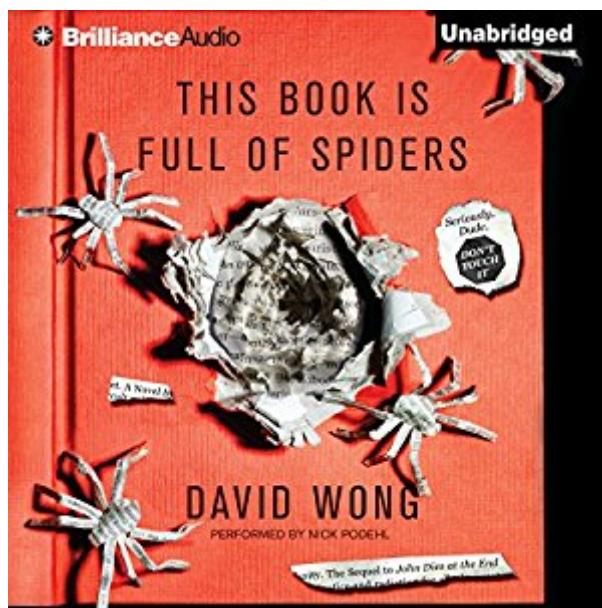


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This Book Is Full Of Spiders: Seriously, Dude, Don't Touch It



Synopsis

Warning: You may have a huge, invisible spider living in your skull. This is not a metaphor. You will dismiss this as ridiculous fearmongering. Dismissing things as ridiculous fearmongering is, in fact, the first symptom of parasitic spider infection - the creature secretes a chemical into the brain to stimulate skepticism, in order to prevent you from seeking a cure. That's just as well, since the "cure" involves learning what a chain saw tastes like. You can't feel the spider, because it controls your nerve endings. You can't see it, because it decides what you see. You won't even feel it when it breeds. And it will breed. So what happens when your family, friends, and neighbors get mind-controlling skull spiders? We're all about to find out. Just stay calm, and remember that telling you about the spider situation is not the same as having caused it. I'm just the messenger. Even if I did sort of cause it. Either way, I won't hold it against you if you're upset. I know that's just the spider talking.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 14 hours and 54 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Brilliance Audio

Audible.com Release Date: October 2, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B009KF1GK4

Best Sellers Rank: #11 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Horror #33 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Humor & Satire > Humorous #50 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers

Customer Reviews

After finishing Wong's first novel, John Dies at the End, I immediately ordered the sequel. The first one left me with such an impact from the interesting characters that I absolutely couldn't stand not knowing more about them. And boy does this ever fill my need for character development. You can definitely tell this book was written with more direction and coherency, the entire book focusing on one storyline and sticking with it until the very end, as opposed to his first book which had two or three different stories within it. Personally, I preferred this one. It separates the three main

characters of the last book, Amy, John and (Monster)Dave, for a portion of the book and their individual character really comes through in these segments. John especially gains some kind of depth beyond a spastic lunatic, there's much more explanation of Amy's internal processing, and Dave is still Dave. Which is fine. I love Dave the way he is. Hopelessly flawed and a horrid person, but still endearing somehow. There's also a short preview to Wong's next, unrelated, book, Futuristic Violence and Fancy Suits. I read this five chapter preview and have already ordered it. It looks to be Wong's best book yet.

Let me preface this by saying that I was a big fan of John Dies At The End. I discovered the book back when it was still freely available on the internet; before it exploded and became a cult horror sensation / movie / etc. That said, John Dies was never a perfect book, or even a very good one. Fans love the book for its deeply character-rooted humor, bizarre Lovecraftian monster-horror, and compulsive, borderline-addictive readability. This let us see past patchy pacing, spotty storytelling, and some questionable exposition dumps. Having just finished "This Book Is Full of Spiders" at 2 AM this morning, I'm happy to report Wong has ironed out the kinks without losing the charm. Somewhere between these two books, I think Wong must have taken a class on story structure, or maybe sold his soul to the devil or something. In either case, Spiders is a polished, carefully-crafted piece of storytelling, and it shows. Though Wong hits the gas on the scares and action pretty early, he's now smart enough not to keep his foot on the pedal the whole time. John Dies was comedy-horror fired out of a shotgun. Spiders cuts like a surgeon's scalpel. Starting within the framework of your basic "zombie outbreak / city on lockdown" story, Wong slowly layers on the sense of mystery and dread. This IS a Wong book, though, so we always know that it's just a matter of time until something horrible and otherworldly explodes out of someone's ass, and the story takes its next sharp left turn into deeper weirdness, more dire straits, broader humor, bigger action, higher stakes, and even tighter tension. Wong shoves the reader into one bats***crazy scenario after another -- and then before the reader even has time to orient, he shakes the hell out of them, cackles gleefully in their face, makes a dick joke, and shoves them on to the next one. The characters are deeper, the jokes are more relevant (if less frequent), the scares are bigger (and darker, and loom larger), and Wong even has a thing or two to say about the nature of mass hysteria. Spiders comes highly recommended.

I love this book. It's just that simple. I was nuts for John Dies at the End (let's not talk about the movie...ugh) and never thought the sequel could top it. I bought this book with my fingers crossed

that it could come close to matching the wit and twisted story of the first book in the series. Not only does the book reflect a more mature (in writing style, not subject material thankfully) work, but it takes the story into new dimensions (pun not intended). While the first book was world-creation and pure brain-melting insanity with every page, Spiders actually offers quite the opposite - oppressive regiment. It pushes the characters of David, John and Amy forward in unexpected ways, and doesn't stick to the same groove of the first book. It's almost like going from Raiders of the Lost Ark to Temple of Doom...same love of adventure...totally different tone. If you liked the first book, you owe it to yourself to go further down the rabbit hole into the quirky, violent and deadly world that David Wong has created for you.

Book two in the John Dies at the End series is just as crazy as the first. That's a good thing, if you're wondering. There's a wonderful vacuous inanity to this series that is just fun to experience. There's a teensy bit more cohesive plot in book two than in book one, but the entire book is a single story, whereas Book one felt like two. The familiar characters are back, with some great new additions. The book has some truly terrifying imagery that will satisfy your horror bent; but before you can ever get too entirely grossed out, you'll be giggling at sophomoric counter-humor. And yes, this book is full of spiders. FULL. Not even regular scary earth spiders; these are creepy horror story spiders that have tongues. Gross piled on top of horrific. I can't stand spiders, and the whole first quarter of the book made my skin crawl. Audiobook note: The audiobook is read by Nick Podehl, who is absolutely fantastic.

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