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your next book

## LoveReading Reader reviews of **The Fireman** by Joe Hill

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



**Debbie Patrick**

***What a good well written book. This isn't a quick read with over 700 pages BUT it's a good one. You actually care about the people in the book which is what makes a good book. Well recommended.***

*They call it Dragonscale and it makes people burn.*

*Harper Grayson, a dedicated nurse has been infected but has also discovered that she is pregnant and want to live long enough to give birth to her child.*

*A man in a dirty yellow fire fighter's jacket, carrying an iron bar, known as The Fireman, is afflicted with Dragonscale but*

*has learned to control the fire, using it as a shield to protect the hunted . . . and as a weapon to avenge the wronged.*

*In this desperate time as the world burns out of control, Harper must learn the Fireman's secrets before her life—and that of her unborn child—goes up in smoke.*

**Sue Packer**

***'The Fireman' is a post-apocalyptic thriller which, through the skill of the writer, makes the impossible seem plausible. Mankind has been ravaged by a disease which causes the sufferer to spontaneously combust and there appears to be no cure. Harper Grayson is a nurse who finds herself pregnant and carrying the virus and vows to live long enough to have her baby and find someone to look after it for her when she inevitably dies. Her husband,***

*who becomes the villain of the piece, is un-supportive and hostile so Harper has to set out on her own but is 'rescued' by a local group who seem to be able to control the virus. But things are not always what they seem and what was once a sanctuary becomes a dangerous place to live. Harper meets John Rookwood aka 'the Fireman' in the group who appears to be able to use the virus, unofficially named Dragonscale, to his advantage. Who can Harper trust and is there any hope of survival?*

*The book gallops along at a cracking pace, building the tension until the end. The characters are well drawn and believable, complete with humour and flaws aplenty.*

*It's a long book but **so full of drama and cliff-hangers that I didn't want it to end.***

*For fans of Steven King, there's a new kid on the block – his son, Joe Hill. A real chip off the literary block and no doubt will be as well read as his dear old Dad!*

### **Edel Waugh**

*The story begins after a virus has begun spreading its way across the world supposedly let loose by a terror organisation. There are many suspected organisations but no one knows for sure but it is causing many horrific deaths. The spores passing from person to person easily makes its spread very rapid. Harper is the main character, she is a school nurse and she has been infected and soon after realises she is pregnant too. **This is an epic tale of survival against the odds and one woman's determination to do what she has to do for her unborn child, no matter what.** This is a must read for all Joe Hill fans.*

### **Angie Rhodes**

*It came from nobody knows where, the virus, that is wiping out mankind, the virus that burns you from the inside, the virus that turns a person into a walking flame, and there is no cure!*

*The word is that it has been designed by the Russians, let loose by ISIS but the reality is nobody knows and people are living in fear, watching their loved ones burst into flames. Harper is a nurse, a pregnant nurse, who is determined to find a way to survive and now that she has become infected, that determination is stronger than ever.*

*Learning how to control the panic that is always underneath her calm exterior is hard to do, but to survive this is one thing Harper must learn to do.*

***'The Fireman' is a fantastic read, it captures the imagination, and ignites (pardon the pun) the question, "What If, it really happened, would we survive?"***

*I loved the book, at just under 800 pages long it may seem like a HUGE read, but trust me, once started, you will not even notice the length!!*

***A must read, and a fab one for everyone who loved Stephen King and Dean Koontz. For me, Joe Hill should be on everyone's reading list.***

### **Victoria Goldman**

***'The Fireman' features great writing, sharp dialogue and a complex page-turning plot.***

*A powerful fungal infection, causing people to burst into flames, is devastating the world. At the heart of the story is Harper Grayson, a pregnant nurse who is now infected and wants to keep living for the sake of her unborn child.*

*The book is a mix of horror, action, science fiction, dystopian thriller, mystery and romance, with more than a hint of zombie fiction (although the infected retain their sense of self). The author has put ordinary people in an extraordinary situation - and you, as the reader, see how they survive, cope and pull together as the world burns around them.*

*At 765 pages, The Fireman isn't a quick read - and it's also heavy in your hands. I did feel that there was some 'overwriting' here, slowing down the pace at times - some of the background narrative and irrelevant conversations could have been cut. I guessed certain twists too, although this didn't detract from my enjoyment.*

*Overall though, the book is emotionally charged, action-packed and filled with depth. There are many themes running through it, including hope, acceptance, fear, shame, love and a sense of belonging. Highly enjoyable - just make sure you give yourself plenty of reading time for this epic journey.*

<http://off-the-shelfbooks.blogspot.co.uk>

### **Jacki Moorcroft**

***A must read book! A fantastic story of the true nature of people***

***caught up in a world-wide epidemic. This book leaves you with a bittersweet, smoky taste in your mouth for a long time afterwards.***

*In the words of Mary Poppins (a.k.a) Nurse Harper Willowes, a scrump-diddly-umpciiously glorious story. When a new virus starts causing people to spontaneously combust, rumours are rife as to who made it. However, as towns and cities start to burn and the virus spreads worldwide this story follows the trials of nurse Harper, originally a volunteer helper at a local hospital, Harper becomes infected herself and upon finding out that she is also pregnant, vows to do everything possible to ensure the baby lives. Joe Hill introduces us to the Fireman, John Rookwood; an Englishman who has learned to control the virus and use it to help other infectees against the raging, non-infected gangs who are pursuing them. A glorious tale of hope set against an angry and dangerous world, which plays on human nature with frightening reality. A masterpiece, and a must read.*

### **Katherine Stewart**

***An engrossing epic which grabs you from the start and never lets up to the end.***

*This story by Joe Hill (who I later found out is the son of Stephen King) is an apocalyptic tale of a mysterious virus called Dragonscale, which causes infected people to burn to death. It has caused devastation across the world and is testing humanity's ability to survive. It shows how society disintegrates as the healthy and infected struggle to live in the same area. There is a wide cast of characters but the story centres around a pregnant school nurse, Harper Grayson, and the community she escapes to when she becomes infected (including the Fireman of the title). It is a long book of over 700 pages long, but not a word is wasted. The characters are all fully-formed and the plot moves along briskly until you feel you are really there. Despite the harrowing subject, there is humour throughout the book. I fully recommend this read and will be searching out Joe Hill's earlier novels.*

### **Alfred Nobile**

*This book was a great read. An end of world the thriller that will no doubt be compared to his father's book 'The Stand'. But Joe has his own voice.*

*This is a sprawling tale, with myriad characters and story lines. A tale of alliances forged, broken and realigned. Throughout this tale of apocalyptic*

*devastation the hope of the human spirit shines through.*

***Well written, with well-rounded characters that draw the reader into an adventure that enthrals and grips. A book I would recommend and urge you to read.***