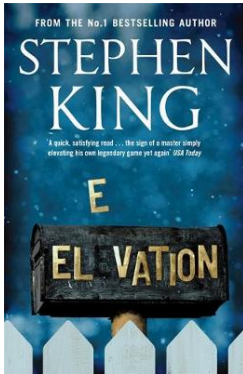




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Elevation

By Stephen King



In the small town of Castle Rock word gets around quickly. That's why Scott Carey only confides in his friend Doctor Bob Ellis about his strange condition. Every day he's losing weight – but without looking any different.

Meanwhile a new couple, Deirdre and Missy, owners of a 'fine dining experience' in town, have moved in next door. Scott is not happy that their dogs keep fouling on his lawn.

But as the town prepares for its annual Thanksgiving 12K run, Scott starts to understand the prejudices his neighbours face. Soon, they forge a friendship which may just help him through his mysterious affliction...

Below are some points that we might have discussed if we were meeting in person.

1. The book begins, like many of Stephen King's stories, with something inexplicable and extraordinary occurring in a seemingly very ordinary world. Did this sense of mystery draw you in? Did you try to think of possible explanations?
2. What was your first impression of Deirdre McComb, and her disagreements with Scott? Did you think one of them was more "in the wrong" than the other?
3. On the surface, the book is about one man's extraordinary experience in the midst of quite ordinary small-town events. But what do you think the book is really "about"?

4. Why do you think Stephen King chose a Thanksgiving fun run as the central turning point in the book?

5. Stephen King is one of the best-known living writers of supernatural, horror and mystery fiction. Were there elements of this book you did find scary, or at least unsettling?

6. The book was first published in the USA in 2018. Do you think this book is a response to Donald Trump's presidency? Or is it a more general commentary on the strengths and weaknesses of American society?

7. I felt like this wasn't a "typical Stephen King", but could recognize his effortless writing style. Have you read any other Stephen King? Do you think you will now?

Ready for some more Stephen King? Known to many as the father of modern horror, he has written 62 novels and hundreds of short stories. For a generation of readers, Stephen King is the voice of the underbelly of small-town America, having made his name as the author of cult classics (with an equally strong legacy of film adaptations) including *Carrie*, *The Shining*, *The Green Mile*, *The Stand*, *Pet Sematary*, *IT*, *Under the Dome* and *The Tommyknockers*. If there's an author who knows how to mine the dark recesses of the human imagination, it's King.