Contents

Editor’s Note vii

Introduction 1

Harold Bloom

King and the Literary Tradition of Horror and the Supernatural 5

Ben P. Indick

Stephen King: The Good, the Bad, and the Academic 17

Don Herron

Stephen King: Powers of Horror 41

Clare Hanson

Tracing the Gothic Inheritance: Danse Macabre 59

Tony Magistrale

“The Face of Mr. Flip”: Homophobia in the Horror of Stephen King 67

Douglas Keesey

Some Ways of Reading The Dead Zone 83

Michael N. Stanton

The Sin Eater:
Orality, Postliteracy, and the Early Stephen King 95

Linda Badley
Contents

Needful Things (1991) 125
    Sharon A. Russell

The Rape of Constant Reader:
    Stephen King’s Construction
    of the Female Reader and Violation
    of the Female Body in Misery 141
    Kathleen Margaret Lant

Postmodern Gothic:
    Stephen King’s Pet Sematary 167
    Jesse W. Nash

Cars Are Girls:
    Sexual Power and Sexual Panic
    in Stephen King’s Christine 177
    Edward Madden

“Screaming While School Was in Session”:
    The Construction of Monstrosity
    in Stephen King’s Schoolhouse Gothic 195
    Sherry R. Truffin

Afterthought 207
    Harold Bloom

Chronology 209

Contributors 213

Bibliography 217

Acknowledgments 221

Index 223