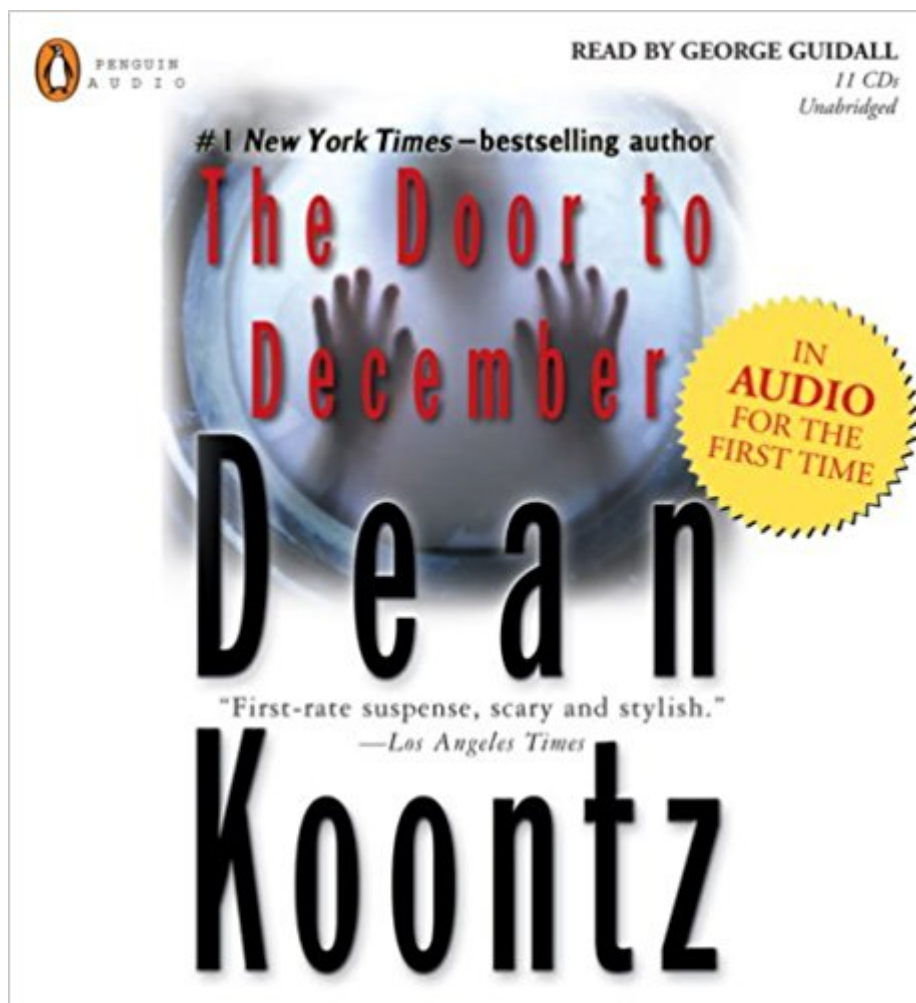




The book was found

The Door To December



Synopsis

The "scary and stylish" (Los Angeles Times) novel from the #1 New York Times bestselling author. A call in the middle of the night summoned psychiatrist Laura McCaffrey out into the rain-swept streets of Los Angeles. The police had found her husband-beaten to death. But what of her daughter, Melanie, whom he had kidnapped six years earlier? At the brutal murder scene, the police lead Laura into her husband's makeshift lab-and open the door to a rising tide of terror that has trapped Melanie in its midst... --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 381 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Published pseudonymously in 1985, Koontz has revised this thriller portraying a pediatric psychiatrist's attempts to unravel the mental trauma suffered by her estranged nine-year-old daughter. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

“First-rate suspense, scary and stylish.”—Los Angeles Times
More Praise for Dean Koontz
“Dean Koontz is a prose stylist whose lyricism heightens malevolence and tension. [He creates] characters of unusual richness and depth.”—The Seattle Times
“Tumbling, hallucinogenic prose....”
“Serious writers...might do well to examine his technique.”—The New York Times Book Review
“Lyrical writing and compelling characters...Koontz stands alone.”—Associated Press
“In every industry there exist artists that are not only unforgettable,

but know their craft better than the rest. Dean Koontz...is among these artisans. •Suspense Magazine "[Koontz] has always had near-Dickensian powers of description, and an ability to yank us from one page to the next that few novelists can match. •Los Angeles Times "Perhaps more than any other author, Koontz writes fiction perfectly suited to the mood of America...novels that acknowledge the reality and tenacity of evil but also the power of good...[and that] entertain vastly as they uplift. •Publishers Weekly --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This is one of Koontz' earlier novels and it is full of the same fire and excitement as those early books. Melanie is a nine-year-old girl who was abducted by her own father when she was three. She had been used by her father and his associates for psychological research particularly into the realm of the unconscious. The men with her father have been brutally killed and her mother Janet, a detective, Dan Haldane and Earl, from a security agency are doing their best to keep the girl from encountering the same fate. She is autistic-like because of what was done to her and her mother, a child psychiatrist is working with her to try to reverse the damage. What is this mysterious force that is killing Melanie's abusers and from whom she might also be in danger? How are these brutal murders happening as it appears as if the bodies are being smashed to pieces? No weapon is present at the murder sites and no clues are being identified. Dan is committed to keeping the mother and daughter safe, no matter what. I couldn't put this book down. Suspense continually mounts as in most Koontz novels and the answers seem to be something the reader can't imagine.

I don't often write reviews for books, unless I feel strongly about them. This falls into that category. I enjoyed it for the most part, however, when the homicide detective starts to realise who is responsible for all the brutal deaths, which is actually some time after the reader might have the same suspicion, we are asked to accept that the wonderful psychiatrist Mom, who married the monster husband, is also completely unable to figure out what is going on? I'm sorry, the woman is educated, with a successful practise, yet cannot figure out what I, a mostly uneducated reader, was able to guess at. And even when the detective is dropping some fairly broad hints, she does not once have the notion of what is going on. As i said, i am so disappointed, I felt the need to mention it. Another reviewer has also mentioned inconsistencies with the mother's character, which i agree wholeheartedly with. All in all. definitely not his best, nor one of his that i would re- read. And i have a few of those.

I read *Door to December* years ago when it was published under one of the Koontz pseudonyms, but I downloaded it to my kindle for a re-read. This is an incredible story. Fast paced and thrilling. It kept me captivated to the last page even though I had read it before! It grabs you from the beginning. It starts with the police finding a horrendous murder of several men in a house on a quiet suburban street. The men are literally crushed and unrecognizable, but they also find a "gray" room. A room painted completely gray with a large sensory deprivation tank and a chair that looks like an electric chair, called an aversion therapy chair, designed to deliver shocks to the victim to modify behavior. Then they find gray clothes for a child. Several hours later, they find a 9 year old girl walking naked through the streets just a few blocks away. If that doesn't grab you, you don't like thrillers! Have fun.

I've been a fan of Dean Koontz for a long time. As is his norm, this book pulled you in, but it did drag a bit in the middle. The characters were mostly interesting, with Dan, the police detective and Laura, the psychotherapist and mother of the child who's at the center of all, very well portrayed. That said, this book didn't quite grab me like some of his earlier work. I started reading it several months ago, and got extremely busy at work, so I didn't have much time to read. By the time I did, I grabbed a different book. I read two other books before I went back to this one. It's rare that I'd have that reaction to one of Mr. Koontz's books, but it took longer than usual to get interesting. And though it's also rare for this to happen to me, I figured out the twist long before it was revealed. Maybe it's that obvious. Anyway, though not one of Mr. Koontz's absolute best novels, it's still an entertaining read.

Really enjoyed this book when I read it ten years ago. With the new Netflix Original Series out, "*Stranger Things*", I felt compelled to revisit the book. It's clear where the producers of the series got their inspiration for the main character and her abilities.

First, I've enjoyed every Koontz book that I've ever read. This book was not an exception, but it wasn't the best for me. A mother, Laura, is reunited with her daughter who was taken by her father several years before during a custody battle. I understand that Koontz was trying to convey the mixed emotions of suddenly being a parent again, especially when someone hands you a troubled child. Then there is a detective, Dan Haldane, who is her champion, and attracted to her. Koontz wants us to understand him as well. But I didn't connect with her, and I didn't connect with the budding relationship. I felt as though I was suppose to see Laura's maternal strength by reading Haldane's mind... that's the only way I can express it. And the connection between them felt about

the same. That being said, however, I brought it up to four stars because I enjoyed the story itself. It was haunting, and any sci fi groupie would find the entire story plausible ;]

Koontz's writing is so fun to read...it's what makes authors sell books...there are no lulls in his writing...the story line is excellent and wants you to keep on reading...not my favorite of his novels but it's up there with my favorite authors...

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