



Throttle

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Inspired by Richard Matheson's classic "Duel," "Throttle," by Joe Hill and Stephen King, is a duel of a different kind, pitting a faceless trucker against a tribe of motorcycle outlaws in the simmering Nevada desert. Their battle is fought out on twenty miles of the most lonely road in the country, a place where the only thing worse than not knowing what you're up against, is slowing down . . .

Throttle Details

Date : Published April 17th 2012 by William Morrow (first published February 2009)

ISBN :

Author : Joe Hill , Stephen King

Format : Kindle Edition 47 pages

Genre : Fiction, Short Stories, Horror, Thriller

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From Reader Review Throttle for online ebook

Sadie Hartmann Mother Horror says

For only being right around 50 pages long I thought King and Hill were able to develop a plot with back story, interesting characters and dialog, suspense and a fulfilling ending. Definitely worth the .99 and the hour or so it took to read it.

Mandy says

Great horror short about a group of bikers and a trucker.

Debra says

The blurb says this was inspired by Richard Matheson's *Duel* but has a Sons of Anarchy vibe to it as well. A trucker is chasing down a tribe of motorcyclists on a Nevada freeway. This father/son writing dual feature a father/son in this short story. Over a stretch of 20 long and lonely miles, a trucker is hell bent on their destruction. Why? Be careful what you talk about in public!

Angela says

"They had been Vince's brothers in a way, and Race was his son, and you couldn't drive a man's family to the earth and expect to live."

Kelly Hager says

This has been billed as being sort of their homage to *Duel*. It's about a motorcycle gang that manages to irritate a trucker. There's a lot more going on than this, of course, but that's the most basic and spoiler-free way to put it.

Somehow, this book was out for days---DAYS!---before I knew of its existence. And yes, it's a short story not a novel, but still. DAYS! If you know anything at all about me, you know that I love Stephen King. And you probably---hopefully---know that I love his son, Joe Hill, too. (If you haven't read Joe Hill's *Heart-Shaped Box*, please change that. Because it's AWESOME.)

This isn't either man's best work, but it's definitely entertaining and well worth the 99 cents. I think most people could read it in less than an hour or two (if it ends up being more than 50 pages, I'd be shocked) and while it takes a little while for it to get good (read: for the psycho truck guy to show up), once it does, it gets

amazing.

We don't get to learn much about the characters, but that's sort of a secondary concern for a story like this. The idea is to be a great action story (and a suspenseful one) and it absolutely succeeds at that.

One note---and I probably don't need to mention it, given that one of the two authors is Stephen King---you may not want to be eating while reading this book.

This Kindle single is available for 99 cents, so if you have a Kindle (or a Kindle app), absolutely check it out. It's incredibly fun.

Kelly says

I enjoyed this short story even though it was not as fleshed out as I would normally like. I got a really heavy Sons of Anarchy vibe here, so I enjoyed that part of the story. And I liked having our hero be the older, father figure of the story. Overall an easy, fun read from the King men.

Dan Schwent says

A trucker chases a biker gang across the Nevada desert. Carnage ensues.

Stephen King and Joe Hill team up for this tale which originally appeared in a Richard Matheson tribute anthology. Fittingly enough, it prominently features a father and son in a biker gang called The Tribe.

Fresh from a meth deal gone wrong, The Tribe speeds across the desert, looking for a way to get back its \$60,000. For some reason, a trucker wants them dead.

That's pretty much all I can tell without just spoiling the entire story. There's a lot of blood and gore and a surprising amount of character moments between Vince and Race. I wonder if the conflict between them was in any way inspired by the collaboration of the Kings on this story.

It's a fun short story and a great read when you're looking for anything to do besides yardwork out in the heat of the Missouri summer. Four out of five stars.

Michelle says

Good short read. Reminded me a lot of the tv cable series Sons of Anarchy that Stephen King made a cameo in. Could just see him riding his red Harley next to his son. The story follows a motorcycle gang who upsets a trucker at a bar who then succeeds in diminishing the gangs numbers by running them off the road or just driving over them in his semi.

Cyndi says

I may be totally biased by my love of both of these authors, however this novella was most delicious!

A collaborative homage to Richard Matheson's *Duel*, which was the inspiration for Spielberg's first film.

I found the fact that a father/son team produced a tale of another father/son team very serendipitous. In this tale the filial paradigm is fraught with violence, suspense and choices with far reaching results.

Again my 5 star rating may be rooted in bias, but somehow I cannot allow myself to believe that!

Sumit RK says

Stephen King & Joe Hill co-author this short story inspired by Richard Matheson's "Duel". A biker gang and a trucker involved in a deadly chase across the Nevada desert. The story starts off slow but the chase keeps you hooked. There are no clear heroes or villains in this story, it's all shades of grey.

Overall, a quick read with a satisfying ending.

Amar says

Kad su se tata i sin King udružili, o?ekivao sam svašta.Izgleda da sam o?ekivao malo previše .

Nije baš da mi se nije svidilo , ova ocjena 2 se odnosi na "it was ok". I jeste , bilo je ok , nista više i ništa manje. Nema nekih baš uprati?atljivih scena koje bi mogao pamtit.

Mogu to oni mnogo bolje

Marvin says

I'm really not sure why any author, not to mention two, would write a re-make of Richard Matheson's great story, "Duel" but that is basically what "Throttle" is. Fortunately there are enough differences to make this copy tribute exciting. The alert reader can also catch some nice inferences to the B movie genius Roger Corman. This first time collaboration between father and son is a well done piece of suspense fiction on its own and well worth the small change you would pay for this "Kindle Single".

Edward Lorn says

This one started out lackluster as hell. I couldn't get into it until about the 35% mark. I didn't care for the characters at all, which is odd considering that's normally King and Hill's strong points. Also, I've read and seen so much media concerning meth-heads or meth-making bikers, the topic is almost a genre unto itself.

There is nothing new in this story, in fact, the story is a tribute to Richard Matheson's *Duel*. So why am I giving it four stars? Because this mo' frakker is brutal as H-E double hockey sticks. The description of Doc's death, alone, garners four stars. When the action finally does kick in, I could see every drop of blood and every shattered limb. I could smell the asphalt and the burning rubber, the drifting aromas of hot engines and dirty biker bodies. The sounds of twisted metal were jarring, as was the crunch of human beings beneath LAUGHLIN's tires. Grade A, hot-blooded horror. It's sick, nasty, and all around visceral. I loved it.

I don't know what that says about me. I guess you'll have to draw your own conclusion. I do love a good death scene, though, so in that respect, *Throttle* made me a very happy reader... eventually.

E.

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

If you're a "Constant Reader" you should already be well aware of the fact that Stephen King knows how to do a story about a semi . . .

(and a vending machine – Ha! That scene still cracks me up)

What happens when you add a little Joe Hill to the mix? You get a motorcycle gang too . . .

It seems the Sons of Anarey Tribe has found themselves in a bit of trouble and it just keeps escalating. After a failed attempt at creating a meth empire and an even *bigger* failure of collecting answers/money owed, the boys are hightailing their way across the Nevada desert. When they stop at a local diner to hash out their next move, their not-so-law-abiding conversation is overhead by a trucker, who then spends the next 20 miles trying to eliminate the gang one by one.

Talk about **full throttle**. This little story is the epitome of the term "action packed." Not only does the chase pack a wallop, but the fleshing out of characters and them dealing with their inner demons in such a short tale is remarkable. Joe Hill and Stephen King writing together is the greatest combination to happen since someone's chocolate fell into someone else's peanut butter.

(^^^^ERMAHGERD!)

Where was I? Oh yeah, this story I'm supposedly reviewing. Anyway, it's short, it's gross, it's good and it'll give you a little mindfuckaroo at the end. I think this one could have received all 5 Stars from me if the dynamic duo of King and Hill had given it an extra 25 pages and let us into the world of not only the bikers, but also the semi driver . . .

And given the opportunity to present us with a complete book rather than a story???? I'm fairly certain they could have *really* twisted things around and had me routing for the "bad guy" :)

Oh, and because Anne dared me to find a way to put semi-naked men in my next three reviews I say
CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!!!!

It even ties in with the whole biker theme. I'm amazing!!!!

Also, Praiz said she loves Jax *and* Opie and requested pics of both . . . Sidenote: I asked my husband about this 'cause I don't watch *Sons of Anarchy* and he said Opie is dead and has been dead for quite awhile. I don't know about having a crush on a zombie motorcycle gang member (that seems **extremely** hazardous to your health), but I'm a giver ;)

Holly (The Grimdragon) says

Hill & King wrote this as a homage to the fantastic Richard Matheson's "Duel." It took a little bit to get into, but once it picked up it was a fun ride!

Carol says

3.5 Stars

Took me a while to get revved-up, but when the souped-up Semi Trucker began barreling down on the biker dudes, **THROTTLE** turned into one hell of an explosive horror novella.

A lot of "**bang**" for your buck!

HornFan2 (Mike) says

Decent story involving the Tribe Motorcycle gang. They get burned on a methamphetamine deal, when the lab burns down, the gang kills their partner in it, and his 17 year old girlfriend.

The girl's father, over hears them at a rest stop, he'll end up mowing them down one at a time, the gang members race to stay ahead of him and argue whether to go to Las Vegas or try to crackdown via a sister some of the money they lost.

Both Stephen King and Joe Hill, like their writing style, do a decent job with this one, like the flow of it and wish it would have been a little longer in length.

Can't believe anyone would complain about the violence in this one, come man it's Stephen King and Joe Hill and they deliver exactly what you would expect from them with 'Throttle'.

Elspeth says

It's the stories that could really happen that I have always found the more frightening. Once while babysitting we watched the movie Lord of the Flies. I don't know what the mother was thinking renting that for her small children, all I know is it freaked me the fuck out.

I told myself if they tried to make me read it in High School I would refuse and take the F, that is how much I was creeped by it.

This story could happen, but it does not creep me out, it makes me sad. I know a lot of Veterans fall off the grid, and get into drugs. I know a lot drug addicts get others addicted, and I know a lot of spoiled kids turn out to be spoiled adults.

This story is brutally honest with what can happen if all of these things collide.

I enjoyed that, sometime brutal honesty is the best.

Kathryn says

3.5 stars. I think Throttle was a little too...."guy-ish" for me. I think that is the word I am looking for. I have to say, the big "wow" was better to me than In the Tall Grass. I didn't see it coming in Throttle. If you like motorcycles, speed, adrenaline, this might be for you. Quick read, and for 99 cents, I can't complain too much. :)

Alondra says

4 Stars

Nice and short. I didn't think the ending was great. There would be no way I would have stayed. Humpf.

This reminded me of Richard Matheson's *Duel: Terror Stories*; except we get a reason for the mayhem. Still, pretty darned cool.
