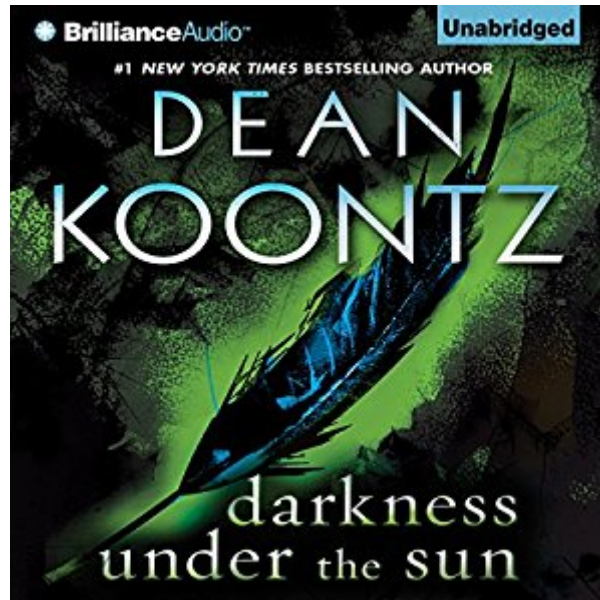




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Darkness Under The Sun



Synopsis

There once was a killer who knew the night, its secrets and rhythms. How to hide within its shadows. When to hunt. He roamed from town to town, city to city, choosing his prey for their beauty and innocence. His cruelties were infinite, his humanity long since forfeit. But still... he had not yet discovered how to make his special mark among monsters, how to come fully alive as Death. This is the story of how he learned those things, and of what we might do to ensure that he does not visit us.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I like Koontz--how he writes, how he manages to find very good in the good folks and very bad in the bad folks. Here is a shorter tale by him where a scarred "outsider" boy encounters a very intense and "ugly" danger in a deformed demonically-motivated dude, and the repercussions of it. I wish it had been made, extended, into a novel. I would have liked to have seen Howie deal with the darkness in a deeper way. Evil is a very present and terrifying thing in Koontz's work, and though this is short, you will definitely get the shudder of encountering the darkness.

Eleven-year-old Howie apparently likes exploring abandoned buildings. Once inside the old emporium, he climbs to the roof and stumbles upon Alton Blackwood. Howie and Alton share one characteristic: disfigurement, and they become fast friends. Howie doesn't understand why the entirety of a grown man's existence consists of moving from shadow to shadow. Youthful innocence

prompts Howie to invite Alton to rent a room at his parent's house. That's when Howie runs home to prepare sandwiches and grab a few photos of his family to share, but upon his return to the roof, Alton is absent. Left behind is a backpack containing incriminating evidence. Is it too late? Can Howie return home in time to warn his parents and sister? Can he save others who might fall into Alton's path? Darkness Under the Sun is short story that set's up Dean Koontz novel entitled "What the Night Knows." I gave "Darkness" 4-stars, but 4.5-Stars is a more accurate rating. It's very good if you like dark suspense.

I truly enjoy anything he writes! I have been reading him so long I know his original pen name. Dean Koontz, I will read whatever he writes. These were great little stories with full impact!

One of the most talented authors of our time, and although I have to question the mental acuity of anyone who buys into the baseless ritual and silly puffery of any organized religion (especially the Catholics, who read the bible and, although there is no mention at all of popes, priests, nuns, sinfully wealthy cities made of gold and marble, [suppose the whole vow of poverty thing is a "do as I say, not as I do" type of situation], or ridiculously ornate, obnoxious, giant hats. The bible also makes no mention of a descending chain of command in which only the one man in the highest office of the church is holy enough to communicate directly with god, and everybody else just has to take his word for it. I grew up in church, read as much of that rambling, threatening, schizophrenic fairy tale as I could stomach, and I'm certain that last one, the one about the one man alone having the power to hear god and the wisdom to convey his command to his lessers, is a perfect example of blasphemy. So is the very un-Christ like hoarding of wealth and treasures, much of which was taken away from the many cities and cultures that the Christian Crusades left burned, robbed, and littered with the bodies of the slaughtered, for the glory of the Christian God. So some pious, self-important men invented all that. I guess they concluded that their all-knowing, all powerful, one true god forgot to add all that stuff to his big book of literal truth.) but I digress. I love the man's work (Koontz, not god), but I guess I assumed wrongly that a clearly bright mind capable of reason and free thought would eventually arrive at the same conclusion that I did; that when you discover Santa Clause is a myth, and the Easter Bunny a lie so outrageous its insulting to trusting children everywhere (a rabbit that brings and hides boiled chicken eggs because Jesus is rumored, among superstitious, tribal primitives', to have risen from the dead on an unknown day more than 2000 years ago, although he was too shy all of a sudden to say hi to anyone except for a couple of followers who were angry and grief-stricken, and desperately needed to believe the disgusting, vicious, subhuman cruelty he

endured was not in vain) , when those happy illusions are stripped from you, it is time to stop believing in invisible men who live in magical places in the sky, know your every thought, and punish the wicked in your defense, but only after death, and for some reason won't intercede on your behalf to prevent the wicked from getting up to wicked shenanigans in the first place, nope, not even if they're raping puppies and eating babies alive in their secret dens of wickedness. Strange that a fair and just, all powerful, all knowing god, who created everything, including the wicked, wouldn't be willing to concede it was irresponsible at the very least, to loose the rapers and killers and practitioners of vast greed among us, like a shepherd leading the wolves to his flock, in disguise, and stepping away to enjoy the spectacle. Sorry. I really hate true believers.

During the 80's and early 90's, Dean Koontz was one of my favorite authors. I loved the twists in the original plots, the violence with a purpose, and the characters that just crawled in to your psyche and took up residence. I even named one of my sons after the sheriff in Intensity (Ethan!). Then something changed. He started to write in this self-amusing sing-song prose that he obviously thought was clever and that I found annoying. Annoyed so much so that I stopped reading him PERIOD. I would still glance at the releases, read the reviews, and, being unimpressed by the write up or the subjects (Frankenstein, Really?), I would move on without another thought of reading another Koontz book yet again. But that all changed recently. I saw this intriguing little novella for my kindle, and after reading the sample, quickly bought the rest of the story. I do mean that I BOUGHT it. Everything, hook, line, and sinker. Trust me, this is the best Koontz in 15 years. I so much enjoyed it, I pre-ordered the new novel based just on this prequel! That is how impressive this story is. I won't ruin it by hashing out the plot and the characters, even as deliciously evil as it is and they are, but I will tell you that you will not be disappointed. Also, I read in a recent interview with Koontz that his villain came to him in a dream, and was so terrifying that he had to write it down and use him in these tales. Talk about inspiration...Fantastic! So will this story have me digging thru the back catalogue and picking up some of those for a second chance? No, but I can see a time again when I will eagerly await the new novel from Dean Koontz and the possibilities it holds.

It was a good "read". My only disappointment was that it is only two hours of listening. Didn't take up much of the car ride!

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Darkness Under the Sun
Dean Koontz Thriller Novella Collection: Darkness Under the Sun, Demon Seed, The Moonlit Mind

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