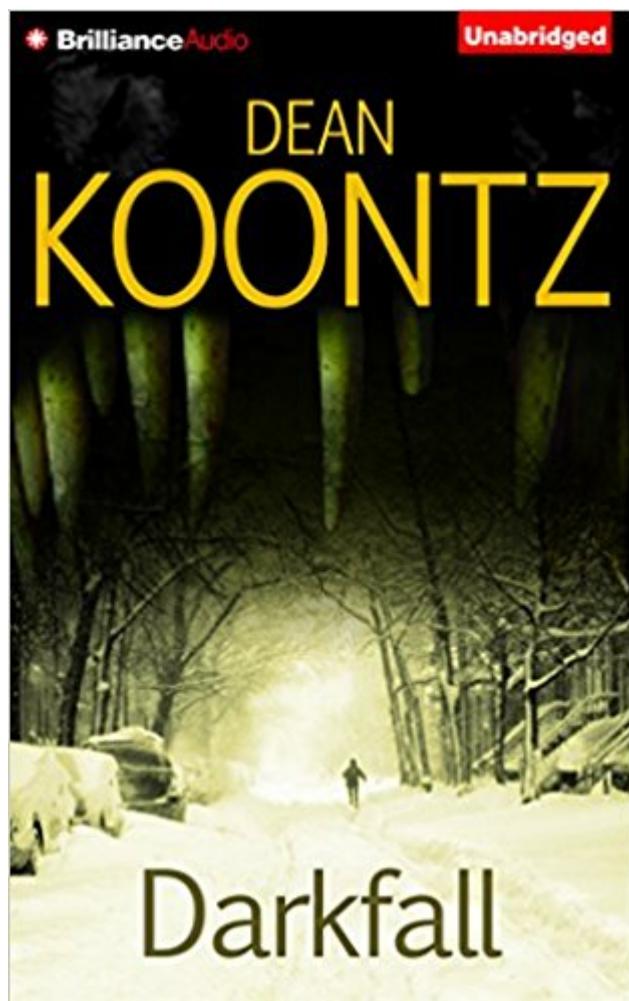


The book was found

Darkfall



Synopsis

Winter gripped the city. Terror gripped it, too. They found four corpses in four days, each more hideous than the last. At first the cops thought they were dealing with a psychopath. But soon they heard eerie sounds in the ventilation systemâ "and saw unearthly silver eyes in the snow-slasher night. In a city paralyzed by a blizzard, something watches, something stalks.â |

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #777,629 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (K) > Koontz, Dean #76 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Horror #989 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

Customer Reviews

â œSwift, entertaining...A classic race to the rescue.â •â "Publishers Weeklyâ œA fast-paced tale...one of the scariest chase scenes ever!â •â "The Houston Postâ œA master storyteller, sometimes humorous, sometimes shocking, but always riveting.â •â "The San Diego Union-TribuneMore Praise for Dean Koontzâ œDean Koontz is a prose stylist whose lyricism heightens malevolence and tension. [He creates] characters of unusual richness and depth.â •â "The Seattle Timesâ œTumbling, hallucinogenic prose....â ^Seriousâ ™ writers...might do well to examine his technique.â •â "The New York Times Book Reviewâ œLyrical writing and compelling characters...Koontz stands alone.â •â "Associated Pressâ œIn every industry there exist â ^artistsâ ™ that are not only unforgettable, but know their craft better than the rest. Dean Koontz...is among these artisans.â •â "Suspense Magazineâ œ[Koontz] has always had near-Dickensian powers of description, and an ability to yank us from one page to the next that few novelists can match.â •â "Los Angeles Timesâ œPerhaps more than any other author, Koontz writes fiction perfectly suited to the mood of America...novels that acknowledge the reality and tenacity of evil but also the power of good...[and that] entertain vastly as they uplift.â •â "Publishers Weekly

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Dean Koontz, the author of many #1 New York Times bestsellers, lives in Southern California with his wife, Gerda, their golden retriever, Anna, and the enduring spirit of their golden, Trixie.

The title of this review seems a little odd from a fan. If I could meet Mr. Koontz I would thank him for providing me with so many hours of thought provoking entertainment. Darkfall seems to have gotten several bad reviews. This puzzles me greatly. This is a very entertaining book. No, it is not his greatest work. If I had to name his greatest book, I couldn't do it. They are all unique and special in their own way. It is a shame he did not continue a series with these two cops. I think they would make a great continuing story. What I hate about Dean Koontz is the fact that when I start reading one of his books at bed time I usually lose a night's sleep. This book starts slow but once it gets rolling, you can't put it down. Darkfall cost me a whole night of sleep and the following day to recover. If you haven't read a Koontz novel, be prepared for an extraordinary experience.

Koontz is hit or miss for me. This one is a miss. The story feels dated and the writing predictable, simplistic and cliché. It must be one of Koontz's earlier works. The characters are clichéd in appearance, actions and vocabulary. This makes them simple, boring and incredibly predictable in an already extremely predictable plot. Our hero(s) are beautiful and flawless both in appearance, integrity and action even when they aren't, even when they do something questionable, they are written as if they are shining examples of humanity. For a very glaring example, our main character hero, single father policeman, doesn't do anything when his children are threatened if he doesn't "back off". He gets a call threatening horrible torture and death to his children if he doesn't stop investigating. Does he call his kids or the relative they are staying with? No. Does he go to them? No. Does he call the police? No. He goes to work. He tells his boss who offers to take him off the case. He refuses. Does he call his kids then? No. Does he request police protection? No. Does he even request a policeman to check on them? No. He decides that since they are at a relative's house, they are safe. And so does nothing except continue investigating. WHAT?? How is this logical? How can he possibly believe they are safe without even calling someone? Then, he is done at work. He THINKS about going to his kids. DEBATES where to go. Does he go to his kids? No. He goes to his lover's house. Oh, yeah, and there is a horrible snow storm going on that has resulted in abandoned cars on the roads. He has not once called to inquire about children's safety. I found this absolutely ridiculous. I can't stand when writers include children as some plot device to give our

hero (supposedly) something to agonize over, to be threatened for the purposes of (attempting and failing) to create suspense and cruelty, include children with such an utter lack of reality, real responsibility or realistic emotional involvement, actions or reactions. This plot device in Darkfall read as silly to me, and had the opposite effect as intended. This is a big example of what the whole book suffered from. Characters either existed in a non-reality only to stretch logic and normalcy to further the struggling plot or characters reacted in inhuman/uncharacteristic ways to further the same simplistic and laboring plot. However, Koontz has always had a way with words, often poetic, and his descriptions can be vivid and fantastic. The bad guys, though over the top in the case of Darkfall, seem truly evil. And I enjoy how he writes children, and Darkfall is no exception. The book was interesting enough that I finished it, but it will be going to the Goodwill and will not become a part of my library.

Perhaps by sheer luck, coincidence, or some strange alignment of the stars, I read Dean's short story "Snatcher" from his collection "Strange Highways" shortly before reading "Darkfall". I say coincidence because the concepts of both pieces bear similarities (in terms of small demons, at least) and, in hindsight, it seems as if I was summoned to read "Snatcher" as a teasing warm-up for "Darkfall". That said, I enjoyed "Darkfall". The typical, clever tools which Dean expertly employs are all here; all the unique elements which exist only in his novels are present, as well. However, I must admit that I didn't take the bait with the "little creatures" hook quite as fast as I snatch and run with all of his other novels premise's. Perhaps this was so because it's been only a couple weeks since reading his masterfully crafted, breakthrough novel "Whispers", and I'm still comprehending how wonderfully he wove the myriad of mysteries in merely 469 pages. But that is another review. This book was very intriguing (as are all of his works) and was a very fast read (took me only two days). Usually, I'll read two or three Koontz books, then a King book, followed by the possibility of a Laymon peppered in there somewhere. I just recently finished "Dreamcatcher" by King and I was hooked for the first two hundred pages...until I found myself counting the pages left. His far-out, fantastical elements--which he tries to depict as serious but is usually laughable because his explanations always seem hinged on some childish humor--kicked in and I virtually clocked out. The thing that I love about Koontz much more so than King is his uncanny ability to take you into the supernatural, the unknown, the seemingly unexplainable, and yet somehow provide elaborate, logical explanations that enable me to keep my disbelief WILLINGLY suspended (something the quote-un-quote king of horror fails miserably in doing). But again, that is another review. One thing I've noticed about Dean during his 80's days: the man was undoubtedly driven by themes of

demonology, both indirectly and directly. And his exploration of this topic, so far as I'm concerned, is unprecedented. I give it 4 stars; I can't go 5 stars simply because his prose wasn't quite as colorful as usual (I know I'm being picky but even he said it wasn't among his best work). If you're a fan, or even slightly into novels involving the supernatural, then you can't go wrong with this one.

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Darkfall

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