

THE DARK TOWER

THE DRAWING OF THE THREE

STEPHEN KING

ROLAND DESCHAIN IS A COWBOY FROM MID-WORLD ON A QUEST TO REACH THE DARK TOWER. BUT HE HAS TO MOVE QUICKLY, BECAUSE HE HAS POISON RUNNING THROUGH HIS VEINS. HE IS GATHERING HIS KA-TET TO HELP HIM ON HIS JOURNEY. ONE OF THESE MEMBERS IS EDDIE DEAN, A RECOVERING YOUNG HEROIN ADDICT FROM NEW YORK WHO HAPPENS TO BE ONE OF A SELECT FEW THAT EXIST ON MANY PLANES OF REALITY.

NOW EDDIE AND ROLAND HAVE RECRUITED A SECOND MEMBER: THE LADY OF SHADOWS, A WOMAN CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR AFTER BEING HIT BY AN ONCOMING TRAIN THAT SEVERED HER LEGS.

AFTER BEING HIT ON THE HEAD WITH A BRICK AS A YOUNG GIRL, THE LADY OF SHADOWS' PERSONALITY SPLIT INTO TWO HALVES: ODETTA HOLMES AND DETTA WALKER. ODETTA HOLMES IS A POLITE, EARNEST WOMAN WHO IS ACTIVE IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. DETTA WALKER IS FULL OF RAGE AND PRONE TO ACTS OF VIOLENCE. RECENTLY, BOTH HALVES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REMAIN CONSCIOUS AT THE SAME TIME, BUT AFTER AN INTERNAL STRUGGLE, ODETTA EMERGED IN CONTROL, AND SHE AND EDDIE BEGAN TO FALL IN LOVE.

TO TAKE THEIR NEXT STEP TOWARDS THE DARK TOWER, EDDIE BROUGHT ROLAND TO THE NEXT MAGIC DOOR WHERE ROLAND ENTERED THE MIND OF JACK MORT, THE MAN WHO CAUSED BOTH OF ODETTA'S INJURIES. AS HE LEFT, DETTA RESUMED CONTROL AND STRANGLED EDDIE NEAR TO DEATH! MEANWHILE, IN JACK'S BODY, ROLAND HAS OBTAINED MORE AMMUNITION AND PENICILLIN TO STAVE OFF HIS INFECTION. BUT AS HE MOVED TO ESCAPE BACK TO MID-WORLD, POLICE OPENED FIRE ON JACK/ROLAND, AND HE NOW LIES SHOT IN A NYC SUBWAY STATION!

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The body of Mort, occupied by Roland, lies on the platform of the subway station--just as I did years ago, when he deprived me of my legs.

I would take pleasure in that if I were not trapped in Detta's mind, screaming for release.



Holy hell, partner. You blew him away.



I'm dead! I'm dead! You've gotten me killed, I'm dead! I'm--

No.

I'm on fire!




It's from the lighter in your shirt pocket. The one that took the bullet and saved your life.



Smoke? God, did you hit him with a tracer, man?





Mort continues to scream
in Roland's head. I can't
hear him; this is what I
learn later.

"I'm on fire! I'm
on fire!" Over
and over.

And Roland's response
is typically succinct:

"Good."