

White Trash

John King

Ruby James lives life to the full, the state-run hospital where she works as a nurse a microcosm of the community in which she was born and bred. While some outsiders might label the people of this town “white trash,” she knows different, reveling in a vibrant society that values people over money, actions above words.

For Ruby, every person is unique and has a story to tell, whether it is skin-head taxi driver Steve, retired teacher and rocker Pearl, magic-mushroom expert Danny Wax Cap, or former merchant seaman Ron Dawes. She encourages people to tell their tales, thrilled by the images created. Outside of work she drinks, dances, and has fun with her friends, at the same time dealing with her mother’s Alzheimer’s and a vision from the past, aware that physical and mental health are precious and easily lost. The epitome of positive thinking, Ruby sees the best in everyone—until the day true evil comes to call.

A mystery figure roams the corridors of Ruby’s state-run hospital. He carries special medicine and a very different set of values. He tells himself that he wants to help, increase efficiency, but cost-cutting leads to social cleansing as humans are judged according to that white-trash agenda. Excuses and justifications flow as notions of heaven and hell are distorted. Set against a background of pirate-radio stations, pink Cadillacs, and freeway dreams, *White Trash* insists there is no such thing as white trash.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John King is the author of seven novels to date. His first book, *The Football Factory*, was an instant word-of-mouth success and was later turned into a high-profile film. Sales in the UK now top a quarter of a million copies. The novels *Headhunters*, *England Away*, *Human Punk*, *White Trash*, *The Prison House*, and *Skinheads* followed. King’s writing reflects his interests—social history, music, literature, drinking, travel, soccer and non-party politics. Before becoming an author King worked at a variety of jobs and spent two years travelling around the world in the late 1980s. He has long been associated with fanzines, writing for various titles over the years and running *Two Sevens* in the early 1990s. He currently publishes and edits *Verbal*, a fiction-based publication. Other interests include a regular Human Punk night at London’s legendary 100 Club. He lives in London.

ACCOLADES

“Complete and unique, all stitched up and marvelous, the two sides of the equation brought together, realistic yet philosophical.”

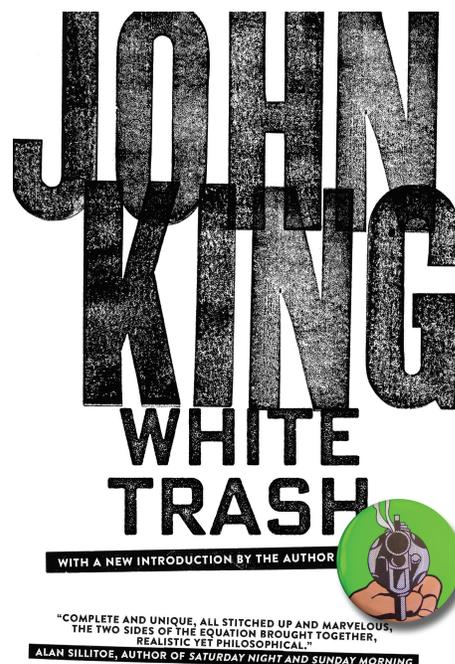
—Alan Sillitoe, author of *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*

“King is a writer who adeptly avoids cliché and caricature and is one of the most accomplished chroniclers of contemporary life. *White Trash* is very much a state of the nation book.”

—*Big Issue North*

“The sharpest commentator on modern times is back, with a plot running so close to the bone it’s almost skeletal.”

—*The List*



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