



Breathless

Dean Koontz

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BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Dean Koontz's *Odd Apocalypse*.

#1 New York Times bestselling author Dean Koontz delivers a thrilling novel of suspense and adventure, as the lives of strangers converge around a mystery unfolding high in the Colorado mountains—and the balance of the world begins to tilt....

In the stillness of a golden September afternoon, deep in the wilderness of the Rockies, a solitary craftsman, Grady Adams, and his magnificent Irish wolfhound Merlin step from shadow into light...and into an encounter with enchantment. That night, through the trees, under the moon, a pair of singular animals will watch Grady's isolated home, waiting to make their approach.

A few miles away, Camillia Rivers, a local veterinarian, begins to unravel the threads of a puzzle that will bring all the forces of a government in peril to her door.

At a nearby farm, long-estranged identical twins come together to begin a descent into darkness...In Las Vegas, a specialist in chaos theory probes the boundaries of the unknowable...On a Seattle golf course, two men make matter-of-fact arrangements for murder...Along a highway by the sea, a vagrant scarred by the past begins a trek toward his destiny...

In a novel that is at once wholly of our time and timeless, fearless and funny, Dean Koontz takes readers into the moment between one turn of the world and the next, across the border between knowing and mystery. It is a journey that will leave all who take it Breathless.

Breathless Details

Date : Published November 24th 2009 by Bantam (first published 2009)

ISBN :

Author : Dean Koontz

Format : Kindle Edition 354 pages

Genre : Fiction, Horror, Thriller, Suspense

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From Reader Review Breathless for online ebook

Lesli says

Not even close to as good as classic Koontz, barely as interesting as Life Expectancy. The last four chapters totally jump the shark; and my mediocre enthusiasm was crushed into apathetic disgruntlement. Mr. Koontz, if you wanted to wax philosophic, don't torture us with a less than stellar novel....even better don't couch your ideas in fiction and have your characters speak your ideology.

Gavin Troy says

Ugh. Usually I can expect Koontz books to be great. This, however, doesn't even come close to his better works. The actual writing style is still excellent, but there is much more to a book than that.

This book has no plot.

I mean literally. The publishers obviously recognized this, as the blurb describes the events in the last few chapters. The tagline (*Wonder still exists in the world – But not if Homeland Security has anything to do with it*) is nothing less than false advertising.

Worse. The book follows a large number of different characters, alternating per chapter. But why? One character isn't tied into the main plot at all, another has no effect on it, and a third and fourth briefly collide—but again with no effect on the main plot.

Effectively this book is idle writing with no purpose and no ending. Very disappointing for Koontz.

Tom says

I am officially done with Dean Koontz! Every couple of years I see one of his books, read it - and remember why it's been years since I've read one.

It took me ~4 hours to read 'Breathless' and even that was too long. The story never really goes anywhere. Halfway through the book there seem to be 3 only marginally related storylines, and then he inexplicably starts two more totally unrelated to the original ones. I kept reading hoping that they would lead to something (or at least tie together), but with a few pages left in the book I realized that this was it. I don't want to spoil the book in case someone finds themselves trapped in an airport and every other book at the newstand is sold out, but the anticlimactic ending of this book made me want to get my money back - even though I got the book from the library.

Besides being a pointless bore of a book - don't get me started on one of the characters whose rant against evolution made me physically ill. In order to support the story that new species appear out of thin air (yeah, I know, great start); the brilliant mathematician postulates that evolution is impossible because the earth hasn't been around long enough for the trillions of random mutations it would take to get from a single cell organism to even a simple worm. Who ever said that evolution is only a process of random mutations?! Basically he ignores natural selection - keyword being selection. With millions of generations of billions of individuals, you can have trillions of mutations. Some will help and some will hinder. The mutations that

benefit the organism generally will be passed on and there will be a cumulative effect. A bacterium doesn't spontaneously give birth to a worm. That's like saying 'Hamlet' couldn't have been written because it would take a million monkeys typing on a million typewriters a million years to write it. And that's just part of the nonsense that put me off.

So overall, skip this book. And if you see me eyeing another Koontz snoozer in a couple of years - just remind me how pissed off this last one made me. (Last one - Of course you would expect an explosion of speciation after a major extinction event - and you don't need supermonkeys popping out of thin air to get there! Ok, that was the last one I promise)

Steve says

When talking to authors I know, I hear frequently of that moment when several seemingly unrelated ideas come together. They become a “perfect storm” of sorts, and often lead to an amazing novel.

Unfortunately, *BREATHLESS*, by Dean Koontz, doesn't meld separate ideas into a perfect storm. The result is more like...a perfect train wreck.

Let me state, for the record, that I actually enjoy some the stories that Koontz writes. I can appreciate the transition he made into straight-forward thrillers that he has published recently (*VELOCITY*, *THE GOOD GUY*, *THE HUSBAND*). Personally, I enjoyed *ODD THOMAS*. Are they the best novels? No. Do they serve a purpose in my reading schedule? Definitely. Every now-and-again I need light reading. Dean Koontz usually can usually fill that role.

But *BREATHLESS*? Man. It was just bad.

Surely you can hear the built-in marketing campaign that comes with the title of the novel? The new Dean Koontz novel will leave you...*BREATHLESS*! How I wish that were true. Bored? Check. Bewildered (in the bad way)? Check. Disappointed? Double-check. Breathless? Not even close...unless you count the aftermath of my screaming in frustration at having to finish this book.

BREATHLESS starts out fine...good even. We are introduced to a few characters that are decent, and that are put in interesting situations. The main inciting event deals with Grady Adams, an ex-military type, and his dog, Merlin (it's a Dean Koontz novel, of course the PoV has a dog), as they discover a pair of unexplainable animals in the field their (Adams' and his dog's) home. I don't want to go into it too much, because the mystery behind these animals is the driving force of the story--well, what little of it there is. We also are introduced to Camillia Rivers, a local veterinarian with a dark past (are there any other kind in a Koontz novel?), who also gets involved with these two mystery animals. For the mandatory Dean Koontz creepy character, we get Henry. His opening chapters were great. All of this stays entertaining for approximately 100 pages.

And then we meander. Endlessly.

The pasts of the characters, rather than actually adding to the story, are just there as filler. They don't actually influence anything. Being paper-thin would be an improvement over what we get here. As we move along, we are introduced to more characters that serve no purpose in the story, and whose resolutions are

solved with Deus Ex Machina. On character in particular, Tom Bigger, reminded me instantly of the characters I hated in Stephen King's THE STAND. You know, the ones that wander endlessly. Doing nothing.

Kind of like the last two-thirds of this novel I am reviewing.

The realization I came to upon finishing the novel, is that this was just a conglomerate of unrelated novellas and short stories that are forced together through contrived, thin plot threads. Henry's story meets with that of Grady and Camilla for a whole paragraph. Tom's never meets that of the main characters (his resolution is the Deus Ex). It was infuriating, to say the least.

The writing? It was your typical Dean Koontz. If you like his writing style, then you will like the writing style of BREATHLESS. The book itself will probably only be enjoyed by the most die-hard Koontz fans, and even then it's no sure-thing.

BREATHLESS just isn't good. The idea is marginally interesting. The characters are worse than paper-thin. The cohesion between plot-threads is absurd where it even exists at all. The ending is anti-climatic and rushed. This should have been a novel to grab new readers, but instead it will push them away.

The good news? I only paid \$8 for the hardback due to the ridiculous Amazon vs. Walmart price war (huzzah!). And no, it still wasn't worth it (boooooooo!). Also, this isn't typical of Dean Koontz. BREATHLESS is an aberration. I fully expect a new novel shortly that will get him back on-track. At least I hope this will be the case. I need my simple novels after reading guys like the awesome Erikson.

That said, don't read BREATHLESS. It just isn't worth it. Be grateful I read it for you.

Content: There's nothing here that would offend a reader...well, except for the book itself...

Y says

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Suddenly, Simians!

...would've been a much better title for the book. There wouldn't even need to have been any story. Suddenly, there were sentient simians is about all you need to know about the book.

Alternatively, *The Mary Sue Monkeys* might also be acceptable.

I think this one takes the cake. THE worst DK book I've read yet. *Your Heart Belongs to Me* and *The Darkest Evening of the Year* should be proud; though they're still awful, awful things, I could *almost* say I'd rather reread either of them, but come near me with a copy of *Breathless* and I will drop you with a shotgun.

Warning: CAPS and *italics* abuse follow.

There's just...there's just no freaking *point* to ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS in the book, on top of everything else that's just STUPID about it.

The main characters...why are they main characters? What's the point of them? They are the ultimate versions of Generic Good but Personality-free DK Male Protagonist and Generic Good but Personality-free DK Female Protagonist, but at least most GGbP-fDKM/FP are a central point to the story. If Grady and Camille were to get a bullet put into their head within the very first paragraph each are introduced in, would anything about how the story turns out have changed? No, not one bit. It would've still turned out exactly the same, with the MAGICAL CREATURES POPPING FORTH INTO EXISTENCE and making humanity worthwhile through the sheer will of their BEING.

They don't even have any particular development in terms of personalities, but WHAM BANG, they get these RIDICULOUS TRAUMATIC BACK STORIES. Does it *matter* that Grady is a vet? Does he *ever* actually need to use his sniper skills within the book? He threatens one Precisely One-Dimensioned Supremely Cartoonish Evil but Pointless Bad Guy with it, a "bad guy" who is as pointless as the two protagonists. Nothing he does has any ill and/or long-lasting consequences on ANYTHING that happens within the book; he's just there for DK to bitch about something.

I know he loves to rehash themes and tropes like he bought them in bulk at a fire sale, but the Super Drugged-Out Psycho Bitch Mom and her Evil Boyfriend (Occasionally Husband) of one of the female characters (and it is always a female character) has been done before, multiple times. At least those had some sort of bearing on the character. Does this affect Camille in any way? It causes her unpleasant memories exactly once, during an utterly pointless interrogation, and supposedly had some flimsy part in why she became a vet, but other than that? There was absolutely zero reason why she couldn't have had a perfectly normal life, with two perfectly normal loving parents, and turned out EXACTLY THE SAME.

..I just realized that Grady is a vet(eran) and Camille is a vet(erinarian). HO HO HO [/hollow laughter].

And to add to even MORE POINTLESSNESS, you spend *the entire freaking book* wondering how the hell Murderer Twin and Ugly Hobo (frankly, the only interesting character in the entire damn book. His entire ordeal probably could've been fleshed out and made into its own book. Which would've been better than this one.) are going to have their plot lines tied into the main story. THEY DON'T. Camille meets Murderer Twin to absolutely no negative consequence, and Ugly Hobo sees SUDDENLY, SIMIANS and ends up rescuing some random chick due to it, and THAT'S IT. THAT'S ALL, FOLKS. You cut out their subplots completely, and IT DOESN'T AFFECT HOW THE STORY PLAYS OUT. AT ALL. YET AGAIN.

EVERY GODDAMNED CHARACTER IN THIS GODDAMNED BOOK IS SO COMPLETELY INCONSEQUENTIAL TO THE ENTIRE STORY THAT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO FREAKING REASON FOR THIS BOOK TO EXIST AT ALL.

Here, go watch this gif for about three hours. You'll get more out of it than bothering to read this book.

At least the damn dog in this book wasn't a Golden Retriever. You know, I would love to read a DK book wherein the main dog is like...a Pomeranian. Or a Papillon. Or goddamn, a Chihuahua. It would be the best Koontz book ever.

Jed Lamprey says

Most of the way through, this seemed like a typical Dean Koontz novel - and then at the end, just as I thought I was going to find out what's been going on (Koontz *used* to make sure there was a semi-logical/reasonable explanation for the events of the story) for the past few hundred pages - he does a *MASSIVE* about-face and turns the book into a poorly disguised creationist screed. Worse, all the arguments he tries to make are completely incorrect. Koontz used to do enough research that you could more or less trust what he said, but now he has gone so far off the facts that I can only come to the conclusion that the facts didn't fit his worldview, and so he just plain lied. I will be able to reread his old stuff with enjoyment, but I will never again read a new Dean Koontz novel - he is no longer a thriller writer, but just another of the many "Christian" writers who have sprung up in the wake of the "Left Behind" series. I am sorry Mr. Koontz, but your talent has completely abandoned you. Take a page from people like Bill (Calvin and Hobbes) Watterson, who recognized that they didn't have anything left in the tank, and leave the stage with people wanting more, instead of descending into such awful mediocrity that it calls even your early, good work into question.

Birgit says

This book will give you exactly what one would expect from a Dean Koontz novel. The good, the bad and the ugly (literally) and how their fates are interlinked with each other. Strange occurrences involving the sudden appearance of mysterious white fluffy creatures. A smart dog, even though this time round it's not a Golden Retriever. And the author's old familiar figurative language.

Even though Koontz had all the right ingredients, he simply didn't manage to put them together in the same engaging way he used to in previous novels. The connections between the characters are forced and while they do add to the story they are just too arbitrary. As for the idea of the book itself, which is an approach to Intelligent Design in the form of the appearance of the purest creatures the world has ever seen - especially compared to the evil that humans brought into the world - it is just really, really lame. Not only are the characters sadly one dimensional, but the way he implements the basic idea of the book is just a crude disappointment.

In short: I am a huge Koontz fan, but it seems that this author is past his prime. Everyone who read "Odd Thomas" will know what I mean, though I am aware that some might disagree, but to me it feels it went downhill since then.

Nik says

This book is CRAP. If you bought it, downloaded it, got it as a gift, save yourself the migraine and gouge your eyes out with spoons now, rather than read this and then be forced to do it to distract yourself from the pain of going past the title page. Seriously, that's where it all goes downhill... stop there! I think Dean Koontz is just banking on his loyal followers because he knows we will faithfully buy whatever he publishes. Well I for one am not going to be fooled by you again Mister! After the horror of Breathless, The Darkest Evening of the Year and Relentless I am officially putting you on probation. Not another dime to be sunk unless I've pre-read the book and just have to have it in my collection!

DK is capable of so much better and when I recommend him as an author I want to be able to say "He's

great, anything by him is golden!" Sadly with some of his recent junk that isn't the case. If you're a new fan don't let this be your deterrent, if you want a good start try:

Intensity, Sole Survivor, Shattered, Phantoms.... hell ANYTHING but this dreck!

P.S.-After reading this back and feeling like a betrayer I will say that Puzzle and Riddle were not entirely horrible, I will add another star for their lack of sucking... but that is honestly the most I can give in good conscience.

Rebecca says

I don't know why I keep coming back to Dean Koontz. As his preoccupation with some sort of L. Ron Hubbard-esque blend of aliens and spirituality progressed, I swore that I would stay away.

When I realized that I had bought one of his books that I already owned because its plot and characters were so indistinguishable from all of his other books that I had forgotten it completely, I swore I would stay away. But I keep coming back. 'Odd Thomas' brought me back briefly, before eventually crushing me with disappointment.

'From the Corner of His Eye' was a unique, refreshing book with a spiritual twist- until he began beating his readers about the neck and head with the same theme and his personal views on religion in nearly every subsequent book.

So, what did I learn from this book?

I learned that Dean Koontz loves animals, especially dogs (duh) and has only disdain for most people. Dean Koontz also seems to believe that in order to evolve fully, we must become animals again.

I learned that Dean Koontz apparently believes that there are two kinds of people in the world... animal - loving, plain-living saints, and psycho mass murderers.

I learned that Dean Koontz believes that the mass murderers read Ralph Waldo Emerson and self-help books, and the saints apparently only read Dean Koontz.

Look, I find nothing wrong with inserting your own beliefs and opinions into writing. I think that it is, in fact, one of the things that separates good writers from great writers, when they can bring you around to their way of thinking without even making you aware that you are being convinced, when a story is written in such a way that it opens you up to a lifestyle or an idea you'd never thought about before. But when the story becomes more about being a vehicle to get your opinion expressed, than about the story itself, that's just ego. Maybe now I'll stay away for good...

Cody | codysbookshelf says

This book begins in the woods. An ex-Army guy is out for a stroll when he sees something strange, life-changing: two creatures that look like dogs, but with human hands. They seemed to have escaped from a lab, or something. From there unfolds a tale of massive government conspiracy and permanent changes in the natural order of things.

Oh, sorry. If you thought I was describing Dean Koontz's 1987 blockbuster hit, *Watchers*, you'd be wrong. It is in fact the setup of his 2009 non-hit, *Breathless*. Because apparently two decades is long enough before devolving into this level of self-imitation.

The title of this book is fitting. The sheer stupidity of the plot and characters did indeed leave me breathless . . . from laughing so hard. First off, this book has like six subplots going on, and it's only 330 pages. The font is massive, the chapters are James Patterson-level short . . . and most of these characters don't even meet each other. Seriously. There are two plot lines in this that have nothing to do with each other or the unfolding 'main' story, but they're given almost as much attention. The hell, Koontz? And almost every thread is left dangling because the narrative ends more abruptly and with more force than the time I slammed my Honda Civic into a ditch and flipped it through a wood-log fence. On the whole, I preferred the experience of that car wreck to reading this steaming pile of dog crap.

Speaking of dogs . . . what is with the fetishization of dogs? It's common knowledge Koontz has a weird thing for furry friends, but this book takes it to another level. Not only are the two dogs-slash-people-slash-monkey (Alex Jones, is that you?) prevalent here — their origins never being explained, by the way — but the main character also has a dog. Yay. By the story's end there's a half-baked love interest between the ex-Army, muscle man (oh he's so tough and dreamy and emotional while not emotional at all!!! Squeeee!!!!) and the local veterinarian, but I'm pretty sure the dude would rather be slipping it to Fido. That would've made for a better read than whatever the hell this is.

I can't. I just can't. What did I just read? I feel like I'm having an aneurism. And that isn't even touching Koontz's explanation for why the theory of evolution is completely and totally bunk. But I won't go there. I can't. I'd prefer not to put a bullet in my head, tyvm.

Suspense Magazine says

You know a book is good when you forget to eat. You know it's great when you forget to sleep. When you temporarily lose sight of all around you, you know that it is another masterpiece written by Dean Koontz.

"Breathless", Koontz's newest adventure is a much too brief glimpse into the lives of several strangers, linked by an invisible thread much greater than themselves. Grady Adams—a powerful and private man—and Camilla Rivers—a deeply damaged healer—are thrust into the epicenter of a changing world when faced with a decision to blindly follow authorities or stand up for what they believe is right.

As a somewhat jaded member of humanity, I find myself a bit cynical and am not often shocked by what I find between the pages of my preferred escape mechanism...books. This is not true of the pieces written by Koontz; with dazzling imagery, the characters become real as their intensity—and often times innocence—soar off the pages. Offering his readers an overhead view of life in his world, "Breathless" is without a doubt his best.

www.suspensemagazine.com

Karen says

I'm shocked to say that I actually kind of liked this book. I used to be a big Dean Koontz fan. I read Watchers, and Twilight, and many of his books back in the 80s and 90s. Then, I felt like he started writing formula thrillers. They seemed too predictable, and I quit reading his books. This past week, I was desperate for something to read, so I picked this book up at my grocery store, figuring it would be a quick, meaningless

book. I was pleasantly surprised. There are too many characters, and he could have used a much more firm hand at editing (I would have cut out entire chapters, honestly) but, aside from its flaws, the basic plot is magical and sweet. There are two main characters that are very likeable, and there is a sense of wonder to the book that makes it somewhat fresh, and certainly not boring. The ending left me feeling a little let down, though. He had so many subplots going, that at the end, things that I had expected to fall together or somehow connect, didn't. In fact, one of his subplots just kind of fizzled out as if he either forgot about it, or he felt like he'd made a point with it that was so subtle that I missed it. He left way too much just kind of hanging out there for us to figure out on our own. I had hoped for a bit more substance, but maybe he'll write a sequel.

Johnny says

I don't know whether it's because I'd been waiting almost six months to read this novel or what, but I expected more out of "Breathless". All in all it's a cool "what-if" story, where two never-seen-before animals enter the lives of our main characters; and that's actually all that can be said about the plot without giving anything away. But even while Koontz tries harder than in his other recent novels to give these characters more background, he still falls short of what long-time readers are used of him.

Finishing the book, the first other Koontz novel that came to mind was "The Taking". I can't really explain why, and even mentioning this title might already be considered some kind of spoiler. But instead of a semi-horror story about a possible alien invasion, "Breathless" is more upbeat, more of a Genesis counterpart to "The Taking's" Revelations.

For the first 200 pages, the novel is kinda slow. The main characters are introduced, the animals show up, but nothing significant really happens. The opening chapter felt like "Winter Moon", only more fairy-talish than SF-horror. The second chapter almost tricked me into believing I was reading a Stephen King book; so many new character names in only two pages! But almost none of them ever return. And of course the dogs gave me a feeling of reading "Darkest Evening" all over again, but their presence made a great introduction of a mystery.

Henry Rouvroy is introduced as this novel's villain, somewhat similar to Junior Cain in "From the Corner of His Eye", but his personal story never really connects with the main storyline, other than one chance encounter near the end. His villainness is always up for debate; sure, he has succeeded in killing two people but he doesn't really come over as a menace, but more as a very confused and psychologically disturbed individual. It's like a lot depends on luck with this guy, he comes over as insecure and even though he knows what he has to do, he kinda looks like a bumbling idiot.

Perhaps Henry's story's only function is misdirection. At one point I started thinking perhaps the animals had reached some kind of higher awareness and intelligence, and they were the ones fooling with him. Another theory I had involved a writing trick where his storyline might actually have taken place much earlier than the others and that at the end of the book, it would explain everything that happened in the other storylines, but throughout the book you wouldn't notice the chronology is off. Luckily the role of villain is taken over after page 200 by a Homeland Security official, the only character I truly felt was great in his role.

Then there's Tom Bigger, another character with his own quest who never touches upon the main storyline, even with his own experience with animals acting out of character. All of this seems evidence to me that "Breathless" is a Koontz novel where you have to read the story tucked away between the lines to really

understand it. If you just stare yourself blind at the action that takes place and the dialogue, you'll end up feeling lost. After a second reading I'm still left in the dark. Right now I feel that at least 1/3 of the book should have the extra storylines cut and instead elaborate on the main one.

Maciek says

Somewhere in California...

- Say Dean, how about a new book ?
- A new book ? eee....but I just completed the last one a week ago !
- Dude if you want to roll with us, you've got to stay fit. James Patterson releases 4 books a year, and King came back from retirement..the bastard.
- Oh noes ! What should I do ?
- Dude you've been writing for the last 40 years and you ask me that ? I'm your agent, not your muse !
- ...right. I have an idea, wait a moment.

(Three minutes pass)

- So you know I devised this new cool story about this dude who mets this girl. I'm even gonna put a dog in it. Or two dogs ! And wait wait, these dogs, these dogs will be special ! Intelligent and all ! And they're all will be fighting against...against...the evil government!
- Isn't that brilliant ?
- But you've been doing exactly that story for the last 20 years...
- And does it sell ? Yes it does ! So shut up ! Besides it will be even more awesome than my last story about a guy a girl and a dog !
- How come?
- Well...did I told you that these dogs will be special ?
- Eeerm...yes?
- Oh. So maybe...maybe I'll give them hands?
- Hands?
- Yes hands. How about it?
- Well...
- And they'll appear out of thin air! How awesome is that?
- Erm...very?
- Right. They've been buying such stuf for decades so it must be good.
- And what about the characters?
- What? Oh yeah. So there will be this dude who has a tragic past and this girl who has a tragic past and they'll fall in love and live in happiness. I even got a title that feels good - after all, it was a fabulous movie - Breathless!
- That ok?
- But is that...all?
- What?
- I mean maybe put some refreshing thoughts into it?
- He he he...*I've got just the thing.*

(4 hours later)

-Haha! These evolutionists can kiss my butt now. My arguments are virtually uncounterable. HAHHAHA!
Tell me mirror on the wall, who's the smartest of them all? And these poor bastards even think that I write fiction. Fiction! These fools!
-Mr Koontz ?
-What?!?!?
-...sorry to disturb you sir, but there seems to be a problem with your thesis on the theory of evolution...
-WHAT ??????
-Our source tells us that you got it all wrong and such theories can be easily disproved by basically anyone who knows how to use google...
-BULLSHIT! You know how much do I sell ? MILLIONS! Millions of books! And you're just an ugly cow!
Get out! GET OUT!

(5 hours later)

-Mr. Koontz, we've just received a 300 000 \$ advance for the next Frankenstein story!
-Hmm..alright, I'll get to it.
-But you said the last one was final?
-*I'll get to it.*
-But what about "Breathless"? Should we shelf it?
-Publish it.
-But you haven't even finished it! And it hasn't been checked for mistakes by our consultants!
-I SAID PUBLISH IT.

Dustin Manning says

What a disappointment. I own and love roughly 97% of Koontz's catalog and over the past few years I am becoming more and more displeased with his writing. his characters are still the best in the buisness, no one writes more compelling characters than Koontz. No matter that the bad guys are whole heartedly bad and the good guys/girls are good to the bone (albeit with a shadowy past, but that past ends up being part of why we care for the good guy/girl).

In addition to incredibly detailed yet terribly arch typical characters Koontz has what seems to be an innate ability to tie up every situation in the last few pages, which allow his books to be incredibly fast paced. The has become a let down to me in his last few books, this one taking the cake. Completely unconnected characters that never become connected, never explained (and not in the great artsy-film way of no nice bow ties) events (what i can only explain as a "split personality throw away) and worse of all.... Koontz belief system.

What I mean is this.. imagine if I was a best selling vampire and werewolf novelist who suddenly became entrenched with the belief of science and atheism and whose next book(s) disallowed for all vampires / werewolves and nothing that Darwinism and evolution would not allow for. My vampire / werewolf novels would suck. Koontz apparently does not believe in evolution and has some interestingly far out beliefs in the government and society that are seeping unfounded into the books tipping the scales.

One of the worst books of his career and it deeply saddens me.
