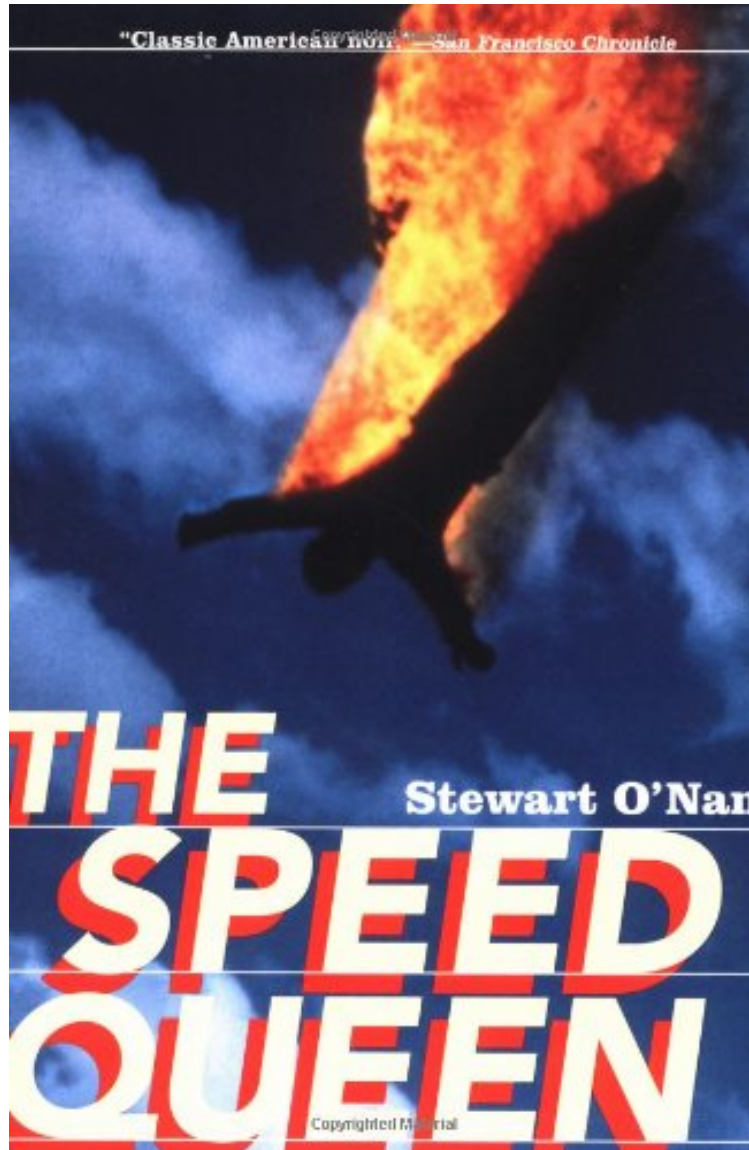


(Read free) Speed Queen

Speed Queen

Stewart O'Nan

audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1301292 in Books Grove Press 2001-09-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.20 x .60 x 5.50l, #File Name: 0802138535224 pages | File size: 68.Mb

Stewart O'Nan : Speed Queen before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Speed Queen:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. quietly shockingBy expertI titled this review "quietly shocking" because that's how this character study hit me. The lead character speaks about herself and her history, and her crimes in a matter of fact fashion, from her jail cell. She is dictating it to a fictional writer who will tell her story to the public, this writer is reminiscent of Stephen King. It's a straightforward telling, the horror of this ordinary seeming young

women, is not immediately obvious. Her very plain spoken revelation, takes a minute to sink in in all its import and makes you fear for number of others like her, that must surely be out there. This is not a supernatural tale though you might wish it were.³ of 5 people found the following review helpful. Straight SpeedBy jmhThe clock is ticking, and death row inmate Marjorie Standiford knows it. Her demise is scheduled but her determination to set the record straight as far as she is concerned is paramount.Marjorie has become famous, noted as the "Speed Queen" for her appetite for speed, fast cars and her criminal history. Her last night is spent huddled up with a tape recorder as she recounts her personal history and the chilling events that culminated into a night of total terror.Equally bizarre is the contrast of Marjorie as a mother of a young son and her relationship with another woman that becomes the fuse for the bomb ready to blow. Narrated to a writer well versed in horror, her story does hit new levels in brutal crime. How does one get caught up in such a situation, how is it that others influence so deeply what course an event takes?Truly, a unique novel, as unique as O'Nan is with all his books. I am always ready to experience something new with O'Nan and he did not fail to deliver another thriller.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good ReadBy NettieInteresting novel. I would have given it five stars if the author had gone a bit deeper into the psychological aspects of the main characters.

Stewart O'Nan is one of the most highly acclaimed fiction writers of his generation, selected by Granta as one of the Best Young American Novelists and hailed by The New York Times as "a master." Grove Press is proud to reissue his haunting noir novel *The Speed Queen*. *The Speed Queen* is the gripping story of a twisted love triangle's drug-fueled killing spree across the desert plains, told in the voice of Oklahoma death-row inmate Marjorie Standiford, who is recounting her experiences for a best-selling horror writer researching the murders. It's a chilling, unputdownable crime novel in the tradition of James M. Cain -- a voyage into the dark soul of the American West.

.com Stewart O'Nan's *The Speed Queen* opens on Oklahoma's death row. Marjorie Standiford, scheduled to die that night for the murder of 12 people, dictates the story of her life into a tape recorder. Before she goes, she wants to set the record straight. It seems that one of her accomplices, Natalie, has already produced a bestselling book on the subject, and Marjorie doesn't want to be outdone. Her tape will be sent to an unnamed writer known as the King of Horror with a list of titles identical to those of Stephen King. It's evident why a horror writer might be interested in Marjorie's story--the details of her life are pretty darned horrifying. A deep love of cars is what attracts Marjorie to her husband, Lamont, in the first place; an unplanned pregnancy is what pushes them into marriage. In the early days of their love affair, driving around in Lamont's convertible with the baby in the back and doing a little speed on the side is enough, but possession leads to prison time for Marjorie. There she meets Natalie, who will complete their deadly triangle. Once on the outside, Natalie, Marjorie, and Lamont start mainlining speed, then dealing it, and before long, a landscape of drive-thru restaurants and convenience stores becomes the backdrop for a series of gruesome murders. Marjorie may not be the most reliable narrator, but she is an original one, and *The Speed Queen* provides one heck of a joy ride.From BooklistGuilt looks innocent in this latest novel by O'Nan, named one of Granta's 20 best young American novelists. Narrator Marjorie Standiford waits on Oklahoma's death row for her role in the infamous "Sonic" drive-in killings. America's "King of Horror" (a never-named Stephen King) buys the rights to Marjorie's story, and she is given a tape recorder and more than 100 questions to answer in the hours before her death. The questions range from the mundane ("What did we wear that day?") to the impossible ("Why did I do it?"). Each answer blurs the line between good and evil, which is easier to draw without human details. Marjorie's ingenuous and wry voice reveals her essential badness--a weakness for cars and speed, both vehicular and drug-related--and makes it almost understandable. As Marjorie says, "I was there but I didn't kill anyone." Technically she's right: she's the get-away girl who participates in crimes like she's watching TV. Her tragic road trip through America's quiet towns and highways lulls us into detachment, and innocence redefined. Deanna LarsonFrom Kirkus sGranta hotshot O'Nan (*The Names of the Dead*, 1996, etc.) gives us his variation on *In Cold Blood*, new and improved, for those who never read the original. On death row in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary, on the very night of her execution, Marjorie Standiford is busy with her tape recorder. Last-minute appeal? Last Will and Testament? A farewell letter? No, nothing like that. Marjorie is making notes for Stephen King, who has decided to write a book about her. Apparently Marjorie is a very hot ticket: Natalie, her partner in crime, has already published a bestseller about the twosome's life on the road as bandits and serial killers. But Marjorie has become a Christian since her arrest, you see, and is now worried about her image. ``Sometimes in your books you make fun of religious people. You make them crazy or evil, like in *Children of the Corn* or *Needful Things*. I'd appreciate it if you didn't this once. Just make me the way I am." So Marjorie proceeds to tell Stephen the whole sad story, from white-trash childhood to pothead adolescence to marriage with speed-freak Lamont on to her eventual discovery of bisexuality with roommate Natalie. Eventually those three set up shop as drug dealers and are quickly successful. When they find the cash from their big haul stolen, however, they turn to outright theft, murdering an old farmer and his wife in the process. From that point on, their fate is basically sealed: They take to the road, barreling down Route 66 to the border, knocking off a restaurant and several of its customers before getting caught. As much as Marjorie regrets all the mess, she knows it makes a great story. Stretching the credible and

highly pretentious: O'Nan's portrait of a redneck who watches Monty Python and works out book treatments on her deathbed would be merely bizarre if she were just a character. Unfortunately, she's the entire story. (Author tour) --
Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.