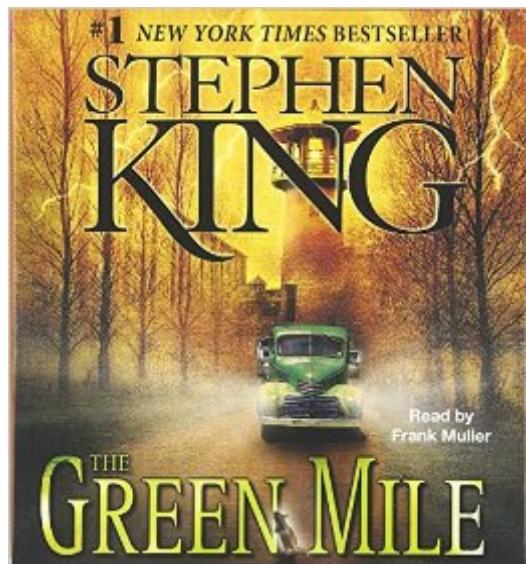


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# The Green Mile: The Complete Serial Novel



## **Synopsis**

Here this history-making serial novel -- from cliffhanger to cliffhanger -- in its entirety. When it first appeared, one volume per month, Stephen King's *The Green Mile* was an unprecedented publishing triumph: all six volumes ended up on the New York Times bestseller list -- simultaneously -- and delighted millions of fans the world over. Welcome to Cold Mountain Penitentiary, home to the Depression-worn men of E Block. Convicted killers all, each awaits his turn to walk the Green Mile, keeping a date with "Old Sparky," Cold Mountain's electric chair. Prison guard Paul Edgecombe has seen his share of oddities in his years working the Mile. But he's never seen anyone like John Coffey, a man with the body of a giant and the mind of a child, condemned for a crime terrifying in its violence and shocking in its depravity. In this place of ultimate retribution, Edgecombe is about to discover the terrible, wondrous truth about Coffey, a truth that will challenge his most cherished beliefs...and yours.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I have to admit that I watched the movie before I read the book. I was very pleased after finishing the book to realize that the movie did not deviate too far from the book at all. This is the first Stephen King novel I've ever read. I don't care for horror and supernatural stories, but this particular story I felt needed to be read, not for the supernatural tale, but for the human experience. In the 6 sections of the serial novel that comprises the paperback, King develops the story of John Coffey, who is sent to death row, which is also called "The Green Mile", for the rape and murders of twin girls. However, Paul Edgecombe, security guard, doesn't believe that this man, who's afraid of the dark,

could have committed such a terrible crime. Intertwined within this story are subplots that include, Percy Wetmore, Eduard Delacroix, and William 'Billy The Kid' Wharton, and of course Mr. Jingles. The movie is approximately 3 hours long, and it was worth every minute. I read the book in 2 days, and that's a record for me, and it was also worth every minute.

This book is an old man's (Paul Edgecomb - the head prison guard at Cell Block E), recollection of events that occurred in 1932 at the Cold Mountain State Penitentiary. In particular, it focuses on John Coffey, a convicted murderer and rapist of two small girls, convicted murderer and psychopath William (Billy the Kid) Wharton and convicted murderer Delacroix. And a mouse by the name of "Mr. Jingles". It is the story of a special gift which one of these prisoners possesses, one that none of us would probably want. King has produced a profoundly moving story and I assure you, the last fifty pages of this book will be read through tear-filled eyes. The characters and story are memorable; the lessons and messages are clear. I absolutely loved this book... I think you will too! (Let's all hope Hollywood does a good job with it) Most highly recommended!

The movie "The Shawshank Redemption" has one of the most compelling stories of all time. Great characters, gripping plot, a heartfelt emotion make it an experience like no other. Now, there is another king (no pun intended) in town. The Green Mile, with its cast of well-fleshed and intriguing characters (John Coffey, Delacroix, and even Mr. Jingles the mouse) and emotion thicker than pea soup make this a great book already. But where this book truly shines is its plot; engaging, well-crafted, intriguing, thought-provoking, riveting, you name it, this plot has it. Considering that Stephen King didn't know how it would end when he began writing it, this is an astonishing feat. This is the best book I have ever read, and I recommend it to anyone.

I bought the book because I wanted to know the story before the movie was released. I am a Stephen King fan but realize that not all of his stories translate well on film, so I wanted to get a heads up beforehand. In the same vein as 'Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption' (title of the original story, not the movie), Stephen King took what could have been a depressing and, what I'm sure some were expecting, horrifying story line, and wove into it some of the most touching glimpses of humanity and spirituality that I have ever read. Since the story is set in the 1930s, I thought he captured the racism of the time very well -- the interactions between John Coffey and the other characters in the book seemed natural, if that is a word wants to associate with prejudicial attitudes. What I liked about the book is that Stephen King was able to humanize everyone. In spite

of being Death Row inmates, one can almost feel a sympathy for these men, except for Wild Bill Wharton, of course. John Coffey's tears, Delacroix's friendship with a stray mouse -- it was an interesting contrast to our popular perceptions of 'hardened criminals.' Also, the interactions between the 'guilty' men on the inside and the 'innocent' men on the outside make you think about who is more capable of evil (study Percy Whetmore). I agreed with one reviewer that, in collapsing the series into one novel, there was some unnecessary repetition at the beginning of each segment. Aside from that, I had very few problems with the book, and I cried when I finished reading it. Not the reaction I expected to have upon arriving at the end of a Stephen King novel. But, I leave you to judge for yourself. Also, go see the movie -- it is equally beautiful, and brings the characters (specifically John Coffey and Percy Whetmore) to life in a way that you can't get from reading the book. If anything, watch it for Mr. Jingles.

Is John Coffey a Murderer? As the large man is admitted to Death Row at Cold Mountain Penitentiary saying, "I tried to take it back, but it was too late," that is question Paul Edgecombe, head of security, must ask himself. After some investigation, and with the help of Eduard Delecroix, a convicted murderer, and his pet mouse Mr. Jingles, Paul discovers the truth and is forced to make the most difficult decision of his life. Along the way, William "Billy the Kid" Wharton comes to the Green Mile (so named for its lime carpeting) and shakes things up, just adding to the trouble caused by Percy Wetmore, the antagonistic rookie guard. The book is told in first person and six parts, as Paul Edgecombe recounts the events and carries on a simultaneous present tense story. I liked the book it has realistic dialogue as well as a down-to-earth view during the Great Depression, and the way it was written in parts gives it a unique feel. The Green Mile, by Stephen King, is definitely worth the read.

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