



Stephen King's FAIRY TALE took me down the rabbit hole kicking and screaming all the way.

What's to like? The plot puts meat on the bones of the good vs. evil theme that fuels all fairy tales. The long intro sets the stage for our descent into an absolutely terrifying parallel world - Hunger Games meets Zombie Apocalypse. The flawed hero reluctantly embraces the highest ideals to fulfil his pact with God (yes, God!). The villain is equally transformed by his deal with evil, and their escalating choices bring both worlds to the brink of annihilation. Horror is only part of the story. King's sense of humor is a welcome relief. For example, Charlie's physical change from high school homeboy to Disney quality hero involves a cosmetic makeover - primarily a hair color change.

What's not to like? King's prose feels overworked like he's already cashed out on the movie rights and writing a screenplay. As kids we all took Fairy Tale 101, so King's frequent foreshadowing and explanations of fairy tale structure feel clumsy and unnecessary. I'm disappointed that guns get so much attention. To dispatch prime antagonists with bullets in a world where guns don't exist, is too easy and delivers a dangerous message in our trigger happy culture. On the other hand, using water to short circuit the undead "nightkillers" is brilliant creative problem solving.

Takeaway: Stephen King's FAIRY TALE is a page turner with depth if you dig for it. Definitely another blockbuster movie!

Review by Denice Crettol