

THE DARK TOWER

THE DRAWING OF THE THREE

STEPHEN KING

JAKE CHAMBERS IS AN AVERAGE BOY LIVING IN 1970s NEW YORK CITY. OR AT LEAST HE WAS UNTIL HE STARTED HEARING A VOICE IN HIS HEAD TELLING HIM THAT HE WAS DEAD. AS FEAR FOR HIS SANITY STARTS TO PREOCCUPY JAKE, HE BEGINS HAVING DREAMS AND VISIONS OF STRANGE OTHER WORLDS THAT ARE EVEN STRANGER BECAUSE THEY FEEL SO REAL AND ODDLY FAMILIAR... LIKE HIS PART IN A PLACE CALLED MID-WORLD...

A WORLD AWAY, IN THIS MID-WORLD, A COWBOY CALLED ROLAND DESCHAIN IS ON A QUEST TO FIND THE DARK TOWER, ALONG WITH THE RECENTLY ACQUIRED COMPANIONS TO HIS GROUP (OR KA-TET), EDDIE AND SUSANNAH DEAN. ROLAND HAS ALSO BEEN SUFFERING FROM A BIZARRE MENTAL ANGUISH. UPON RECOVERING FROM A VISION OF JAKE IN DANGER, ROLAND WAS ABLE TO ARTICULATE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM: HIS MEMORY IS DOUBLED, AND ROLAND SIMULTANEOUSLY REMEMBERS BOTH A HISTORY AS HE BELIEVES IT TO BE TRUE—ONE WHERE HE NEVER MET JAKE—AND ONE THAT SHOULD BE TRUE BUT ISN'T, WHERE JAKE BECOMES PART OF HIS KA-TET.

WHEN ROLAND ENTERED THE BODY OF JAKE MORT, STOPPING HIM FROM KILLING JAKE IN OUR WORLD, HE REALIZED HE CREATED A PARADOX BY WHICH JAKE DID NOT ENTER MID-WORLD ON HIS DEATH, CAUSING THE HISTORY HE HAD WITH ROLAND NEVER TO BE. AS THE KA-TET DISCUSSED THIS BY THEIR CAMPFIRE, ROLAND SUDDENLY THREW HIS SPEAKING DEMON JAWBONE INTO THE FLAME, CAUSING A MYSTIC REACTION WITH A BREAKTHROUGH TO THE NEXT STAGE IN THEIR QUEST AS A VOICE PROCLAIMED "FIRST THE KEY! THEN THE ROSE! BEHOLD! BEHOLD THE OPENING OF THE WAY TO THE TOWER!"

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I can't even begin to imagine what went through Eddie's and Susannah's minds. The jawbone had just...just exploded. Susannah screamed and Roland shielded his face and Eddie...

Well, he wasn't sure, but he thought he saw something in the flames. The shape of a key.

Why did you do it?
Why, for God's sake...

And what was it?

I did it because a voice spoke in my mind and told me I must. It was the voice of my father...of *all* my fathers.

When one hears such a voice, not to obey-- at once--is unthinkable.

I only know the bone has spoken its final word.



Enough stories and excitement for one night. It's time to sleep.

Easy for him to say.



LATER...

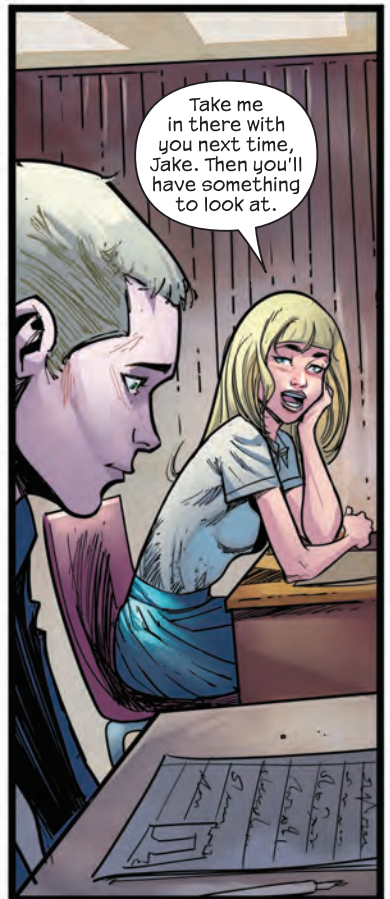
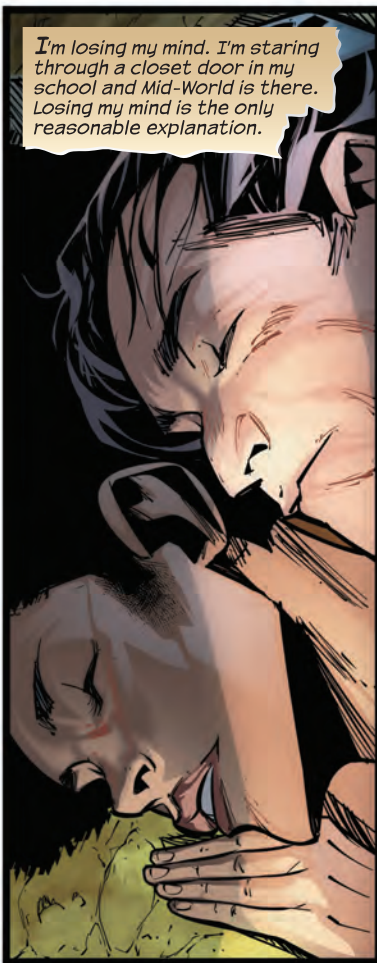
Now what? Why's he crying out in his sleep?

I've learned it's better not to ask.



I hope he doesn't kill us in our sleep.

Worse ways to go.





Now before you pass in your final essays--which I am sure will all be very fine, very neat, very specific--

I should like to pass out the English Department's short list of recommended summer reading...

I am so screwed. Look at this:

"The gunslinger is the truth.
Roland is the truth.
The Prisoner is the truth.
The Lady of Shadows is the truth.
Roland let me die. That is the truth.
I still love him.
That is the truth."



A good novel is often like a series of riddles within riddles. So ask yourselves first what the symbolic significance of the imagery might be...

"When is a door not a door? When it's a jar, and that is the truth.
Blaine is a pain, and that is the truth.
I'm pretty sure that Blaine is dangerous, and that is the truth.
What has four wheels and flies? A garbage truck, and that is the truth.
I want to go back and that is the truth.
I'll go crazy if I don't go back and that is the truth.
Choo-choo, and that is the truth.
Choo-choo. Choo-choo. Choo-choo.
I am afraid. That is the truth."

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CHOO-CHOO. CHOO-CHOO. CHOO-CHOO
I'm afraid. That is the truth.

They're just gonna put me in an asylum. That's all.