



The Institute

By Stephen King

First published in 2019

Genre and Subject

Horror/Thriller fiction

Psychic abilities fiction

Synopsis

Deep in the woods of Maine, there is a dark state facility where kids, abducted from across the United States, are incarcerated. In the Institute they are subjected to a series of tests and procedures meant to combine their exceptional gifts - telepathy, telekinesis - for concentrated effect. Luke Ellis is the latest recruit. He's just a regular 12-year-old, except he's not just smart, he's super-smart. And he has another gift which the Institute wants to use... Far away in a small town in South Carolina, former cop Tim Jamieson has taken a job working for the local sheriff. He's basically just walking the beat. But he's about to take on the biggest case of his career. Back in the Institute's downtrodden playground and corridors where posters advertise 'just another day in paradise', Luke, his friend Kalisha and the other kids are in no doubt that they are prisoners, not guests. And there is no hope of escape. But great events can turn on small hinges and Luke is about to team up with a new, even younger recruit, Avery Dixon, whose ability to read minds is off the scale. While the Institute may want to harness their powers for covert ends, the combined intelligence of Luke and Avery is beyond anything that even those who run the experiments - even the infamous Mrs Sigsby - suspect.

Author Biography

Stephen Edwin King (born September 21, 1947) is an American author of horror, supernatural fiction, suspense, crime, science-fiction, and fantasy novels. His books have sold more than 350 million copies, and many have been adapted into films, television series, miniseries, and comic books. King has published 61 novels, including seven under the pen name Richard Bachman, and five non-fiction books. He has also written approximately 200 short stories, most of which have been published in book collections.

King has received Bram Stoker Awards, World Fantasy Awards, and British Fantasy Society Awards. In 2003, the National Book Foundation awarded him the Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. He has also received awards for his contribution to literature for his entire bibliography, such as the 2004 World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement and the 2007 Grand Master Award from the Mystery Writers of America. In 2015, he was awarded with a National Medal of Arts from the U.S. National Endowment for the Arts for his contributions to literature. He has been described as the "King of Horror", a play on his surname and a reference to his high standing in pop culture.

Discussion Starters

- Which characters did you like best? Which did you like least?
- Which character did you relate to, or empathize with, the most?
- Are the main characters **dynamic**—changing or maturing by the end of the book? Do they learn about themselves, how the world works and their role in it?
- What do you think happens to the characters after the book's official ending?
- How did you **experience** the book? Were you engaged immediately, or did it take you a while to "get into it"? How did you feel reading it—amused, sad, disturbed, confused, bored...?
- What are your thoughts on the book's structure? Did it serve the story well?
- How did the setting impact the story? Would you want to read more books set in that world?
- Did the book feel real to you?
- Did the plot proceed in a way that felt natural? Or did you feel manipulated by the storyline?
- Is the ending satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not...and how would you change it?
- Has this novel changed you—broadened your perspective? Have you learned something new or been exposed to different ideas about people or a certain part of the world? Do you think you'll remember it in a few months or years?
- How did your opinion of the book change as you read it?
- Are there lingering questions from the book you're still thinking about?
- Would you ever consider re-reading it? Why or why not?

If you liked this book, you may also like...

- *NOS4A2* by Joe Hill
- *The Only One Left* by Riley Sager
- *Dark Matter* by Blake Crouch

Author biography from Wikipedia

Discussion starters from LitLovers www.litlovers.com/reading-guides

Read-a-likes from GoodReads