

Salem's Lot

TV-14 | 3h 1min | Drama, Horror, Mystery | TV Series (2004)

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Episode Guide 2 episodes

Writer Ben Mears returns to his childhood home of Jerusalem's Lot and discovers that it is being terrorized by vampires.

Stars: [Rob Lowe](#), [Andre Braugher](#), [Donald Sutherland](#) | [See full cast & crew](#)

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Reviews 149 user | 30 critic Popularity 3,625 (# 703)

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Episodes

Seasons	Years
1	2004

Nominated for 1 Primetime Emmy. Another 2 wins & 7 nominations. [See more awards](#)

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Salem's Lot (TV Movie 1979)
[PG] Horror
★★★★★ 6.8/10

A novelist and a young horror fan attempt to save a small New England town which has been invaded by vampires.

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Director: [Tobe Hooper](#)
Stars: [David Soul](#), [James Mason](#), La...

Salem's Lot (TV Movie 1979)

★★★★★ 6.8/10

A novelist and a young horror fan attempt to save a small New England town which has been invaded by vampires.

Director: [Tobe Hooper](#)
Stars: [David Soul](#), [James Mason](#), La...

Cast

Series cast summary:

Rob Lowe	...	Ben Mears	2 episodes, 2004
Andre Braugher	...	Matt Burke	2 episodes, 2004
Donald Sutherland	...	Richard Straker	2 episodes, 2004
Samantha Mathis	...	Susan Norton	2 episodes, 2004
Robert Mammone	...	Dr. James Cody	2 episodes, 2004
Dan Byrd	...	Mark Petrie	2 episodes, 2004
Rutger Hauer	...	Kurt Barlow	2 episodes, 2004
James Cromwell	...	Father Donald Callahan	2 episodes, 2004
Andy Anderson	...	Charlie Rhodes	2 episodes, 2004
Robert Grubb	...	Larry Crockett	2 episodes, 2004
Steven Vidler	...	Sheriff Parkins	2 episodes, 2004
Penny McNamee	...	Ruth Crockett	2 episodes, 2004
Brendan Cowell	...	Dud Rogers	2 episodes, 2004
Christopher Morris	...	Mike Ryerson	2 episodes, 2004
Todd MacDonald	...	Floyd Tibbits	2 episodes, 2004
Bree Desborough	...	Sandy McDougall	2 episodes, 2004
Paul Ashcroft	...	Royce McDougall	2 episodes, 2004
Elizabeth Alexander	...	Ann Norton	2 episodes, 2004
Julia Blake	...	Eva Prunier	2 episodes, 2004
Martin Vaughan	...	Ed 'Weasel' Craig	2 episodes, 2004
André de Vanny	...	Danny Glick	2 episodes, 2004
Zac Richmond	...	Ralphie Glick	2 episodes, 2004
Rebecca Gibney	...	Marjorie Glick	2 episodes, 2004
Joe Petruzzi	...	Tony Glick	2 episodes, 2004
Tara Morice	...	Joyce Petrie	2 episodes, 2004

[See full cast](#)

Storyline

Ben Mears, a writer returns to the small Maine town of Jerusalem's Lot (also known as Salem's Lot), where he spent the first few years of his life, to write a book. Little does he or the townfolk realize that a couple of other new residents are coming...Straker, an antiques dealer, and his partner and master Barlow, an ancient and malevolent vampire bent on making Salem's Lot his new home. *Written by Klange*

[Plot Summary](#) | [Add Synopsis](#)

Plot Keywords: [child murderer](#) | [murder of a priest](#) | [murder](#) | [boardinghouse](#) | [schoolteacher](#) | [See All \(111\)](#)

Taglines: [Do you believe in vampires? See more](#)

Genres: [Drama](#) | [Horror](#) | [Mystery](#) | [Thriller](#)

Certificate: [TV-14](#) | [See all certifications](#)

Parents Guide: [View content advisory](#)

Details

Official Sites: [TNT](#)

Country: [USA](#)

Language: [English](#) | [French](#)

Release Date: [20 June 2004 \(USA\)](#) | [See more](#)

Also Known As: [Salem's Lot](#) | [See more](#)

Filming Locations: [Creswick, Victoria, Australia](#) | [See more](#)

Box Office

Budget: [\\$25,000,000 \(estimated\)](#)

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Company Credits

Production Co: [Cote Hayes Productions](#), [Mark M. Wolper Production](#), [TNT](#) | [See more](#)

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Technical Specs

Runtime: [181 min](#)

Sound Mix: [Dolby Digital](#)

Color: [Color](#)

Aspect Ratio: [1.78 : 1](#)

[See full technical specs](#)

Did You Know?

Trivia

Four actors have also starred in other Stephen King (1) movies: [Rob Lowe](#) (The Stand), [Samantha Mathis](#) (under the dome), [Andre Braugher](#) (The Mist) and [James Cromwell](#) (The Green Mile). [See more](#)

Goofs

The action takes place in Maine during winter but in many scenes there are trees such as birches visible with full green foliage. In Maine at that time of the year those trees would have shed their leaves months prior and would appear bare. [See more](#)

Quotes

[Mark Petrie](#): [Mark is standing at the entrance to the Marsten House cellar, but he is unable to go farther, despite wanting to help Susan, who is held down there] Susan!
[Susan Norton](#): Mark? I can't see, it's so dark.
[\[Barlow bites her offscreen\]](#)
[Susan Norton](#): Ohhhh...
[Kurt Barlow](#): Come down, boy.
[Mark Petrie](#): I know your name!
[Kurt Barlow](#): I admire you, come down for a taste.
[Mark Petrie](#): It's Barlow!
[Kurt Barlow](#): There's enough here for two, why would you run, boy?
[\[Mark flees out of a window and out of the Marsten House\]](#)
[See more](#)

Connections

References [Stand by Me \(1986\)](#) | [See more](#)

Soundtracks

Salem's Lot Aria
[Lisa Gerrard](#) & [Patrick Cassidy](#)
[See more](#)

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User Reviews

★★★★★ Very enjoyable *SPOILERS*
30 June 2004 | by [Mister_Anderson](#) | [See all my reviews](#)

First off, let me say that I have read the original novel and seen the 1979 miniseries. Both are great in their own right. The novel is scary and foreboding. The '79 movie captures that feeling even though it changed a good amount of the story.

This 2004 adaptation doesn't attempt to mimic the feelings the '79 movie conveyed. In my opinion, this is a good thing. Although many posters would think they want to see the same scenes that were in the '79 version, what would this accomplish? The '79 version is on tape, so if you want to be scared in the same way, watch that.

The critics I've read so far have criticized this film for not being close to the novel. I guess I had a different expectation. I have long since given up on the expectation that novels translate perfectly to film. This does not happen (the rare exception being Lord of the Rings, yet even that had changes). Nevertheless, here are their main arguments. I'll respond to each one:

- 1) The ending of Father Callahan. - This is a 3 hour movie, and as such, plot points and characters need to be wrapped up. While Father Callahan may survive in the novel (only to reappear in The Dark Tower), this would leave more questions than answers to those who are watching the miniseries and getting the story for the first time. Remember how ridiculous the truncated version of the '79 movie ended--without knowing what happened to Susan? Films need to wrap up their loose ends.
- 2) The modernization of the story. - Salem's Lot was set in the mid-seventies not for any particular reason but only because that was when King wrote it. Obviously the original film took place in the seventies (as it was shown in 1979). Why must the new miniseries take place in the 70s? There's nothing in the book that requires the 70s to be the setting, and more people will be able to adapt to the current time. They don't sacrifice any of the story elements to do this. But since we are modernizing it, we do need to add some modern touches (i.e. email, cell phone, etc.) None of these take away from the story.
- 3) It's not scary / doesn't scare me as much as the '79 version. - Again, the '04 version isn't attempting to imitate the earlier film, and rightfully so. We don't need a shot by shot of what made the '79 classic horror (and it is) - this is how the remake of "Psycho" got panned. The original is a classic, and you can't remake a classic. So instead the director here (Saloman) decided to focus not so much on the fear but on another aspect of King's novel that was not focused on in the '79 version, and that is the entity of the town itself. The '79 version eliminated, combined, and truncated many characters, so that in the end, the only really main ones were Ben, Mark, Susan, and Straker. It worked, but this was a far cry from King's novel. The 2004 version gives us much more, including Dr. Cody, Dud, Ruthie, Father Callahan (in a larger role), Barlow (in the real role), and many other minor characters (i.e. the bus driver).

To sum up - No, it's not scary, but it isn't trying to be. There's a '79 version that did that very, very well. We didn't need them to remake that; it's good on its own. What we needed was an interesting story. Salem's Lot '04 gives us that. Don't expect it to win any Emmys, but hearing people say they wasted 4 hours of their lives makes me laugh. This is one of the best adaptations of a King work, and there are far, far worse.

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Title: **Salem's Lot** (2004)

IMDb 6.2 6.2/10 ★

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