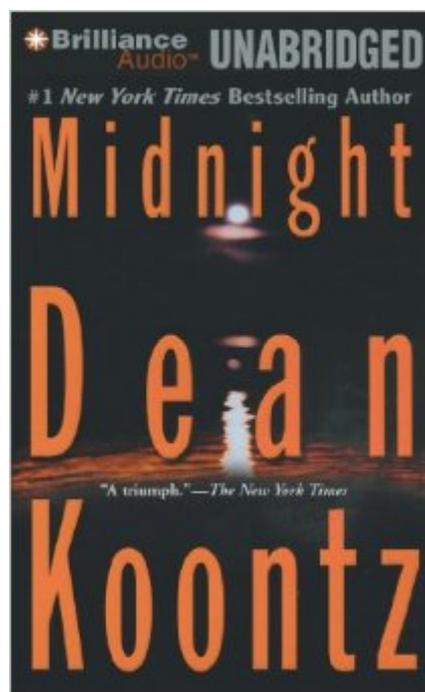


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# Midnight



## Synopsis

In picturesque Moonlight Cove, California, inexplicable deaths occur and spine-tingling terror descends to this "edge of paradise." Growing numbers of residents harbor a secret so dark it is sure to cost even more lives. Tessa Lockland comes to town to probe her sister's seemingly unprompted suicide. Independent and clever, she meets up with Sam Booker, an undercover FBI agent sent to Moonlight Cove to discover the truth behind the mysterious deaths. They meet Harry Talbot, a wheelchair-bound veteran, who has seen things from his window that he was not meant to see. Together they begin to understand the depth of evil in Moonlight Cove. Chrissie Foster, a resourceful eleven-year-old, running from her parents who have suddenly changed and in whom darkness dwells, joins them. Together they make a stand against darkness and terror.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starting in the mid-1980s, Dean Koontz hit his stride with a series of terrific cross-genre novels, starting with "Strangers," which was about alien contact; "Watchers," which was about genetic engineering; and "Lightning," which was about . . . well, you'll have to read that on your own. "Midnight" continues the trend, though it veers more toward horror than the others. The novel is set in a small town in Northern California, where an experiment has been transforming humans into "something else." An FBI agent and a ragtag group of survivors bands together to respond to the horror. As with most of Koontz's books, there is a palpable sense of eeriness that pervades the novel. Although the book is not without its violent and occasionally gory moments, it is not stomach-churning; Koontz generates suspense and terror more through implication than explicit

description. Interestingly, Koontz recycled the central plotline here in the recent "Fear Nothing." (The setting changed from Moonlight Bay to Moonlight Cove.) The character in "Fear Nothing" is quite different, however, so you can't entirely predict the outcome from "Midnight." Still, if you like "Midnight," you should like "Fear Nothing," and vice versa. (Personally, I thought "Midnight" was creepier.)

That was one of the first books by Dean Koontz I've read, when I almost didn't know his writing, and I loved it. This is the kind of book you read in only one blink. The characters and the plot are so huge, so deep and well-written that you feel as if you were there suffering and having fun with them. Everything starts when a woman is killed by monsters that are something like gorillas. Then, her sister, a FBI officer, a retired policeman and a child who is being threatened by her own parents get together unexpectedly to solve the problems and save their own life. MIDNIGHT is a book for lovers of the horror genre, the suspense and the thriller. It's a book you'll never forget because of its hugeness, of its power. Nowadays, Dean doesn't write this kind of book anymore, and yes, I miss that. This is the kind of book you could keep reading forever. If you haven't read that one yet, take it! If you haven't read a book by Dean yet and want to try him, that's a wonderful first step. The important is, read it! And never be able to forget this wonderful plot. Marco Aurelio.

Futurologists led by a weasely mastermind have invaded Moonlight Cove, a sleepy lagoon town in Northern California sort of like Bodega Bay where Hitchcock's THE BIRDS took place. The entire population of the little town has become a race of guinea pigs that New Wave Technologies can play with like a puppeteer a bunch of puppets. What's worse, they don't even know what's happening to them. Men at the top are covering up a rash of mysterious deaths that have been occurring all over the village, but the FBI is on the case and has sent in their top agent, a man with secrets of his own, to uncover who or what is behind the murders. They suspect a serial killer, but the truth is far worse. This man, Sam Booker, blends in easily with the lackluster villagers, and yet when night falls he finds that he is the prey, and they become predators. It's all part of a scheme to advance human consciousness and to upgrade humanity to a new level, but inevitably there are drawbacks to any utopian scheme. In this case, a certain percent of the lab "rats" become monsters! Others drawn into helping Sam include the lovely Tess Lackland, whose poor sister died in Moonlight Cove, and little Chrissy, whose parents have changed beyond recognition as a result of New Wave's consciousness altering drugs. An appealing VietNam vet has a handicap but that doesn't stop him for entering the ultimate battle between good and evil. Of course it all begins at . . .

midnight! Dean Koontz has written many skillful bestsellers and this is one of his signature titles. Recommended, especially if you want to lose a good night's sleep!

I don't read much in this genre. but was impressed that within a thriller, or horror, tale, there could be such a positive message for those who take time to think between the action sequences. Without giving too much away the story centers on the idea that people could be perfected if they were freed of many of their emotions, becoming more like machines, But when humans are engineered in this way their bodies and minds begin to physically revolt and fall into a more animalistic state where desires rule them completely. Liberal Arts majors will see the Romantic response to the Rational Enlightenment, and those of a certain age will recognize similarities to the film Altered States. As Artificial Intelligence (AI) moves forward and some of its advocates talk of humans as little more than "moist robots", this book reminds us of the value of life with all its imperfections and warns us not to become worshippers of the creation while forgetting the creator.

Years ago, I used to read all of Koontz's novels, with Watchers being, by far, my favorite. But I stopped reading his books as it seemed like he was forcing stories. More precisely, his novels seemed to have "forced endings." Not the case with this book. The ending is long, detailed and finishes the story well. What I really didn't like about this book is the interaction between the main characters. They were shallow and very unbelievable. Yes, this is a fiction book so doubt needs to be suspended, but not when it comes to characters and character interactions. Fiction or not, characters breathe life into a novel and these characters (except for the Chief of Police) had nothing in them but shallow sighs. Bravo for telling a great story! Not sure what happened with the editing, but plenty of misplaced periods, wrongly capitalized words and an assortment of erroneous punctuation marks that may have been the result of converting this to digital format.

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