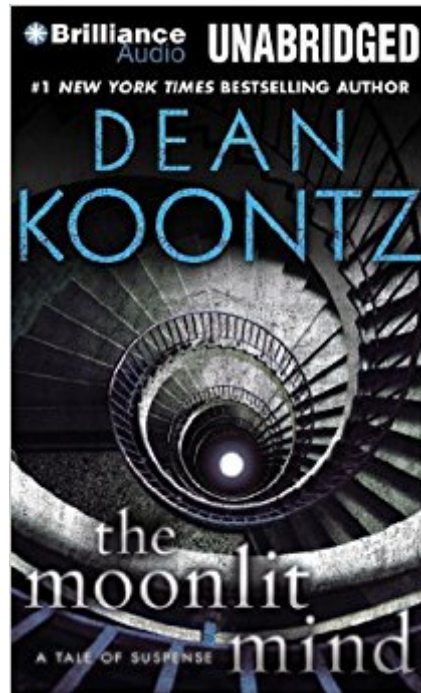




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The Moonlit Mind: A Tale Of Suspense



Synopsis

Twelve-year-old Crispin has lived on the streets since he was nine — with only his wits and his daring to sustain him, and only his silent dog, Harley, to call his friend. He is always on the move, never lingering in any one place long enough to risk being discovered. Still, there are certain places he returns to. In the midst of the tumultuous city, they are havens of solitude: like the hushed environs of St. Mary Salome Cemetery, a place where Crispin can feel at peace — safe, at least for a while, from the fearsome memories that plague him . . . and seep into his darkest nightmares. But not only his dreams are haunted. The city he roams with Harley has secrets and mysteries, things unexplainable and maybe unimaginable. Crispin has seen ghosts in the dead of night, and sensed dimensions beyond reason in broad daylight. Hints of things disturbing and strange nibble at the edges of his existence, even as dangers wholly natural and earthbound cast their shadows across his path. Alone, drifting, and scavenging to survive is no life for a boy. But the life Crispin has left behind, and is still running scared from, is an unspeakable alternative . . . that may yet catch up with him.

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Customer Reviews

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.

To begin with, let me say I love Dean's work. I always have. This book was a disappointment however. I had settled in for a nice long read with a well crafted storyline about Crispin and his dog

Harley venturing alone in the city under the most unusual of circumstances. Told partly in present tense and partly in flashback, this story addressed some aspects of the background but not others. In fact, some things were left largely to the imagination of the reader and only implied. I was sure it was building to a great climax where all of my questions would be answered. Abruptly, it was over! The ending seemed very rushed, more like homework thrown together at the last minute before it was due to be handed in. I found myself wondering what the rush was? This is not Dean's usual standard. This story could have been developed into so much more and it's disappointing that time and effort wasn't taken to do so. Why Dean has chosen to build to a potentially great climax and then walk away from it is beyond speculation. While the storyline was a great read, the ending left me dissatisfied and unhappy. I was glad I hadn't spent regular retail price for this in hard copy and while I will continue to buy his books, I am definitely hoping for a better result with the next book.

Three short, simply worded sentences in I found myself thinking, I can deal with murder, mayhem, and treachery but please don't kill off the dog. Whether or not Harley would make it to the end was enough suspense to keep me turning the pages. And this isn't a story about the dog. The real suspense involves a "feral" boy of 12, Crispin, who lives in the wilds of a large city and guided by the dog is attempting to outrun his mother and stepfather and the memories that make the devilry in "Rosemary's Baby," seem almost benign. No kid should be exposed to what Crispin witnessed three years earlier involving his younger sister Mirabell and brother (also named) Harley. Now he's running for his life, in flight from the supernatural and living by his wits and daring. This is the first I've read from Koontz in several years and I remember now how he manages to tell a story simply and builds suspense incrementally slipping easily into a world at once as ghostly as it is real. At times you feel as if you're reading a fairy tale. "Yet life is good. Oh, it is grand. The children eat only what they like. They go to bed only when they wish. Each rises to his or her own clock." The story accelerates as the suspense builds and Koontz delivers, as usual, an ending that is powerful, cathartic and noisy. Crispin is living in a world out of harmony with itself and his determination to uncover the nature of truth and reality is as strong as his will to survive. As for the fate of the dog? You'll need to find that out on your own.

Dean Koontz is one of the most dependably Great authors I have had the pleasure of reading. Every story is different with the exception of good and evil being clear and a moral to the story. It's hard to find an author who still has a moral at the end of the book as so many just write from a working script that makes them \$\$\$. This book is another great example of his versatile ability at

developing a story and characters you care about with plenty of surprises and unforeseen events yet knowing the good from the bad without giving away the ending. I recommend this and all of his books to anyone who enjoys reading because his books are all unique and no matter what your preference is there are books of his you will love.

Not going to proofread this, so bear with me....This is my second read of *The Moonlit Mind*, by Dean Koontz. Without question, Mr. Koontz's novels are my favorite...despite reading every genre of fiction and non-fiction as well. I have owned *77 Shadow Street* since it was published, but had taken a break from the suspense/horror/paranormal/Sci-Fi genre to read simpler, less-intense novels (i.e. romance...all versions, biographies and memoirs). Finally ready to enter Mr. Koontz's world again and read *77 S. S.*, I chose to reread this Novella...*The Moonlit Mind*...a precursor to *77 S.S.* *The Moonlit Mind* is Dean Koontz at his finest. From sentence one I was jerked into the suspension and often terror of Crispin's world. Nothing written or portrayed on "the big screen" scares me or causes that adrenaline rush of fear, horror and suspense anymore. Yet despite having previously read this Novella, I was immediately aware of my heart rate increasing and a knot forming in the pit of my stomach. YES, I was THRILLED. As with all his novels, this Novella was a suspense ride from beginning to end. It has Koontz's signature animal with above average...perhaps paranormal...intelligence. Every scene was not spoon fed to the reader, but rather painted with words so descriptive and well written that you are aware you are seeing exactly what Mr. Koontz wants you to see, not something your own mind creates for lack of good writing. ONE of the things I love most about this and all Koontz's novels is that he uses little to no foul language (not that I'm opposed) and still creates a tremendous amount of suspense. In addition, unlike authors such as Stephen King, he isn't constantly pushing his political agenda, nor does he show a complete disdain for Christians the way King does. Additionally, while Koontz characters are not perfect, they have a definite goodness about them, making his stories a true battle between good and evil. And the imagination of Mr. Koontz...just WOW!! I would recommend this Novella to anyone above the age of twelve who likes a truly imaginative, yet relatively clean, story... and to those who are willing to ignore the rest of the world for hours at a time as this story and his others are so very difficult to put down. If he keeps writing them, I'll keep reading them!!! THANK YOU DEAN KOONTZ! SIDE NOTE: At the age of 12, I forced my eldest son to read *"Sieze the Night"* and *"Fear Nothing"*, causing him to become a lifelong fan of Koontz as well. In fact, as I loaned my two shopping bags full of Koontz books out to friends, my son purchased his own set of *STN* and *FN*!

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