



# Midnight

*Dean Koontz*

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## **Midnight** Dean Koontz

The citizens of Moonlight Cove are changing. Some are losing touch with their deepest emotions. Others are surrendering to their wildest urges. And the few who remain unchanged are absolutely terrified—if not brutally murdered in the dead of night. Enter the shocking world of Moonlight Cove, where four unlikely survivors confront the darkest realms of human nature...

## **Midnight Details**

Date : Published February 3rd 2004 by Berkley (first published January 1st 1989)

ISBN : 9780425194515

Author : Dean Koontz

Format : Paperback 496 pages

Genre : Horror, Fiction, Thriller, Suspense

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# From Reader Review *Midnight* for online ebook

## Patrick Kiernan says

Warning this review contains spoilers

I read this book as part of a group read for the month of April, for the Koontzland group. I found this book really enjoyable, it's a typical Koontz book that mixes science fiction and horror with a hint of conspiracy theory fiction. If I was asked who would I recommend this book to it would be fans of the x files. The book starts off with strange deaths, murders and suicides, but what's even stranger is the way in which the bodies are disposed of by the authorities. This is brought to the attention of the FBI by a disabled Vietnam vet, also a woman appears in the town to find out what really happened to her sister and a young girl comes home early from school and notices something is very wrong with her parents and a chase ensues. Finally we are introduced to the books bad guy a genius who is basically a crazed lunatic who wants to speed up evolution. Things start to go horribly wrong and unforeseen side effects completely destroy the plan.

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## Alejandro says

**Koontz, you did it again!**

### **THE RE-ASSURANCE OF FINDING A FAVORITE AUTHOR**

After my happy encounter of the great author Dean Koontz in the novel *Phantoms* (see my review of that one here.) (back then in 1992). I knew that I want to read more books by him.

My second novel was this one, *Midnight*. And I am glad to say that I chosen well.

By then, I still wasn't able to read on English yet, so that novel I read on Spanish then.

At that moment I didn't know much about which novels to choose from Dean Koontz, also at that time, I depended of which titles were translated and available in the local book stores.

### **KOONTZ'S TOWNS & DOGS**

Happily, not matter of the language limitations (back then in 1992), my second choice was the perfect one after my experience with *Phantoms* since this book has one of the elements that I enjoyed the most in my reading experience of *Phantoms*, that it was how detailed, Koontz, described the town of the story.

In *Phantoms*, he did such wonderful job describing the whole town of Snowfield, and here on *Midnight*, he did the same favor for the town of Moonlight Cove.

During the reading experience, one is able to reach a feeling that you are there, in those towns along with the characters (humans and animals alike).

Each character in the story is well developed with a strong background and they act according with their personalities.

So, this book has another trademark of Koontz' style that it's having a wonderful dog with great intelligence becoming another main character with an important role in the story.

### **KOONTZ'S HONESTY**

Dean Koontz got inspired to write this novel on the works of the film *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* and the book of *The Island of Dr. Moreau* and he isn't afraid of just telling so at certain point of the narrative.

Something that also I admired of him, his honesty, since there isn't anything to be ashamed in admitting his inspirations for his own original novel.

I hate when an author doesn't admit that he/she watched some movie or he/she read some book and saying that it's a "coincidence" the similarities on the stories. Geez! They think that readers are dumb or something?

So, Dean Koontz doesn't even wait for later questioning, he knows that people will notice the similarities and he knows how to mention his inspiration in the middle of the story.

Great tale of horror and suspense...

...that keep you entertained during the whole book.

Now, it's better to go,...

...since *midnight* is almost upon us!

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### **Elli Jo says**

This story grabbed my attention from the first three pages. As I read on, I found that all I wanted to do was keep my nose in the book. I have read a few of Koontz' other books, but none had captured me like this.

When I had gotten about half way through the book, beginning to understand what is going on here, I started thinking about it constantly. The book honestly scared me to the point of nightmares - but I would not put it down.

If you are into suspense, horror, and sci-fi I completely recommend it! This is my favorite book of his! AMAZING!

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## Fred says

Koontzland Group Read for April 2017 (second read)

Dr. Tom Shaddock's Moonhawk project creates "New People" to live for hundreds of years. "Regressives" are people not changing. If not converted they are killed.

- (1) Janice Capshaw, killed while jogging on Moonlight Cove beach.
- (2) Sam Booker(FBI) investigates Janice's & 11 other deaths. He finds all deaths are cremated.
- (3) Chrissie Foster(11) escapes from parents, Alex/Sharon, ready to convert her to "New People".
- (4) Tessa Lockland(filmmaker) - Janice's sister finds Moonlight police coroner saying it's suicide & cremation.

Shaddock & Chief Loman Watkins kill "Regressives" not wanting to be "New People". Dr.Fitz & Dr. Worthy give injections to people to be "New People".

In a police car, Sam finds the "New Person" project list of Converted, Pending & Schedule of Conversions to do. Harry Talbort (disabled Vietnam vet) spies on Callan's funeral/cremation home concealing murders. Will Chief Loman stop murdering "Regressives" ? Can Sam, Chrissie, Tessa stop Shaddock creating his "New People"?

### First read March 2015

*New York Times Number 1 Best Seller, February 1989 (hawes.com). A horror theme, Moonhawk Project in Moonlight Cove by Dr. Thomas Shaddock to change the town to his "new people". Chief Coman Wallins begins to help but stopped. The mystery's lead characters; wheelchair veteran bound, Harry Talbort, seeing cremations, Sam Booker (FBI) finding bones, Tressa Lockland looking for a missing sister and Christine Foster(11) running from her parents converted into "new people". As the end, have they stopped the Doctor? Where are "new people"?*

Audio on YouTube.com

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=DTludtO...> - Midnight\_1

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWQ0hE1...> - Midnight\_2

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## Thomas Strömquist says

One of my favorite of Koontz's. Again primarily for the beginning and first part of the story. Here, he again manages to tell a good sci-fi/horror mix without too much focus on tooth-achingly good protagonists and cliched bad guys. This one is very recommended.

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## Greg says

The only Dean Koontz book I ever read. I don't remember a thing about this book, but I do remember that

reading it turned me off of ever wanting to try another Dean Koontz book.

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## **Dean says**

Moonlight Cove California and his population are suffering from inexplicable and horrific mutations!!!  
Gruesome and mysterious shapes dart through the night, leaving behind bloody tracks....

Then we have an undercover agent trying to overcome his personal demons, trapped desperately in the city...  
and while fleeing from unspeakable horrendously and malicious enemies he tries to discover the reason to this nightmare....

Also a young girl that has seen too much, will be mercilessly haunted by her personal loss, and must cope  
with an hostile environment watching and seeking after her....

Here lives a young Vietnam veteran too, which due to his injuries is dependent on his wheelchair...  
Alone in his flat his only companion a Labrador and through his telescope nights watching and registering the  
changes that Moonlight Cove is undergoing.....

Friends I love this novel, written grippingly and with a rich descriptive prose!!!  
Let me say it clearly: one of the bests by Koontz....

Powerful written, a true page turner!!!

Dean;D

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## **Juancho Juanchito Books says**

Un libro con una historia super adictiva, el autor combina el terror y la ciencia ficción dándonos unas  
aterradoras creaturas, y una historia brutal.

Los personajes de Medianoche me parecieron excelentes, unos personajes que te van a hacer vivir y sentir la  
pérdida de alguien y la emoción de sobrevivir a aquella pérdida.

Les recomiendo mucho este libro por sus historias por sus personajes, por esas creaturas aterradoras, esas  
creaturas que solo quieren comer y matar.

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## **Bark says**

This is one of Dean Koontz's earlier novels and originally written in 1989. I was only 19 when I originally read it, boy, that makes me feel old! I'm reread it on unabridged audio recently. Despite its age it still holds up pretty well as a straight up horror novel where the citizens of a nice little town turn into horrifying blood-lusty creatures all thanks to a power-hungry geeky rich madman. Come to think of it, this is even scarier stuff in this day and age . . .

Anyway, I enjoyed it a lot and loved the back cover picture of Dean and his beautiful golden friend. Back to the contents, the computer technology is very dated. The fact that the hero has to search high and low for a public telephone to call headquarters really brought that fact home. It's amazing to see how far things have come since 1989. If only one could go back in time and be able to eat in a restaurant without hearing little musical ditties buzzing away in every corner. I know, I know, I sound more like a grandma everyday.

Like many a Koontz novel this one does go on (and on) a wee bit too long but it's a minor complaint as it kept me entertained without wanting to put it down never to be picked up again.

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## **Emma says**

I unashamedly love this book. I can't even begin to count how many times i've read it. Despite being a classic horror novel, it's one of my warm blanket reads because it reminds me of the time when I was young and branching out into new genres. Dean Koontz was a library staple, I must have read his entire back catalogue. But the two that forever stayed with me were this one and Watchers. I bought both right after returning the library versions and I still have those same copies today. I won't tell you how many years later it is, but it's a lot. A LOT. Recently, I happened to notice a load of his books, and those of Richard Laymon (another old favourite), are only 99p on Kindle UK- it was impossible to resist being able to carry them with me at all times. So: REREAD!

Midnight is quintessential Koontz: small town, evil megalomaniac, clever animals, strong female and male lead characters, atmospheric weather (fog and more fog), corrupt law or bureaucracy, and finally...terrifying creatures running around in the dark ripping people to shreds. It's giving me a rosy glow of nostalgia just writing that list out. Yet one of the surprising issues of this 1989 novel is how it stands up now. Not just the sometimes cheesy, but always brilliant writing style of the author, but the themes of man vs nature, man vs his own nature, man vs technology that form the basis for this story. It hits on so many of the deepest fears we can hold: loss of our humanity; being forced into the role of prey, chased in the dark by unknown predators; not knowing who is friend or foe; indiscriminate death, where even children aren't safe; the sometimes incomprehensible, almost alien forms of technological innovation...

On top of all that, it's got that perfect mix of silly and scary. You know, of course, that the goodies will save the day but before that you have to cope with the voices of the Regressives, their whispery, desperate needy tone.... \*shudder\*... I dare anyone to read this book and then go outside in the dark without repeatedly checking their surroundings and jumping at every noise.

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## **Dustin Crazy little brown owl says**

This was the February 2011 and April 2017 Group Read in the Koontzland - Dean Koontz Group  
I've read Midnight 3 times.

Midnight has never been one of my favorites, but it is a solid & intriguing story. I find many similarities between Midnight and Dean Koontz's Frankenstein Series - the ideas of control & improvements upon human conditions getting out of control.

A funny quote:

". . . had so many corn-chip crumbs sprinkled across the front of her royal-blue sweater that she appeared to be breaching herself with the intention of going into the kitchen, climbing into an oven, and *becoming* food."  
-Midnight, Chapter 12

A favorite quote:

"Even as a child, she had preferred night to day, had enjoyed sitting out in the yard after sunset, under the star-speckled sky listening to frogs and crickets. Darkness soothed. It softened the sharp edges of the world, toned down the too-harsh colors. With the coming of twilight, the sky seemed to recede; the universe expanded. The night was bigger than the day, and in its realm, life seemed to have more possibilities."  
-Midnight, Chapter One

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## **Karen B. says**

Could humanity be "improved" if more like machines and devoid of emotions? That is the premise of the bad guy in this thriller. He is trying to convert the humans of Moonlight Cove. Standing against him are an FBI agent, disillusioned with life; a woman who came to Moonlight Cove, suspicious of her sister's death; a disabled veteran whose view of responsibility questions the values of Shaddack (the bad guy); an 11-year-old girl who has lost her parents due to the conversion and of course a lovable, loyal lab who brings affection and love to the good guys. This is one of Koontz's best as he explores the nature of what it means to be human and the constant battle of good vs. evil.

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## **Matt Barker says**

This was another good read from Koontz. Grips you from the beginning and gets stranger and more intriguing from there.

### **Publisher's Summary**

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 11-year-old, running from parents who have suddenly changed and in whom darkness dwells, joins them. Together they make a stand against darkness and terror.

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## **Matt Garcia says**

This is classic Koontz. Strong heroine/ female protagonist, super smart dog, sociopathic/megalomaniacal antagonist, science gone horribly wrong, a group of people have to save the day, blossoming romance between seemingly opposite characters, a small town, California setting and a good yet, corny ending lol. The blending of horror and science fiction is superb. Koontz is so good at mixing the two genres with a dash of thriller/suspense to tie it all together.

The creatures that are in this book are cool and I like the fictional scientific explanation for their existence. They give this book a monster movie type of vibe.

This book reminded me a little of Invasion of the Body Snatchers which is a great thing seeing as how I love the original film and its idea.

The storyline is interesting and Koontz makes the terror and science behind the danger seem feasible especially in today's highly technological society.

There is an abundance of social commentary being made here. What really makes us human? Is it our emotions? Intellect? Or is it something else entirely? How far would we go to achieve a sense of perfection? If we lack all emotions, are we even human anymore? Are we too reliant on technology? Can this reliance eventually come back to haunt us? What is the true meaning and purpose of life? These are all very relevant, thought provoking questions and I feel that they are even more prevalent now in this current technology heavy and dependent world than ever before and especially more than when this book was written. I feel like Koontz might have been able to see into the future a bit and see how much technology would play a major role in our lives and livelihoods.

The characters are good. My favorite character was the disabled Vietnam vet, Harry. Koontz does a good job of making empathetic characters that you want to root for and helps us to see from the twisted perspective of the antagonist and at least see where they are coming from or why they think they have to do what they're doing even if it seems completely wrong or insane to us as the readers.

Koontz throws in several horror and science fiction movie references that a die hard fan like myself really appreciated. It even feels a little like a B movie at times.

The small town setting in horror fiction is one of my favorite literary tropes and the town of Moonlight Cove is crafted well. I immediately got to know the town and what it was all about as well as a little about the places it contained and some of the people that lived there.

The pace is good, it ramps up when it needs to but otherwise it is very steady and moves along well for an almost 500 page book.

I love Koontz's writing style. It's very descriptive in parts and it has a stylized nature to it that lends itself to some speculation and thought provocation as to the picture he is painting for us and the story he is telling and simply put, it just works. Having read quite a few of his books, I have come to appreciate his writing style very much and I greatly enjoy pointing out and/or noticing the various Koontzisms located within his works. The third part/act of the book is a thrill ride and thunders along as soon as shit starts to hit the fan. The conclusion was a nice way to end the novel although it was corny but that's Koontz's style so I was cool with it.

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## **J.S. Bailey says**

This is one of Koontz's better novels--totally creepy, and totally awesome. Plus, the afterword at the end made me giggle.

The reason this novel resonated so strongly with me is because I can identify with the residents of Moonlight Cove who were losing touch with their emotions. There was a time a few years ago when I suffered from extreme depression and anxiety. I was prescribed an antidepressant, and lo and behold, the depression went away!

But so did everything else. I felt no joy. No happiness. I wasn't necessarily sad, either. I just existed in a bland emotional state that bordered between Blah and What's the Point? I finally became so frustrated with my lack of feeling that I quit taking my medicine against doctor's orders. I've been fine ever since. (Disclaimer: I didn't quit "cold turkey," so if you're in the same boat I was in, please at least slowly wean yourself off of your meds so nothing bad happens.)

In *Midnight* when Loman Watkins laments to Thomas Shaddack that life is basically meaningless without emotions and the pleasures that come with them, I was thinking, "Holy crap! YES!!!"

So, Mr. Koontz, congratulations for successfully touching my heart. :)

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## **Lori says**

I usually do not care for the science fiction type, but this book was creepy and made me think about what really goes on out in the world. It is like a big brother feeling.

It has been awhile since I read this, but the main character is investigating weird happenings of a town. Meanwhile a little girl escapes her fate. They meet up eventually through this mass of events (so pay attention) and in the end the mystery is solved. It is not real, but it makes you think what about what people will do gain power and control others.

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## **Corey says**

This book grabbed my attention right from the beginning! The last really good book by Dean Koontz that I'd read is *Watchers*, and I loved that one. I just think it's incredible how one author can put so many different emotions into his books, to me, that's a good writer. There are times he's got you on the edge of your seat or biting your nails in horror, and times when he's got you laughing out loud.

I had read a lot of the reviews on *Midnight* and I see that some people loved it, others not so much, so I thought I'd give it a shot and I haven't come back disappointed. I gotta put *Midnight* right up there with his best, a real page turner!

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## Charles says

This is my favorite Koontz novel, although it's very close to *Phantoms*. I think this is a lesson in how a thriller should be written. Just a wonderful work.

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## Siobhan says

This is yet another wonderful Koontz read.

I say this with most of my Koontz reads: my views are probably somewhat biased, considering how he is my favourite author. Oh, he is far from perfect. There are times when I have disliked (never hated, merely disliked) what he has written. But as a whole, he has rarely done me wrong. Thus, whenever I see a Koontz book I have yet to read I grab it. Such being the case with *Midnight*.

I'm not sure when or why, but as of late I've been noticing that Koontz's older books are being released with new covers. Due to this, they are often ending up in stores that sell the recent releases at a discounted price. As I'm not one to turn down a good bargain, I have been jumping upon these finds as they come about. With *Midnight*, my excitement was somewhat more than it has been with some of his other books. *Midnight* had, after all, spent quite some time sitting on my to-read list. I would have worked my way around to it in the end – there was no doubt of that – yet finding it going cheap pushed it up my list.

Unfortunately, my reading of the story was not as straightforward as it should have been. If anything, it was a lesson in why I shouldn't read books I'm excited about whilst travelling. Oh, I had plenty of time. My journey home is about ten hours, after all. Sadly, the journey turned into a nightmare. Whilst it gave me more time to read – added hours onto a journey have tiny benefits, even if we do not see them at the time – the fact that it was the middle of the night and the reading lights stopped working meant I couldn't read as much as this as I wanted to.

Thus, my start to the story was not what it should have been.

Oh, I was pulled in – but I was unable to work through as much of it as I wanted to. As always when my journey turns into a nightmare, I really wasn't up for reading the next couple of days. I wanted to catch up on sleep. Then there was family to see, and a birthday to have. All of it amounted to the book being read in fits and starts. Much to my dismay, every time something good was happening I was pulled away. It seemed as though I was destined never to finish the story.

In the end, however, I put my foot down. I couldn't take it anymore. How dare people stop me from reading my favourite author! How dare people interrupt a truly engaging story! Thus, I locked myself away until I had finished the couple of hundreds of pages I had left.

Oh how glad I was!

As always, Koontz weaves a wonderful tale. With his usual prose and twists and turns, the tale is a wonderful one – even when read across days with just a chapter or two here and there, as I was forced to experience it. You're pulled into the world, and you cannot help but want the best for the characters. There are the odd Koontz cliché to be seen here and there – but overall, it's a wonderful read. Whilst not my

favourite, I did enjoy it.

More than worth it if you're a Koontz fan.

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### **Mike (the Paladin) says**

I want to comment on this because I really didn't care for it, but my late wife loved this and some other Koontz books that I don't care for (at least as much). So in honor of her I gave it 3 stars recognizing that there will be people who like some of this writer's books while others don't. I note that many of the ones I don't care for both my wife and daughter like. But, I can't really build on that as my daughter and I liked The Taking, and my wife didn't...sigh. Go figure. All I can suggest here is try his books yourself. He has written some I'd list as up there in my top...oh 20 to 50 books and others I find not so great.

The plot in this one is a good idea. (view spoiler) The problem I have with it is that it tends to go over the top. It put me in mind of some horror movies I've seen where the "horror" went so over the top that it moved into dark humor. I think you'll see what I mean when/if you read this one. It's not bad but it is going to appeal to some readers more than others.

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