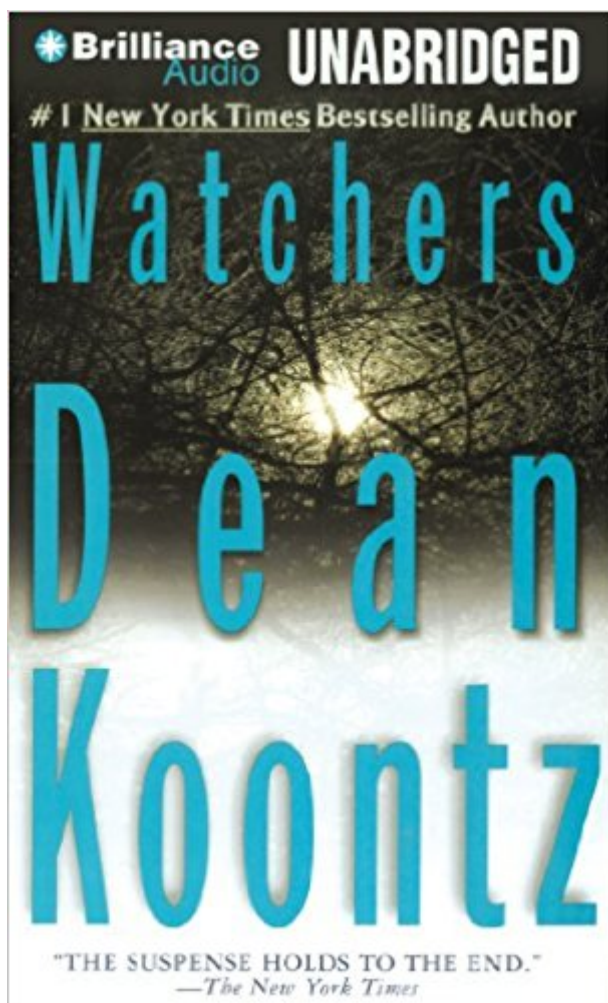


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Watchers



Synopsis

From a top secret government laboratory come two genetically altered life forms. One is a magnificent dog of astonishing intelligence. The other, a hybrid monster of a brutally violent nature. And both are on the loose. Bestselling author Dean Koontz presents his most terrifying, dramatic and moving novel: The explosive story of a man and a woman, caught in a relentless storm of mankind's darkest creation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Cross Lassie with E.T., add a touch of The Wolfen and a dash of The Godfather, and you get a sense of some of the ingredients in this supernatural thriller, which should move Koontz (Strangers a notch closer to Stephen King's high-rent district. When Travis Cornell, Koontz's appealing hero, encounters a stray dog while hiking, he quickly realizes that the animal is most unusual and that something terrifying is stalking them both. The encounter with the dog is the beginning of a tightly woven plot involving genetic manipulation that has created two extraordinary animals; one is the dog, named Einstein, the other is a murderous hybrid called "The Outsider." Hunted down by both the government and a professional killer who has learned the secret of the animals, Travis, Einstein and Nora Devon, a lonely woman befriended by man and canine, attempt to escape their pursuers all the while knowing that a confrontation with The Outsider is inevitable. Though the climax packs a little less wallop than it deserves, this is the sort of thoroughly frightening and entertaining tale that has its readers listening for noises in the night. 100,000 first printing; 100,000 ad/promo; Literary Guild main selection. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the

Hardcover edition.

YA A book that incorporates elements of both the horror tale and the action thriller, and the result is an intriguing and enjoyable novel. *Watchers* is a retelling of the Frankenstein theme with a twist: two creatures, quite different from each other, roam the land. Two animals who are unlike any other animals as a result of DNA research escape from a top-secret laboratory. One is divinely inspiring, engendering love and caring. The other is a hellish nightmare that leaves unspeakable slaughter in its wake. The two creatures and a supporting cast of characters—a government agent, a hired killer, a decent recluse, and a lonely woman—are inevitably brought together in a climactic and satisfying showdown. While the plot developments occasionally seem a bit forced, this is one book that could actually have profited by some extra length; the shortcomings are minor. *Watchers* is a satisfying example of good storytelling. Karl Penny, Houston Public Library Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I am almost 78 years old, with Alzheimer's, and rereading a book as good as this just makes my day! I read many of Koontz's books, but when he started the Odd Thomas series, things just started going bad. The books got darker and darker, the villains became more and more vicious and amoral and I just stopped, for the same reason I don't read Stephen King or watch horror movies. There is just too much real horror in the world for me to bathe in it.

This was a pretty solid book. Kept me very engaged. The character development was excellent and the story was marvelous. I'm giving it 4 stars because the manifestation of the dog's intelligence just seemed a bit cheesy and not real well thought out. I know it's fiction but I would have liked a more believable form of communication between the dog and humans. Only other point is that the hit man was developed really really well but seemed to die too quick and easy when he finally met up with our main characters. Seems like more development and integration there would have been quality "edge of your seat" reading. But anyways, it was an excellent story... my points only show what would have made it true perfection.

This book gets excellent reviews for a reason. I purchased the audio add-on, and I really enjoyed it. I came from *Ready Player One* and *American Gods*. (I liked both of those too, but I'd probably put *Watchers* just a hair above them) Give it a read (or listen).

A wonderful, fast paced novel by one of the greats. Before I became a bestseller myself, way back in those pimple years, when lust was love and swearing meant an ass whooping was coming... yes, those days I often and lovingly call: The Good Old Days. Watchers is one of those books that keeps your eyes open, the brain working... because anything seemed possible at thirteen years of age. It was a time of wonderment, years of hope and high expectations. The good guys were really good, and the bad ones..... well, they never go off script. I never thought I would say this at the age of 50... but I want to be thirteen again. God Damn It! 50 sucks the rubber hose, and thirteen... yes I am saying not.... 13 way the s***.

Watchers was a compelling read, I found it difficult to put down. This novel is a departure from the USUAL Dean Koontz fare. I just didn't want the story to end...I loved that he gave one of the leading characters so much more...dimension. If I were to say more I would spoil it, and I refuse to do that. This is an amazing story and it's uniqueness will appeal to a person with a sense of loyalty.

Koontz remarked in an interview following publication of this novel that it was his favorite effort to date. The story starts with a bang and continues to be compelling, with lots of fun plot shifts, a little romance, and with an underlying element of an impending attack from both human and a not-so-human creature with an attitude that add an ominous depth to the story. But, the hero is a wonderful dog, a very smart dog, who wins over the hearts of his human owners to where they find themselves willing to sacrifice their own lives for him. What's not to love. One of Koontz's finest stories.

I know this book is old from some of the anachronisms that appear because of the Incredible advances in technology that have been made in the last thirty years, but that didn't keep me from becoming totally absorbed by this wonderful tale. I'm almost afraid of reading more of the authors' work for fear of being let down. I'm sure that I've read other books of his, but I can't recall being this affected before. Perhaps it's because it's because I'm an animal lover, or because we live in paranoid times, but this book is one I will remember fondly for a long long time.

I've read Watchers more than a dozen time now, and each time, I still can't put it down. There's no out-worldishly leaps of faith or things you just have to accept as writers prerogative. Only things that could possibly happen in our current day and age, which makes the book even more enjoyable; more so for me because my sister is a molecular geneticist and I know enough about genetics and

recumbent DNA to realize that this story is not as far fetched as it may seem to some. Travis, Nora, Einstein, Lem, Vincent, even The Outsider.... The characters are given just the right amount of development, without the over attention and drama filled background and filler sob stories a lot writers seem to have a compulsion to do, that you are given the opportunity to use your own imagination to fill in the blanks of how these characters became who and what they are and in some way relate to some aspect. You can share in their sorrow, their joy, and their apprehension. Most importantly, through the obstacles Nora, Einstein, and Travis face together, there is the underlying moral to the story; if your foundation is solid, and with a little bit of luck, there's nothing that you can't take on. This is one of Dean Koontz's greatest books he's ever written.

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