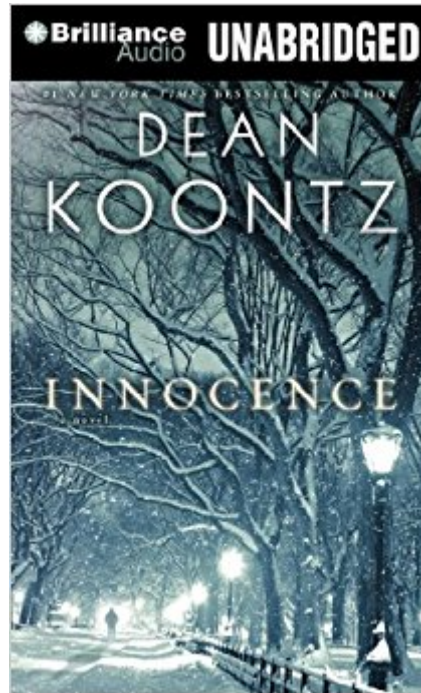




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Innocence: A Novel



Synopsis

He lives in solitude beneath the city, an exile from society, which will destroy him if he is ever seen. She dwells in seclusion, a fugitive from enemies who will do her harm if she is ever found. But the bond between them runs deeper than the tragedies that have scarred their lives. Something more than chance and nothing less than destiny has brought them together in a world whose hour of reckoning is fast approaching. In *Innocence*, #1 New York Times bestselling author Dean Koontz blends mystery, suspense, and acute insight into the human soul in a masterfully told tale that will resonate with listeners forever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review Addison Goodheart, who must never be seen, and last-nameless Gwyneth, who must never be touched, meet sensationally cute at the end of evading a big, enraged man shouting that he'll kill her. Confronting one another by the Dickens collection of the grand central library of a never-named American metropolis, they realize, as he says, that "we're made for each other." Love at first sight, though heavily impeded (by his clothes and her makeup), saves both them and the story time, which they need because her would-be rapist-murderer is about to find her, no matter her many hideouts, and which the reader relishes because this is as speedy a chase-thriller as any Koontz, a past master of the form, has ever constructed. Written in Koontz's late mellifluous and reflective manner (Addison ponders as well as reveals his backstory in many flashbacks), the book is also another of his moral thrillers, fueled by deep disgust with the world's evils—especially abusive violence,

especially against children – and by definite, though idiosyncratic, Christian hope for redemption. And so this entrancing romance resolves, like Koontz's *The Taking* (2004), apocalyptically, in a new Earth. --Ray Olson --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

“A thriller that’s both chilling and fulfilling. People (four stars) “Laced with fantastical mysticism, it’s an allegory of nonviolence, acceptance and love in the face of adversity. . . . The narrative is intense, with an old-fashioned ominousness and artistically crafted descriptions. . . . An optimistic and unexpected conclusion [mirrors] his theme. Something different this way comes from Mr. Koontz’s imagination.

Enjoy. Kirkus Reviews “Mystery and terror, the paranormal and romance all combine to make *Innocence* a challenging and emotional

experience. New York Journal of Books “This novel really is something special. . . . This may just be the book Dean Koontz was born to

write. Thriller Books Journal “Entrancing . . . as speedy a chase-thriller as any Koontz . . . has ever constructed. Written in Koontz’s late mellifluous and reflective manner . . . [*Innocence* is] fueled by deep disgust with the world’s evils [and] hope for redemption.

Booklist (starred review) “[An] imaginative, mystical thriller from bestseller Koontz . . . This is the most satisfying Koontz standalone in a

while. Publishers Weekly “Masterful storyteller Koontz delivers perhaps his most eerie and unusual tale to date. The timeline in this amazing story is compact, and readers will be swept along as they try to unravel hints and clues as to the true nature of both the protagonists and the unfolding drama. Unpredictably spine-chilling and terrifying, this is a story readers won’t soon forget. RT Book Reviews “Elegant . . .

Fans of Koontz’s previous series will be left hoping that Addison and Gwyneth, too, will return. Library Journal --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I pre-purchased this book quite awhile back and sort of forgot about it until it appeared (like a gift) on my Kindle a few mornings ago. Well, of course, I started it immediately. Since I had no clue as to what it was about (the pre-buy contained no synopsis) I didn’t know what to expect - which is actually the way a good book should be read, so I won’t give any details about the story. I quickly discovered it was a bit different than most of his books and was more like a fairy tale (not the Disneyesque type of tale but the original Grimm fairy tales with great good and great evil). It took place in modern day but could have easily been any time or any place. I loved the snowy landscape

- it added to the dream-like quality of the story and I was surprised and moved by the ending - I didn't see it coming but it made perfect sense. On a personal note - Dean Koontz (while being one of my favorite authors) is also high on my list of really good people. I don't know him personally & never even met him, but contacted him and asked for a donation of a signed book to auction off for an animal rescue non-profit fundraiser with little hope of hearing back since I hadn't gotten responses from other authors I'd contacted. He very kindly and generously sent a signed copy of *A Big Little Life*. I'm sure he gets requests all the time and I was amazed and grateful that he responded.

Having previously read only one Koontz novel well over ten years ago - and not being overly impressed with it - when I picked up this book, I was taken in more by the eloquently fluid turns of phrase and less by the reputation of the author. Who, if I am to be honest, I sort of regarded as a hack, just another popular author churning out meaningless fluff for the masses. Foot, meet my mouth. This is a difficult book to describe in terms of genre, though there are distinct tinges of horror, a genre I usually stray from because it tends to tap into the mundanities of life and glorify that, despite the extraordinary events that take place in their pages. Aside from the breathtakingly beautiful writing, I noticed early on that this somehow transcends those aforementioned mundanities, so while the places and time may be familiar, reading *'Innocence'* was almost like being transported into another world. The same can be said of Addison Goodheart, the main character/narrator, who is depicted as an outcast for reasons that will not be made clear until the ending, as his insight and luminous mind seem to separate him from ordinary humanity surely as does his "deformity". Koontz weaves a captivating tale of Addison and the seemingly troubled Goth girl, Gwyneth, whose lives are somehow connected, and who he must help and protect at all costs from the man responsible for her father's murder. While the plot was light in certain instances, much of the book revolves around how Addison's past is leading him to their present life together, and the crumbs of supernatural the author throws for us are shiver inducing and spellbinding. Along the way, the book is spiced with some very erudite observances regarding the modern world, and the connections to darkness in which they spring from. I have literally been left astounded by this book. From not being much impressed (and possibly turned off) by the book I read so many years ago, this is now an author whose works will be sought out ravenously.

One jawbone-cracking yawn after another with this book. I kept waiting for something to happen. Excruciatingly long one-sentence paragraphs, 500 word descriptions of places, things, on and on. I

kept reading forward just to get to...something interesting. I am a huge Koontz fan, so never really thought this would be the worst I've ever read from him. Take heed and read well past the first few 5 star reviews. Wish I had instead of wasting my time and money

This was the perfect book for me to start and finish today. It is raining ,& cold. The perfect time for Dean Koontz, of course anytime is. Innocence grabs you from the very beginning. Never let's go. With many books after reading only a few pages I have it figured out. Not with this book. You know nothing until he wants you to, but then all of his books are that way. I would recommend this to everyone. It's not a scary book. No worries there for those of you who don't like that sort. Why did I give it 5 stars? There are no more. Don't just read this one, read them all. I have. If your looking for a new author to read... Dean Koontz is a great one. Kaye Cook

Mr. Koontz gives a different sort of voice to this novel. He's written in the first person previously, but I think never with such a poetic voice. There is such beauty in the prose of the entire novel, that it's more like reading an epic poem. If you are a fan of his novels, but prefer the ones that are strictly horror, please don't make the mistake of skipping this one. The story is still exciting and even tense at times, but you are left with a sense of wonder and hope that should not be missed. I believe that a writer's goal should be to put something out there in the world to make it a better place - whether it is to thrill us or elevate us with awe. Dean Koontz accomplishes this with "Innocence".

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