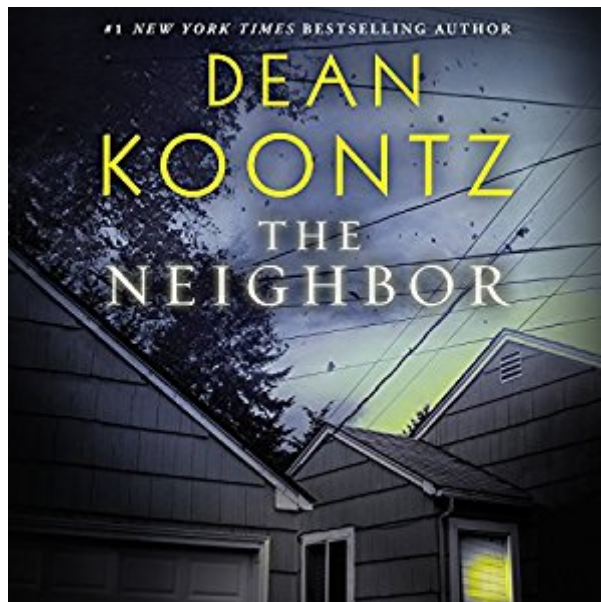


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# The Neighbor



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Every city has its wonders and mysteries. For the Pomerantz family, the most disturbing mystery at the moment is the identity and the intentions of their new neighbor, in this eBook original short story - a prequel to *The City*, the gripping and moving new novel by Dean Koontz. The year is 1967. Malcolm Pomerantz is twelve, geeky and socially awkward, while his seriously bright sister, Amalia, is spirited and beautiful. Each is the other's best friend, united by a boundless interest in the world beyond their dysfunctional parents' unhappy home. But even the troubled Pomerantz household will seem to be a haven compared to the house next door, after an enigmatic and very secretive new neighbor takes up residence in the darkest hours of the night.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 1 hour 3 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

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Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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in Books > Romance > Fantasy #886 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary

## Customer Reviews

THE NEIGHBOR is billed as the prequel to Koontz's soon-to-be-released novel THE CITY but however, it's really a standalone short story set in the summer of 1967 about one month prior to Malcolm Pomerantz meeting Jonah Kirk, the protagonist for THE CITY. Other than a short plug for his new novel in the opening two paragraphs, the rest of the short story is entirely its own creation which is a great thing for readers and fans of Dean Koontz. Many of these now popular short ebooks that appear weeks before the new novels they seek to promote are lacking in every area except, of course, marketing but with THE NEIGHBOR Koontz really delivers a great short story. Malcolm and his sister Amalia are close siblings, made closer by parents who are indifferent towards them and

each other. In the summer before Amalia leaves for college and Malcolm is twelve, they discover that "the world is a more mysterious place than it seems to be most of the time." The house next door has been empty for a while. Its owner died from a heart attack. But in the middle of the night both Malcolm and Amalia see lights on in the house and sense there is someone, or something, there. The next day they bake cookies "to welcome the new neighbor" as an excuse to check out the house and see if anything is amiss | only to discover, in Amalia's words, "there isn't a new neighbor." Oh but there is something there | This is one of the few "99 cent prequels" that I actually recommend as worth reading. Koontz is a master of the short story, and while this isn't likely to go down as one of his all-time greats, it's certainly a fun and entertaining read.

Dean Koontz is a master in defining characters we can identify with. I have met all five of the people in this book in one form or another and he has nailed them.

Malcolm Pomerantz, 12 years old, and Amalia, his sister and 17 years old, live next door to an empty house with their distant, cold parents. Their neighbor Mr. Clockenwall, a well-loved teacher, had died in his house of a heart attack. So why are Malcolm and Amalia seeing lights and hearing strange things at the neighbor's house? This was a creepy little short story that packed a punch even in just a few pages. It is supposed to be a prelude to Koontz's book THE CITY so I am off to read it next.

This is a prequel to *The City: A Novel* and should be read first. This short eerie story explains about the vacant house next to Malcolm and Amalia's childhood home. They discover secrets they would have rather not know in the pursuit of being neighborly with the new neighbor they assume moved in at 3 am the night before. What happens next will overshadow their lives forever! Full of suspense this short and chilling thriller sets a very supernatural tone to the neighborhood where the characters from *The City: A Novel* grow up. I don't want to give spoilers but this is a definite prerequisite for reading the novel! I can't wait to read *The City: A Novel* and find out what happens next to these intrepid youngsters raising themselves and taking care of their parents in the turbulent times of the late 60s! \*\*\*This novella and the corresponding book are suitable for adult readers due to mature and sensitive subject matter

Two good kids in the sixties. Two lousy parents making homelife not so easy. And a dead neighbor whose house is a lure and a menace...I started this three times before I finished it. Really, that first part is so slow and even as I read parts out loud, bits did not flow smoothly. I wondered if I were really reading the terrific Mr. Koontz. Then we get to the part where Amalia and Malcolm--the siblings who have a very scary event happen to them in this story--begin interacting with each other and face a mystery...and bam!-- it zooms off with Koontz's trademark combo of good folks, bad folks, supernatural stuff, suspense, and chills--all with a solid honest heart to guide us. This is a story to set us up for THE CITY. I'm looking forward to that one, which this story implies is written by the "Amalia" character in the sixties. I headed to YouTube to play Andy Kirk's music and some Glenn Miller while I read it, because the songs are mentioned in the story. Maybe you should do the same to get "In the Mood." Enjoy.

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