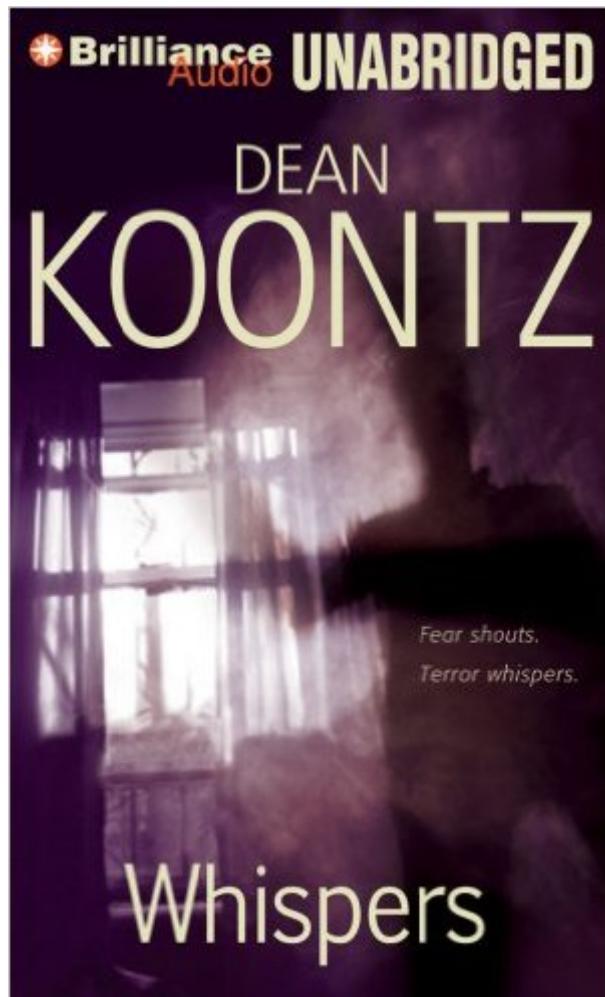


The book was found

Whispers



Synopsis

He is backHilary Thomas knew terror as a child, but never anything like this. He is backHe is hunting her with a sick desire more terrifying than hatred could ever be. And he is in her house again. He is backHe is on the stairs, and he can't be stopped. Hilary killed him once and he keeps coming back. Again and again. He is backHe is at her bedroom door.

Book Information

Audio CD

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Shipping Weight: 12 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (248 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,554,126 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (K) > Koontz, Dean #264 in Books > Books on CD > Horror #2738 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

Customer Reviews

WHISPERS was a major breakthrough in Dean's career, and when you read the book, it's easy to see why. It's an excruciatingly suspenseful tale of a talented, yet troubled young screenwriter being stalked by a relentless psycho who has a rather unique background of his own (to put it lightly). But that's merely the surface story here. Koontz explores the serious theme of how childhood experiences can exert a powerful--if almost invisible--influence on an adult's life. It's a distinctly Freudian theory, and it's interesting to note that in interviews several years after he published this book, Dean criticizes his views as naive and uninformed. Nevertheless, whether you agree with the psychological theories or not, you can read and enjoy this book for what it is: a masterful example of the suspense tale executed by a truly brilliant author. I refer to this novel again and again as I publish my own suspense novels, for sheer inspiration! Highly recommended!

Dean Koontz wrote WHISPERS in 1980, and was his first large success. I enjoyed this novel overall, because it is highly suspenseful serial killer story (especially toward the second half of the book). It is also very well written and I liked most of the major characters. Although enjoyable,

WHISPERS isn't perfect. This is a very long book, almost twice as long as your average suspense novel. It tends to drag a bit at the beginning. There are also long dialogues between characters which seem more like disguised political commentary than real conversations. This is also the most sexually explicit novel by Koontz that I have ever read; I would not recommend this novel to people who don't care for those types of scenes. There is a relatively graphic rape scene toward the end of the book that seems pretty gratuitous to me --it doesn't really serve to push the plot forward. This book, although very good, isn't nearly as great as Koontz' later stuff. If you want to begin reading Koontz, I would suggest starting with novels like WATCHERS, PHANTOMS, LIGHTNING, INTENSITY, or ODD THOMAS. Those are much better novels overall, and more representative of the great talent that Koontz possesses.

This is a highly suspenseful book, written in clear, spare prose. It is an easy read and a definite page turner. It is a plot driven book, however, with little character development. The plot itself is simple. A beautiful screenwriter, Hilary Thomas, is confronted in her own home by an intruder named Bruno Frye. It seems that Mr. Frye has been stalking Ms. Thomas in the belief that Ms. Thomas is his long deceased mother, Katherine, who has ostensibly come back from the dead in order to kill him. He feels that he must kill her, before she kills him. Of course, Ms. Thomas has no clue as to why Frye has singled her out. She is aware only of his murderous intent, and she is afraid, very afraid. On Frye's first go around with Ms. Thomas, she survives. On the second go around, Frye does not. Thinking herself to be safe, as Frye has seemingly gone to his maker, she is shocked when he, yet again, confronts her with deadly intent. Why this is happening and how, will certainly keep the reader turning the pages. Some of it is predictable, but it, nonetheless, makes for an absorbing, easy read. This is one of the author's better, early efforts. Readers who enjoy suspenseful novels will not be disappointed.

The first book by Koontz that I read was Phantoms and since that I have read a number of his books and loved all of them (except "Midnight", which was decent but not great). My favorite was "Lightning", but "Whispers" is equally good, perhaps even better. Hollywood screenwriter marked by a traumatic childhood, Hilary Thomas (a typical Koontz character) gets attacked by a respected man, Bruno Frye. Hilary manages to kill him in self-defense, but realizes her problems aren't over when he attacks her again. Has he come back from the dead? Together with policeman Tony Clemenza (who would prefer being an artist instead of a police), she tries to find out what has happened. Soon, the fascinating story of the Frye family slowly unfolds. Like in Koontz other books,

we get a psychological explanation to the behavior of our "heroes", but what is even more important in this book is that we get to explore the mind of the "villain", Bruno Frye. In for example Koontz' "Intensity", we get no explanation why the villain is behaving as he is, he is just sick (but it's a very good book too, and well described). It seems as if Koontz can make up the most fantastic story and make it sound totally logical. This book is not only very good entertainment reading but it also makes you think. I recommend it to everybody!

This is the first book by Dean Koontz that I read, and even after finishing INTENSITY, MR. MURDER, HIDEAWAY, and THE EYES OF DARKNESS, it still ranks as my favorite. I am a bit of a skeptic when I read book reviews raving that the book is "chilling" or "spine-tingling," but I can honestly claim that WHISPERS was both those things and more. The reason I appreciated WHISPERS so much is because of the incredibly well-crafted plot. As a mystery fan, I really enjoy reading a book that gives you an impossibly baffling plot twist and finally wraps up the entire story at the very end, tying up all the loose ends. Koontz shows himself to be not only a master storyteller but a super plotter. At first glance, this book may seem like another cheap, come-back-from-the-dead serial killer novel, but at the end, everything is explained logically and realistically, which makes it all the more shocking. But it isn't just the plot; there are genuinely horrifying moments and the climax is both suspenseful and disturbing. One of those books that makes you sit back after reading the last sentence and say, "Wow."

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