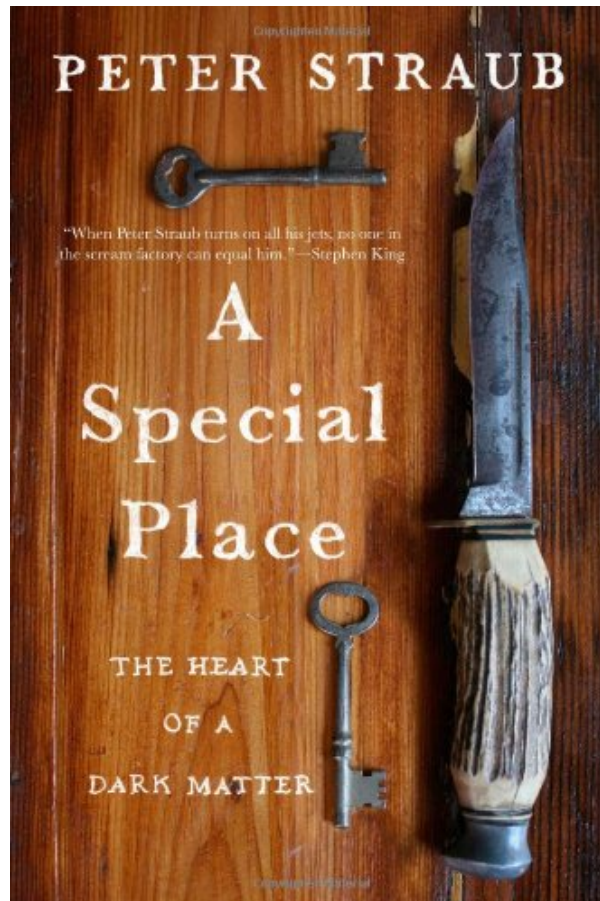
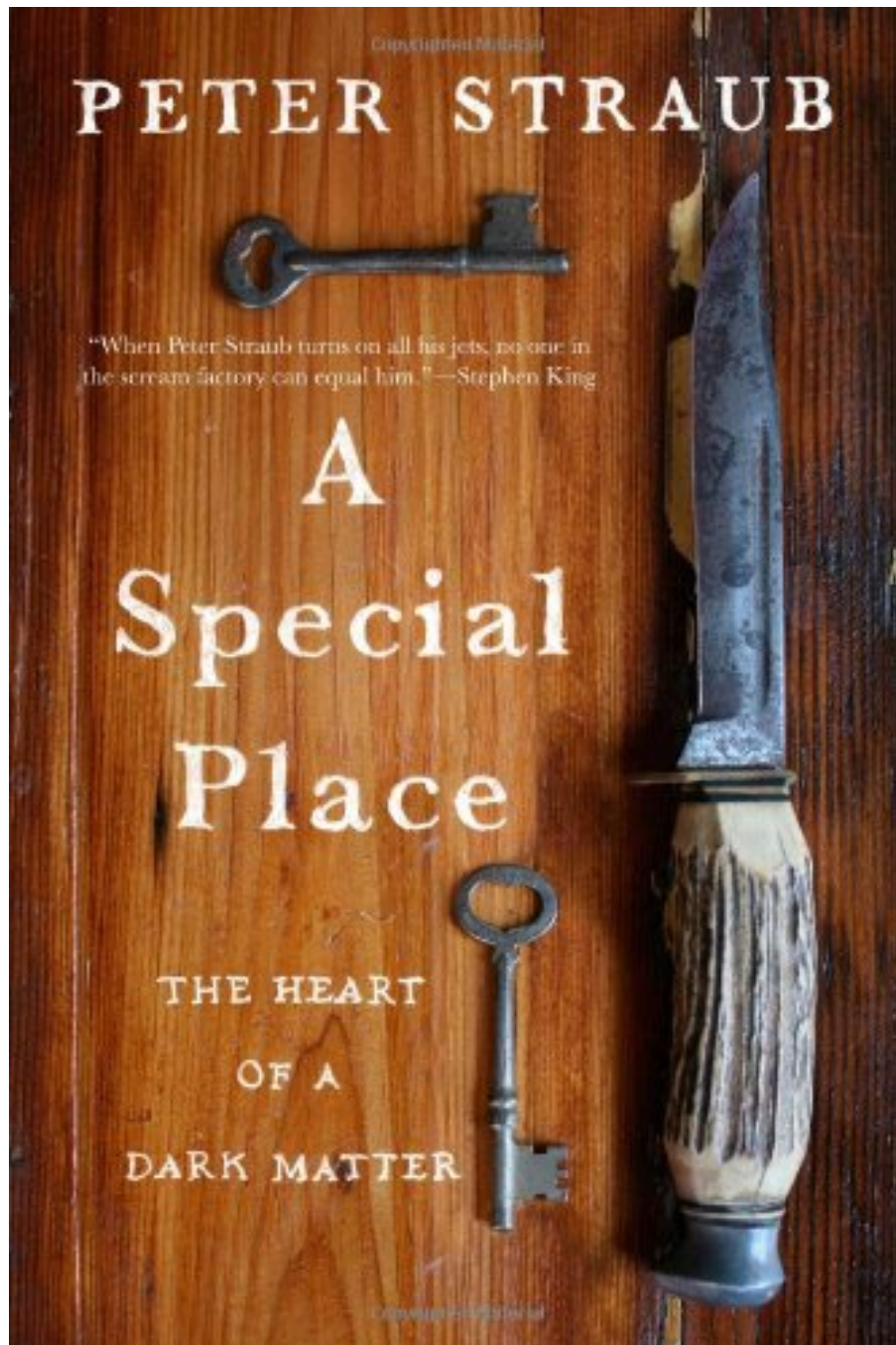


A SPECIAL PLACE: THE HEART OF A DARK MATTER BY PETER STRAUB



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From Publishers Weekly

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A SPECIAL PLACE: THE HEART OF A DARK MATTER BY PETER STRAUB PDF

From the bestselling author of *Ghost Story*, *Shadowland*, and *The Talisman*, a novella-length rumination on the nature of evil.

A Special Place, Peter Straub's first published novella, will come to stand as one of the author's most deeply unsettling works of fiction. A rumination on the nature of evil, the story centers on a boy, Keith Hayward, who is drawn by his nature to an irresistible fascination with death and the taking of life. His father's brother, the good-looking, suave Uncle Till—the infamous ladykiller, who has led a shadowy career as a local celebrity—recognizes his nephew's innermost nature and gleefully tutors him in art of doing ill without getting caught.

Even a cold-blooded sociopath must learn some lessons in survival, in seems, and Uncle Till is only happy to provide a tutorial, in the latest imaginative and disturbing work from one of America's most celebrated horror writers.

- Sales Rank: #1278120 in Books
- Published on: 2010-07-20
- Format: Bargain Price
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.30" h x .50" w x 5.70" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 136 pages

From Publishers Weekly

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Most helpful customer reviews

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

A novella by Peter Straub

By Raphaël Rousseau fictionman

This novella, a rumination on the nature of evil, as often with Peter Straub, is in fact a chapter from *The Skylark* removed while editing *A Dark Matter*. What I wanted to say is that there is no need to read *A Dark Matter* to enjoy this novella. It gives more details about the childhood of a serial killer. As usual with Peter Straub, it's very well written. Well, it depends what you're looking for. But as a dark tale, it's a gem! Thanks Peter Straub for writing so well. Enjoy!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Gripping, draws you in and doesn't let go!

By L. Eve Gentry

I actually read this before "*A Dark Matter*". If you enjoy Straub, you will enjoy this. Straub does not tie up all the loose ends in most of his works, and this is no exception. If you are a reader that prefers nice, clean, tied-up endings, you may be disappointed with "*A Special Place*". "*A Special Place*" is a snapshot, rather than the movie that novels are. That being said, it is extremely well-written. The main characters are well-developed and are consistent throughout both books. The peripheral characters are outlined, but readers don't get to know them well.

Some have called "*A Special Place*" a study of the nature of evil. I don't agree. There are several non-fiction texts that do a much better job. Evil is not fictitious, so the study of it doesn't belong in the fiction category. "*A Special Place*" more accurately chronicles the nurturing and development of evil-which, to me, is

infinitely more interesting.

7 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

Dark Hearts, Twisted Souls

By Randy Chandler

Surgically removed from Peter Straub's novel *A DARK MATTER* and given life on its own as a novella, *A SPECIAL PLACE* is a disturbing glance down a lonely corridor to the darkest chamber of the human heart. This isn't a place you want to spend much time, lest the matter-of-fact evil rub off on you and taint your spirit. The gripping narrative is fascinating and that fascination may disturb you and raise uncomfortable questions about yourself. In other words, Straub deftly draws you into the story with little fanfare and leaves you to find your own way out.

Uncle Till is "a satyr, a faun, a devil" and a serial killer with a passion for torture. Nephew Keith Hayward is already well on his twisted way to becoming the fullblown sociopath we see in the novel *A DARK MATTER*. Uncle Till provides the knife and the inspiration, and Keith simply follows his heart. The centerpiece of horror is the "gift" the boy gives his uncle, and if you've already read *A DARK MATTER*, then you know what that gift will be, but that won't lessen the coldblooded horror of the act. (The novella deepens Keith Hayward's seemingly selfless act near the end of *A DARK MATTER*.)

In short, *A SPECIAL PLACE* is a good place to go if you want to be creeped out by Straub, streamlined and cutting to the bone with a few short strokes.

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