phony it seemed when the female character had relations with all her male friends as a WAY TO SAVE THE DAY!!! Yuck to that too.) And even if you accept that, the story just sort of ends, leaving the listener or reader to

scratch his head. And the title is a poor choice too: LT's Theory will zip right past you if you aren't listening carefully. So, if you just want to read the story, buy the collection **EVERYTHING'S EVENTUAL**. If you'd like to hear King at his audio best, then go ahead and spring for this. Just be warned, you won't like the ending.

I listened to this audiotape today in my car (it being Stephen King, I deliberately listened to it in broad daylight!) I didn't realize it was only one cassette till I opened the box, but no big deal. I loved the setting - live audience - and I think King got an extra charge from reading because it was live. I loved the story, the characters, the humor, etc. But the ending! "That's it?" I yelled at the car radio. Geesh, I wanted more!!!! Maybe if he does decide to publish the story he'll "finish" it. I'm glad I got a chance to listen to it, but I sure wouldn't recommend it to others. He left me wanting more.

It was excellent

Just to hear Stephen read his own hilarious phrases in this story is enough to make owning it worthwhile. Doesn't last that long but this is something you will listen to again and again.

I have listened to this story over and over. It's read by Stephen King which just adds to the pleasure. While he's known for suspense and really scary stories, I've always loved the humor that is in his writing. Also, being a cat and dog lover, it was easy to picture the story as it went along. I loved it!

Stephen King is a master storyteller in print and in voice. He delivers a short story here with plenty of punch. All that is lacking is the campfire and marshmallows. The setting, in front of a live audience, adds to the pleasure. As is often the case with King stories, the tale starts off on a humorous note and then delivers the horror toward the end. It is obvious King has spent some time observing cats and dogs. He paints a very real picture of animal behavior in this story. There is some rough language which may be offensive to some listeners. It is a short story and I plan to listen to it again and again to see if I missed anything the first time around. Knowing SK as I do, I'm sure there are hidden meanings lurking everywhere.

I really enjoyed listening to this story told by Stephen King himself. The story is pretty good and King told it very well. It's not terribly long, about an hour I think, but it's an entertaining hour.

Stephen King's new story, "LT's Theory of Pets," is really less about pets than about the fragility of marriage. It's a theme that King seems to be fond of (especially in more recent years). Unfortunately, at least in this instance, King doesn't have anything to say on the topic that particularly revelatory. He goes to some trouble to evoke the emotions associated with a breakup, but there's nothing really substantial here about the internal dynamics of the relationship. In a way, this story puts me in mind of another one by King about the marriage state, "Lunch at the Gotham Cafe" (1995). While "Cafe" suffers from some of the same problems as "Pets," at least "Cafe" was more entertaining, if only in a typically King-like gruesome manner. ("Cafe" won the 1995 Stoker award for Superior Achievement in Long Fiction, and was nominated for the 1996 Locus for Best Novelette.)

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