

# A THEMATIC STUDY OF STEPHEN KING'S “CELL”

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## ABSTRACT

This essay investigates the theme of the novel “cell” by Stephen King published in 2006, Stephen King, who was an American horror fiction writer. He dealt theme of modern technology is the destruction of the planet in the novel “Cell”. It is an apocalyptic horror novel. The novel is about a cataclysmic event known as The Pulse. A dangerous virus scrambles people’s brainwaves by a signal broadcast globally over the GSM network, a signal that is carried by every cellular phone operating in the world. Story follows the main character of the novel Clayton Riddell on his quest to reach his son before the young boy switches on his cell phone. The result of the study shows how the modern technology is dangerous for the society and how King expressed his themes through the characters.

**Keywords:** Zombies, Apocalypse, Horror, Technology. Advantages, Disadvantages, Phone crazies, Cell phones, Detonation, Reunion.

The simple meaning of the Literature is the reflection of society. The aim of literature is to represent the society. In this connection it is observed that the writer, Stephen King is an American author of horror fiction throughout his writing career he has followed the traditional model of the beginning his story in a state of normality , giving the readers a chance to know the characters before the horror introduced. And his works are dealt with the theme of fantasy, supernatural, apocalypse, horror elements.

Stephen King was born in Portland Maine, USA, he lived all around North America, from Wayne. He started writing in University of Maine at Orono. He has written fifty horror novels and short stories such as “Bag of Bones” and “The Dead Zone”

“Cell” is an apocalyptic horror novel, was published in 2006. Setting of the novel is New England. Cell is written from the first point of view of Clay Riddell. And the story is about the artist struggling to reunite with his young son after mysterious signal broadcast over the global cell phone network turns the majority of his fellow humans into mindless Zombies. Stephen King explained how the modern technology will be

the ultimate destruction of the planet and how family is important to one and whatever one does, one must not give up through the characters of Clayton riddle, who is the Protagonist of the novel.

King has shown the real picture of the apocalyptic elements. He termed the event in the phrase “The Pulse”, which defines the cell phone signal corrupted by the virus and it turns every mobile users into a mindless zombies or phone crazies. The main character of the novel is Clayton, He estranged from his wife Sharon and he is a graphic artist. He caught up in a sudden, senseless, massive wave of violence spreading throughout the Boston. When he launched his art in Maine “The Pulse” was happened. Here, King considered it is a main event in this novel. Clayton teams up with a man called Alice, Maxwell and a young boy named Jordan. Those who were not using them at the time remain unaffected. They destroyed a “flock” which is a group over a thousand phone crazies that break in area, clay goes with his companions to look for his son. In the process, Alice gets a brick that demolishes half of her face unable to save her life, the three of them continued on the mission, in the end Clay finds his son but he has to make him listen to the phone again because his son was severely infected by the pulse. Clay’s only hope is the signal will cure itself, with expecting mind he dial and placed the phone on his son’s ear, which may save his son’s life with this scene King has ended his novel.

The theme that people depend on way to much on technology, all are having cell phones, computers and electronic devices. There much beneficial to us but it might be ill health at the same time. The Protagonist Clay and the group he travel with the three of them. They are fighting for the survival of the human race against a group of people who went crazy because of the pulse, phones. The phone crazies choose a representative who is called a raggedy man. Two groups have conflicts. Clay was unsure to go with his group and for search his son.

King use of cell phones as the mechanism, to reduce the vast majority of Americans to mindless Zombies offers the opportunity for observation and commentary about the near ubiquity of cell phones and society’s infatuation with and dependence on them rather than develop this richly fertile. Though King chooses for serious horror novel that pays respect to the two people to whom it is dedicated Richard Matheson, whose novel I Am Legend -1954, depicts one man’s struggle against a vampire apocalypse.

*“This is the way the world ends, not with a bang, but a whimper- T.S. Eliot”*

In reality, it ends with a “pulse” an errant cell phone signal wipes away the user’s humanity, rebooting their brain back to something basic and evil. Even those within range of the ancient matter trying signal suffer a kind of evolutionary epilepsy, going back to a state of pure impulse and mental confusion. As the feeling consumes its host, madness takes over, and there is only one way to satisfy this cruel craving. The insanity must be met with violence, quelling the instinctual bloodlust that lay dormant inside every person's DNA. Thus the world ends, and it's the very people who protected and prospered upon it who are now intent on taking it down.

For *Cell*, his latest novel in a career of over 30 years, Stephen King has concocted one doozy of an evidence. Granted, the author has been down this path before, using *Armageddon* as an allegory for man's inner struggle to find meaning and morality within his otherwise superficial life and technology as a tool both tainted and terrifying. Yet there is something different about this latest novel, something very post-millennial about the story it tells, and the characters contained within it. For the first time in a long while, King has given up on the horror histrionics and the hero worship. He's decided to keep the people populating his world as real as possible, allowing their fallibility to play a part in how the yarn is eventually turned.

Fast-moving and emotional, uncontrolled in its ability to disturb and revulsion, *Cell* stands as a writer's manifesto to the post-accident part of Stephen King's career. It's a work of maturity and of meaning, a novel that actually wants to comment on the state of the world and the pissed off population who seem to be living on and off it. One of the best sections comes directly after the initial pulse. As people try to escape the evil running ramshackle in Boston, they hike northward. The 'normal' find the highways the easiest passage, and as he walks with his group, Clay sees the whole of remaining humanity shut off from each other. They don't want to interact. They don't want to band together and fight. They just want to be left to their own devices. It is at this moment when our protagonist realizes that the rest of this journey will be a decidedly lonely one -- not the most reassuring way to spend the end times.

Technology is not just limited to smartphones and laptops. It covers vast area. In earlier times using a wired telephone was very common. With the passage of time trends have changed and new inventions have been made. The introduction of android phones and people shifting from telephone to smartphones is what we call "modern technology". The internet, MRI machines, iPad, smart phones, smart watches examples of it. Modern technology brings a change with it. Purpose is to make lives easier but every benefit has a cost. If modern technology has 1000 advantages, it also has 100 disadvantages. That is what this study highlights.

## References

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