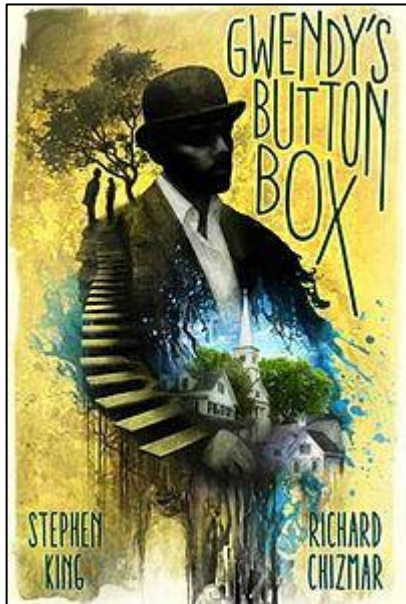


## Spotlight on Books



I won't call it a comeback, but 2017 has been a more stellar year for Stephen King than in recent memory. He's had four television adaptations (*The Mist*, *Mr. Mercedes*, *Gerald's Game*, and *1922*) and a couple of big screen adaptations as well (*The Dark Tower* and, of course, *It*). On top of all of that, he's still churning out the books. Both of this year's novels were collaborations: *Sleeping Beauties* (with his son Owen) and *Gwendy's Button Box* (with Richard Chizmar).

Actually, it is probably more accurate to describe the latter of those two books as a novella. As it comes in at less than 200 pages, there's still plenty of time to read it before Halloween. And, for those parents who grew up on Stephen King but don't know where to start to introduce his works to their adolescent

kids, *Gwendy's Button Box* is as close to a Young Adult book as anything he's ever written.

This is very much a coming-of-age tale. As the titular Gwendy enters puberty and begins to mature, she realizes how much power she has to affect the world, for good or for bad. In this case, the power comes from a mysterious button box given to her by a stranger named Mr. Farris, but it wouldn't be difficult for readers to ignore the box altogether, or at the very least, write it off as a placebo.

There's also a message about self-restraint and as such I'm sure some readers will be left longing for more disastrous drama than the book provided. I, however, was content with the death count! It's certainly one of his less morbid tales. That said, there's just enough supernatural and weirdness to make it classic King.

John Mutford, Library Manager

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