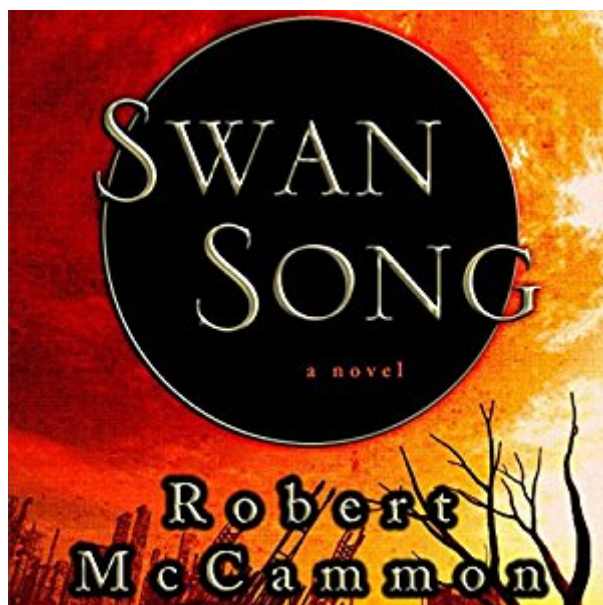


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# Swan Song



## Synopsis

"We're about to cross the point of no return. God help us; we're flying in the dark, and we don't know where the hell we're going." Facing down an unprecedented malevolent enemy, the government responds with a nuclear attack. America as it was is gone forever, and now every citizen - from the president of the United States to the homeless on the streets of New York City - will fight for survival. *Swan Song* is Robert McCammon's prescient and shocking vision of a post-apocalyptic nation, a grand epic of terror and, ultimately, renewal. In a wasteland born of rage and fear, populated by monstrous creatures and marauding armies, earth's last survivors have been drawn into the final battle between good and evil, that will decide the fate of humanity. They include Sister, who discovers a strange and transformative glass artifact in the destroyed Manhattan streets... Joshua Hutchins, the pro wrestler who takes refuge from the nuclear fallout at a Nebraska gas station... and Swan, a young girl possessing special powers, who travels alongside Josh to a Missouri town where healing and recovery can begin with Swan's gifts. But the ancient force behind earth's devastation is scouring the walking wounded for recruits for its relentless army, beginning with Swan herself. Please note: Two chapters were originally missing from Part 2 of this book. We were alerted to the problem on 11/21/11 and have corrected it. We're very sorry for any inconvenience. If you had already downloaded the book, don't worry - your library has automatically updated with the corrected version. Simply re-download from your library, at no additional cost, to get the complete book.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

I write this review in the knowledge that probably no one will read it - there are already over 700 reviews and almost all of them are five star. This review is part of that legion and that's fine by me. So given I am writing this review for me - I will take some licence. Firstly I have read loads of PA fiction ( favorite so far is *The Old Man and the Wasteland*), but I hesitated with my purchase of *Swan Song*. I kept coming across references and praise of *Swan Song*. At \$10 it was a lot more than many Kindle reads I buy. Then I thought, the last few books I read were only a couple of bucks - but they were c#%^ and pretty short too. So I thought, *Swan Song* is over 800 pages - so even if it is just okay it is still better value. So I bought it and have not experienced buyers remorse. *Swan Song* draws you in. It is a different type of PA novel as it has a mystical undertone. Not in the kind of 'roll your eyes, give me a break' way - but a spiritual side to the story that adds to its depth and humanity. There are several concurrent plots which weave together as the story unfolds. Each subplot is interesting. What surprised me was that I became so engrossed with one story line, I literally forgot about some other characters and was surprised when they reappeared. It was 'oh of course, I had completely forgotten about you guys'. That is a really good thing showing just how easy it is to become lost in the story. If I was being ultra critical I would say that there was a certain 'convenience' of events towards the end. Also - and yes this is just a personal bugbear, the author has obviously had limited exposure to horses. Horses do not lap water like a dog - they suck it. They also really don't behave in the way Mule did. Yes, yes I know it is a minor point - but it was one of the few times in the story where an inaccuracy brought me out of the story and back to reality. I see many reviewers have compared this to other books ( and no I am not going to reference the books). This really gets my goat. *Swan Song* is an original work that stands high in its own right. It is, in my opinion, almost insulting to say 'its just like xyz', 'it's as good as xyz'. *Swan Song* is a great read - enough said.

I love these type of books. I read *The Stand* several years ago and was sad when it ended, I wanted it to go on and on. A friend recommended *Swan Song* to me and told me it was also about good and evil and people surviving in a world destroyed. I put it on my Kindle and decided to start it before turning in for the night.....this was 10 pm and it was 2 am when I tore myself away from it. Usually I have no trouble putting a book down and picking it up when time permits but this book...WOW! I usually do not review books but I just had to tell everyone that I enjoyed this book and highly recommend it.

I enjoyed this book, but it is not, in my opinion, as good as *The Stand*. In this one, the world ends in fire, not plague, but it pretty much parallels King's work after that: many different characters who represent either good or evil and whose paths eventually intersect in a climatic way, with the addition of a supernatural bad guy and other supernatural elements. I find King's character development to be superior (in fact, that is the standout feature of his writing, to me), and *The Stand* was definitely scarier to me, but I think *Swan Song* had a better twist at the end, and overall the end made more sense (King's great weakness is that his tales often go awry at the end, as if he just can't figure out how to wrap it all up). *Swan Song* is a well-written novel and I think fans of the PA genre will definitely want to add it to their collections.

I read this book many years ago and loved it then as I did this time around. McCammon is a genius when it comes to keeping the reader on edge and waiting for the next twist. I immediately ordered *Wolf's Hour* another paperback I read way back when there were no readers! Not sure with everything that is going on in the world today, that it was the best time to read this story but the message is loud and clear and perhaps, the world should pick it up and think a little.

I read *Swan* over ten years ago. Since then I pick it up every two years or so and read it again. Each re-read I find more of the plot line. Like seeing a movie over again and catching new things like red doorknobs. I feel *Swan* is to be compared to Stephen King's masterpiece *The Stand*. Both are terrified reads. It's hard to find another book to read after finishing those books. *Swan* is worth six stars. After reading *Swan*, I started to read other Robert McCammon books. They are all excellent reads.

If you enjoy post-apocalyptic fiction you will love *Swan Song*. This book is an emotional investment with wonderful character development and a riveting story. You know that you have read a good book when you are finished and yet for days after you think about it. I actually mourned the loss of some of the characters. Robert McCammon is a master storyteller. To me this book stands right alongside *The Stand* and *The Road* for the best in post-apocalyptic fiction.

*Swan Song* is more than anything one of the best books I've ever read. Clocking in at 918 pages it has to be the longest one I've ever done as well. And to be honest it has a very slow start. It just felt like it took so long for things to really get rolling. But afterwards, I was sincerely hooked and kept going reading it every day. While it's particularly violent and rather nasty in place it's still one

captivating and moving story. To me, it felt like it was all about good vs evil, and giving it your all to be who you really are. And I will say even though it's a dark story it's very sweet in places and just so heartwarming. On top of that, there's a lot of moments that are hard to let go. Really, I could just go on and on about this but more than anything I highly recommend reading this book. Also, the chapters are broken up into segments too so it makes it easier to read just a part of them at a time.

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