



The Silent Corner

Dean Koontz

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Meet Jane Hawk—a remarkable new heroine certain to become an icon of suspense, propelled by the singular narrative genius of #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Dean Koontz.

“I very much need to be dead.”

These are the chilling words left behind by a man who had everything to live for—but took his own life. In the aftermath, his widow, Jane Hawk, does what all her grief, fear, and fury demand: find the truth, no matter what.

People of talent and accomplishment, people admired and happy and sound of mind, have been committing suicide in surprising numbers. When Jane seeks to learn *why*, she becomes the most-wanted fugitive in America. Her powerful enemies are protecting a secret so important—so terrifying—that they will exterminate anyone in their way.

But all their power and viciousness may not be enough to stop a woman as clever as they are cold-blooded, as relentless as they are ruthless—and who is driven by a righteous rage they can never comprehend. Because it is born of love.

The Silent Corner Details

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Author : Dean Koontz

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From Reader Review The Silent Corner for online ebook

Julie says

The Silent Corner by Dean Koontz is a 2017 Bantam publication.

This is the best Koontz novel I have read in a very long time.

After Jane's decorated husband commits suicide, she detects a noticeable uptick in suicides, prompting her to do a little research into the matter.

The FBI agent quickly realizes her findings have made someone very nervous, which prompts her to relocate her son to a safe place, while she goes in search of answers.

The horror she uncovers is a spine tingling world of brain implants and mind control, evil geniuses, bent on control, drunk on power and wealth, armed with technological advances that will both blow your mind and keep you up at night.

Jane is an awesome protagonist with just the right balance of 'bad ass' and smarts, and human compassion. Her maternal instincts coupled with her vigilante mission is a riveting juxtaposition amid Jane's terrifying battle to stay one step ahead of the game and come out alive.

I did enjoy the finer tech details, which made the story seem shockingly realistic, and does make for some pretty intense scenarios. The pacing is very brisk, with little down time along the way, the plot is very well constructed, with most of the I's dotted and t's crossed.

I can see why this book would appeal to the video media- movies or television, although I dislike books written with this very thing in mind. But, because I was so relieved this book didn't suck, like so many of Koontz recent offerings, I was willing to overlook a lot of that pandering, and slick production, which deprived the novel of a certain level of grittiness that would have served it well, in my opinion.

Still, overall, I am on board for this series, and hope the upcoming installments are on par with this one.

4 stars

Phrynn says

The latest from Dean Koontz and the start of a new series featuring Jane Hawk, an FBI agent. I like Koontz best for his supernatural stories but this mystery / thriller was good too.

Jane Hawk is an excellent new character for a series. She is smart, more than capable (of anything as it turns out) and very determined. In this book she is in a position where she is on the run and unable to trust anyone even her fellow FBI agents. The reader is very quickly on her side and willing her to succeed in every encounter with her enemies.

There is plenty of action and a very intriguing aspect involving influencing the way people think and act.

That part is a bit scary especially the way it happens to one of the characters very late in the book. Altogether I found it an excellent read. A little wordy as Koontz often is, but I can forgive him that easily when I enjoy his stories so much. This one finishes with a giant cliff hanger - right at the top of the cliff in fact. I am very much looking forward to the next one:)

Cody | cody'sbookshelf says

Release Date: 06.06.17

It is nighttime as I write this. In fact, it is time for me to sleep, but I cannot; not until I get out my thoughts on Dean Koontz's latest thrill ride, *The Silent Corner*. I just finished reading, and my pulse is still pounding.

Jane Hawk is a woman on the run. She's mourning her husband's suicide and running from her past; she's running toward answers. An FBI agent on leave, Jane is a resourceful, intelligent protagonist who suspects a conspiracy: the suicide rate in the United States is increasing exponentially, and each suicide is stranger than the last. Triggered by her successful and ambitious husband's own suicide, Jane decides to take actions and solve this intriguing mystery after a lot of research and planning. The deeper into the rabbit hole she goes (and said rabbit hole goes quite deep!) she meets more and more adversaries; people in positions of power know Jane Hawk's name and are not afraid to prevent her from following her instincts. They want her silenced — killed, even.

I have read a lot of Dean Koontz. He's one of my favorite authors, in fact; though I am unafraid to be honest when I feel he hasn't put forth much effort or a story simply falls flat (which is natural with any writer who has been in the game as long as he has), and *The Silent Corner* is no dud. Actually, I am tempted to say it is in my top three Koontz novels, ever. This is a seasoned author writing at the top of his game. With this new novel, Dean Koontz has written a story with more intense forward momentum than anything he's published since 2006's *The Husband*, all while retaining and expanding on the intricate emotional complexities and character growth as seen in recent novels like *The City* and *Ashley Bell*. The overarching, paranoid theme of technology gone wrong (or, at least, being used for evil schemes) is very reminiscent of Koontz's '70s and '80s releases. Yet, this book still manages to stand on its own and is very relevant in today's culture.

The Silent Corner is the first in a new series from Koontz which stars Jane Hawk, the most delightfully badass character I have read about in some time. I just couldn't get enough of her. Her charisma oozes off the pages (or screen, in my case, as I read this on my Kindle). Intoxicating, suspenseful, and occasionally scary as hell, this is the work of an author who clearly enjoys what he does. I wait with baited breath for the sequel, *The Whispering Room*.

I would like to offer a big thanks to Netgalley and Bantam for providing me with an ARC of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Matthew says

Thanks to Bantam Books/Random house for this ARC. Also thanks to Dustin Crazy little brown owl - moderator of Koontzland - the definitive Koontz Goodreads group - for hosting the giveaway where I won this book.

Right away in the intro to the ARC, Koontz says this is not like his normal writing. I have not read all of his books yet, but of what I have read, this is a very true statement. This is not horror. This is not supernatural. There are no oddly named demons or maniacal serial killers. But, he does mention Golden Retrievers a couple of times!

I am going with 4.5 stars on this one rounding up to 5 (since GR doesn't do the half stars). I was quite impressed with this book - it kept me interested and on the edge of my seat throughout. Also, it did a good job of both telling a whole story while also introducing what will be a new ongoing series (ARC has the intro for the next book already).

I like this type of book anyway, so it was great to see this style from an author I like to read - and see it done well!

If you like espionage, government corruption, technological terrorism, and edge of your seat action sequences where you aren't sure how our heroine is going to succeed - this is the book for you. Even if you aren't a Koontz fan, I think you will like this.

Only two shades of Koontz stuck out to me. The first was the occasional (and, in my opinion, unnecessary) use of large vocabulary words to describe simple things - words that probably the most academic person wouldn't even use in conversation. He does this all the time in his books! The second is, of course, the aforementioned Golden Retrievers.

Karen says

I received this ARC from netgalley.com in exchange for a review.

FBI Agent Jane Hawks is sure someone is killing people and making it look like suicide, including her husband. Now she must find and prove the truth before they find her.

I didn't like this book too much and was mostly bored with the story. Jane is a strong heroine but I didn't fall in love or sympathize with her character.

There were obscure references (like one to Hester Prynne) that didn't relate to anything else, as if the remarks were 'filler'. I was disappointed that the book didn't have the trademark Koontz 'weirdness' about it.

3 ?

Kaceey - Traveling Sister says

This book would make a fantastic movie! Maybe already in the works? If not, well it should be!

Jane was convinced she had the perfect life. A great job with the FBI, a husband rising fast through the ranks of the Marines, and a beautiful son. Then the bottom falls out. While entertaining the entire family and

preparing for dinner together, Jane gets the shock of her life... her husband just killed himself.

She digs to find the unfathomable reason why he would ever take his own life. During her investigation she finds a disturbing pattern of increasing suicide rates across the country. On leave from the FBI, she searches for answers to this bizarre epidemic. One fact she finds most disturbing... many of these suicides were well-adjusted, successful people who showed no previous sign of depression or any hint of their intentions...exactly like her husband.

Jane has changed her looks, gone underground and made herself untraceable. She can't possibly turn to her colleagues from the FBI for any kind of help. She is alone in this very personal quest for answers. Even though it could easily cost Jane her life.

THEY are after her...whoever THEY are...

Nonstop action. Jane is running for her life as she seeks the dark truth behind these suicides. Leaving bodies, cars and coyotes in her wake. (Yes, even coyotes!)

Very short chapters kept me clipping along. My only negative is that it felt just a little too long.

The book leaves you set for the next round in this new and exciting series!

Thank you to Netgalley, Random House Publishing Group – Ballantine and Dean Koontz for an ARC to review.

Maureen Carden says

My five stars showed I really liked this new book by Dean Koontz. Which is a relief as I have been all over the place in recent years with my opinions of his books. The first book I ever read of his, *Strangers* is on my all-time top ten list. Others I had a hard time finishing.

Jane Hawk is on leave from the FBI, her husband Nick has committed suicide. Nick, along with many others that Jane finds out about all seem to fit the category of "least likely to off themselves." Jane is determined to find out why. She must be on the right track since she has gone off the grid as much as possible, yet there are still teams of people trying to chase her down to kill her. The title of this book is perfect and makes sense once Koontz describes Jane's attempts at evasion and escape.

Great story, about the last half I'm reading it with a small ball of tension in my stomach because Koontz can really ratchet up the suspense. His depiction of Jane's efforts to stay off the grid, and how it is almost impossible to do so was fascinating. Koontz's depiction of modern surveillance technology was scary, and as we all know now, pretty much spot-on.

Jane is kick-ass and I will be glad to go along with her continuing journey.

Celeste says

Full review now posted!

Original review can be found at Booknest.

2.5/5 stars

Being disappointed by one of your favorite authors is a hard pill to swallow. Watching that author fall further and further down your list of favorites while you stand helplessly by is no picnic, either. Once upon a time, Dean Koontz was one of my very favorite authors.

When I was in high school I somehow came to hold the fervent belief that one couldn't be a fan of both King and Koontz, so I checked out a book by each from the library to help me choose a side. The King book was *Cell*, which was pretty terrible. I never made it past the first thirty pages. But the Koontz book was *The Taking*, which I've since read nearly half a dozen times and still consider a favorite. It was intricate and disturbing and beautifully written, and it had quotes from my favorite poet (T.S. Eliot) sprinkled throughout. I fell in love with the book, and with Koontz's writing style. My decision had been made, and I was definitely not a King fan. Koontz was the author for me.

Fast forward to this time last year. I decided to give King another chance, and I've somehow fallen in love with his sparse style and chunky novels. If you follow my reviews, you know that I read and loved *IT* and *The Stand*. Before I started reviewing, I read and really enjoyed *11/22/63*, *The Gunslinger*, and *Revival*, the last of which had one of the most terrifying endings I've ever read. Since then, I've read one new book by Koontz that I liked (*Ashley Bell*), and I've tried and failed to reread some books by him I used to love. After reading *The Silent Corner*, I've come to think that my teenage belief that one couldn't love both authors might have some truth to it, at least for me. Because this book left me disappointed.

The sad thing is, I can tell it's a good book. The plot is compelling, the main character interesting, the supporting characters sympathetic, the bad guys completely evil, and the overarching premise laden with dread. These are all hallmarks of the Koontz I loved. But the beautiful writing that enchanted me in my youth, the prose I could mull over for hours, now seems forced and ill-fitting to a plot without the supernatural elements present in most of Koontz's books. The dialogue was stilted. And while the characters were interesting, they never felt quite real. I couldn't make myself connect with any aspect of this book, despite my best efforts. I just didn't care. The only reason I managed to finish reading it at all was because he's been one of my favorite authors for so long.

All of that being said, I think this might be a case of "it's not you, it's me." As I said, all of the components necessary to make a book good are here. Even the writing, which felt so off to me, is still objectively superior to the styles of many popular authors. It just didn't work for me. But if you're looking for a tightly woven conspiracy thriller, with a kickass heroine and healthy doses of suspense and espionage and firefights, give this one a try. Hopefully you'll enjoy it much more than I did. And who knows, maybe someday I'll manage to love both King and Koontz at the same time.

Liz says

2.5 stars, rounded up to three mainly for the crazy paced action

I have never been a big Dean Koontz fan. I loved The Darkest Evening of the Year but started an Odd Thomas book and never finished it. But I decided to give this new series of his a shot.

It's a conspiracy story. An FBI agent, on leave from her job after her husband's suicide, tries to find a reason for an increasing number of suicides taking place among successful, nondepressed people. You're given bits and pieces of what's happening and why some group is trying to stop her. To be honest, it all rang pretty false to me, especially the part that "they" were extending her "professional courtesy" trying to get her to back away from her investigation rather than just flat out killing her if they're that diabolical.

I don't think of myself as requiring 100% realism. I like the odd science fiction book. But i guess I have trouble with villains who have unbelievable resources at their disposal. Or coincidences that pile up, one on top of the other, like finding just the right person to help at each turn.

I give Koontz credit. This is a fast paced book with no downtime. And he's got a hell of an imagination. He goes into enough detail to make a person think, in the way a good science fiction book does. And there is plenty of suspense. How will Jane, as a modern day David, slay this Goliath?

My not particularly liking this book is entirely my fault. The description of the book is a giveaway that it is a thriller, not a mystery. If you like the James Bond kind of unbelievable storylines, you'll probably enjoy this.

My thanks and apologies to netgalley and Bantam for an advance copy of this book.

Holly B says

Jane Hawk is like a female Jason Bourne! She is on leave from the FBI and off the grid to investigate her husband's suspicious death. Nick has committed suicide, but he had everything to live for and Jane is determined to use her experience and talents to uncover the truth concerning his death. She soon discovers a pattern of other suicides that appear as suspicious as Nicks.

She runs, she hides, she investigates, she uncovers evidence. She is always checking her back and sleeps with a pistol under her pillow. Her enemies (and there are many) are after her and they have something huge to hide. Jane is onto something and "they" can't let her bring them down. Could the government be involved in the suicide project?

This first book in the series is action packed and leaves you rooting for Jane to uncover the truth. I am looking forward to the next book in the Jane Hawk series.

Thanks to netgalley, the publisher and Dean Koontz for the arc.

Paromjit says

This thrilling new series from Dean Koontz gets off to a flying start. Things are going well for Jane Hawks when out of the blue her husband commits suicide. A reeling and griefstricken Jane is on leave from the FBI when she decides she is going to look into this, taking the precaution of hiding her five year old son away. She becomes aware that there are other talented people who have similarly committed suicide. As she tried to get to the bottom of this horrifying phenomena, she finds herself going off the grid. She is being hunted down by so many people who will do anything to eliminate her and Jane has problems in finding anyone she can trust. This is a sinister story of lies, government corruption, espionage and a shocking conspiracy.

The use of surveillance to track Jane down is an unsettling experience. In a fast paced novel with short chapters, we root for Jane as she attempts to evade and escape dangerous forces in search of the truth. There is plenty of suspense in the gripping narrative although there are plenty of unanswered questions by the end, presumably they will be answered in the next in the series. Jane is a great central character, strong and courageous, determined that nothing will stop her. The twisted use of technology in the book is a frightening prospect. An intriguing and entertaining thriller. Many thanks to HarperCollins for an ARC.

Carol says

The Hook I've read many books by Dean Koontz and have enjoyed most. I like when an author takes a risk and tries something different. Fans often want the same ol' and don't take kindly to a book going in a new direction. When I hear Koontz was throwing his hat into the series ring, I thought, "Why not?".

The Line - *"Children were the world as it was meant to be - and they were a light within the world. But for every light, there seemed to be someone bent on extinguishing it."*

The Sinker - This is the first of four in the Jane Hawk Series. The opening hooked me right away. Jane's husband, a man with everything to live for is dead according to evidence by his own hand. Jane is not buying it. Besides this coming out of the blue, his suicide note though in his handwriting is not his voice. What gives? Jane is going to find out.

Get set for a staccato read. The chapters are short, clipped almost, but to the point. The writing is tight, descriptive without any extraneous words. That said, I listened to the audio edition and was bothered by the abrupt Part One, Chapter One, and in quick succession, Chapter Two and so on. Elizabeth Rodgers voice in the narrative and voice of Jane Hawk is almost melodious and easy on the ears. She has a lovely speaking voice. This holds true for most of the other characters. She changes tone and delivery so you know who is speaking, but a few of these, particularly that of her five year-old son, were grating to me. It is a superior adult narrator who can pull off a child's voice. I would have preferred she stayed more with her own voice. Most of the other male voices were fine.

This was a middling read for me. Plotting and pacing were good. I liked Jane's tenacity and grit but she was a bit over-the top in the kick ass department. Still any wife and mother who fights for her family's reputation and well-being has my vote. Perhaps, Jane and I will meet again one day.

Koontz has gained many new fans with this series. It is different for certain but like one of my GR friends, Matthew said, Koontz did manage a few Golden Retrievers to pepper the plot.

Debra says

I very much need to be dead.

The Silent Corner is a new series from Dean Koontz which introduces a strong female lead character, FBI agent, Jane Hawk. Jane goes on leave after her husband's suicide - a suicide that occurred after a string of migraine headaches. While grieving her husband's death, Jane realizes that suicide rates have gone up and that very accomplished seemingly happy people are committing suicide in alarmingly high numbers. As Jane seeks to find answers, she becomes a hunted woman. A woman, who herself is hunting for the truth. She has to do everything in secret in order to stay alive. There are those in power who would do anything to stop her from finding out the truth.

I have not read a Dean Koontz book in quite some time. I am used to his "horror" books and this was definitely not a "horror" book, but more of a suspense non-stop action thriller. I will admit, I kinda missed the "horror". Plus this is the beginning of a new series so there is not true "resolution" in this book which would be fine if I LOVED the book - which I didn't. I liked the book but as far as conspiracy books are concerned, this fell flat for me. There was a lot of action, I will give it that, but even with all of the action, the story did not grab me. Yes, all of the action kept my attention and I did keep reading in order to find out who was behind the wave of suicides. This book did not drag. There was always something going on, Jane was always kicking some bad guy's butt. Koontz did write a strong female character, I will give him that. Often I will read a book which is part of a series, and even if I read a book out of order, the book feels like a stand alone novel for me. This book did not feel like a stand alone novel as there was no resolution. Perhaps I would have enjoyed the book more if there was some glimmer of who was the mastermind, who was the man visiting people in their homes, what is the agenda, how are people being infected, etc. For me, there were too many unanswered questions.

Received a copy of this book from NetGalley and Bantam in exchange for an honest review.

Jilly says

[had to leave her child (hide spoiler)]

Monnie says

*"Ground Control to Major Tom
Take your protein pills and put your helmet on..."*
--David Bowie

When I open a new Dean Koontz book, it's always with great enthusiasm. Whether or not I'll love it isn't an issue - the only question is what he will come up with to keep me engrossed this time. As expected, there's no "oops" here - he's done it again with this, the first of a series featuring FBI agent Jane Hawk. If I had to describe the book in just a few words, it would be Sarah Connor meets Jason Bourne in a fight to protect the future of the world (and yes, it would make a great movie, hint, hint).

A recent and still grieving widow, Jane has taken a leave of absence from the FBI to deal with her husband's suicide - which she doesn't believe for a nanosecond really happened. Setting out to find the truth, she begins with a visit to another recent military widow whose death also was deemed a suicide because she suspects the same person or persons are responsible. Further digging turns up several similar incidents - both of military and non-military people - but no apparent connection.

As she pursues her research, she soon realizes "They" are out to get her (spy drones following her is an almost-dead giveaway). After managing to escape them, she pays a quick visit to her young son, whom she wisely stashed away with friends at the start of her investigation to make sure he's safe. It matters not to the story, but for the record, I was delighted to learn that his new guardians, like me, are George Winston/Windham Hill fans.

As she begins to make some headway, though, Jane realizes there's no one she can trust - not in the government, not among friends and relatives and most certainly not among the ranks of the FBI. Almost from the start, she's forced to go off the grid, using disguises, fake names, burner phones and switched license plates to escape what she's sure will be capture and suspects will be much worse. Because she manages to get online and, in some instances, contact others, she's considered to be in the "silent corner" (aha, such is the stuff from which a title is born).

Needless to say, her online forays mean it's hard to miss day-to-day news - not all of which, shall we say, is positive. From that springs one of my favorite quotes in the book - one with which I wholeheartedly (or more accurately, disheartedly) concur: *"If you let the news spoil your appetite, there wouldn't be a day you could eat."*

What Jane finds is a frightening conspiracy based on mind control. It's a concept that's a bit far afield, but given the pace of technology development these days, certainly not unthinkable. Jane's race is on, then, determine the why, how and who - and possibly destroy the latter before "They" destroy her.

Pretty scary stuff, actually, with nary a dull moment in the action. The only downside? It's the first in a series, so expect an up-in-the-air ending. That, I assume, will be rectified with the Jan. 9, 2018, publication of the next installment, *The Whispering Room*, and of course it's on my calendar. That said, please, Mr. Koontz, could you hurry it up just a little?

And th-th-th-that's all folks, she writes, lest she give away too many secrets Except, that is, to say that as a long-time fan of this author, I was beyond thrilled at the opportunity to read and review an advance copy of this terrific book. Many, many thanks to the publisher (via NetGalley)!
