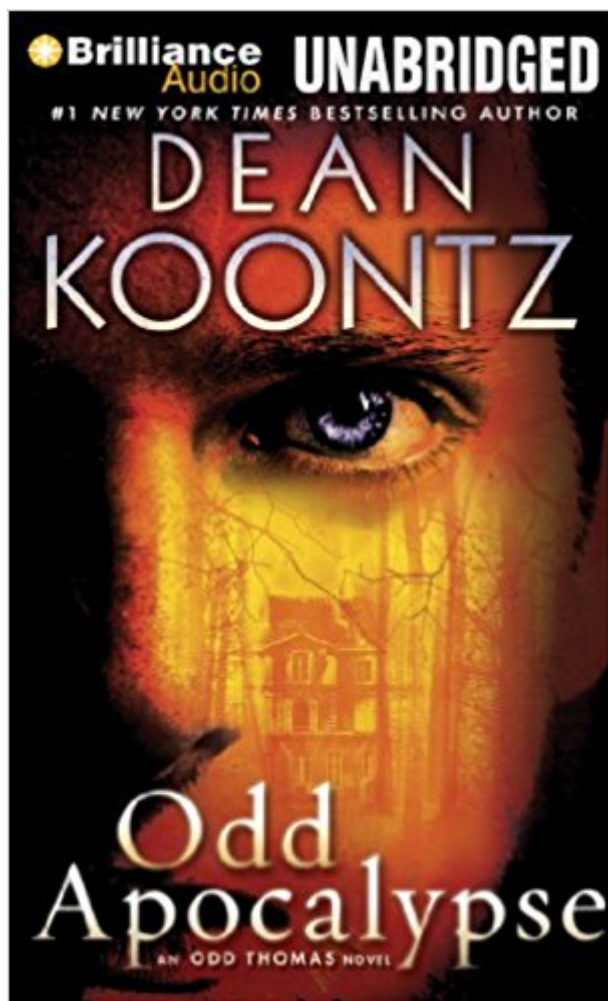




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Odd Apocalypse (Odd Thomas Series)



Synopsis

Once presided over by a flamboyant Hollywood mogul during the Roaring '20s, the magnificent West Coast property known as Roseland is now home to a reclusive billionaire financier and his faithful servants. And, for the moment, it's also a port in the storm for Odd Thomas and his traveling companion, the inscrutably charming Annamaria. In the wake of Odd's most recent clash with lethal adversaries, the opulent manor's comforts should be welcome. But there's far more to Roseland than meets even the extraordinary eye of Odd, who soon suspects it may be more hell than haven. A harrowing taste of Roseland's terrors convinces Odd that it's time to hit the road again. Still, the prescient Annamaria insists that they've been led there for a reason. Just how deep and dreadful are the mysteries Roseland and her masters have kept for nearly a century? And what consequences await whoever is brave, or mad, enough to confront the most profound breed of evil? Odd only knows. Like his acclaimed creator, the irresistible Odd Thomas is in top-notch form as he takes on what may well be the most terrifying challenge yet in his curious career.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An interview with Michael Koryta (The Prophet). MICHAEL: In the new novel, Odd Apocalypse, you write that "between birth and burial, we find ourselves in a comedy of mysteries." That statement could be a guiding light for the Odd series, and perhaps even your work in general of late. Was allowing the laughs to join the darkness a conscious decision? DEAN: Humor began to enter my

work as far back as *Watchers* (1987), and by *Lightning* (1988), my agent and publisher at that time became alarmed and counseled me that suspense and humor never mix. They were not able to offer a cogent explanation of why the two never mix. One of my favorite films of all time is "North by Northwest," which is tense and funny; so I just kept doing what I was doing. By the time I moved to Bantam Books with *Fear Nothing* (1998), humor became the binding glue in all of my books except for *The Taking*, *Velocity*, *The Husband*, and *Your Heart Belongs to Me*. Odd Thomas is speaking for me when he says, "Humanity is a parade of fools, and I'm right up front with a baton." Odd is a spiritual guy, and in my experience, genuinely spiritual people--as opposed to those for whom faith is either a crutch or a bludgeon--have a great sense of humor. They recognize that our fallen world is not just tragic but also absurd, often hilariously absurd, and that laughing at humanity's hubris and reckless transgressive behavior is a potent way to deny legitimacy to that hubris. Besides, if a character is able to make you laugh out loud, a bond is formed that ensures you will worry more for him when he finds himself in jeopardy. And I will always remember that it wasn't my looks or my sartorial splendor or macho toughness--ha!--that won Gerda; she says that she laughed so much on our first date, her stomach hurt the next day. That was better than being told, as I expected, that her stomach hurt because, after I took her home, she spent the night throwing up.

MICHAEL: A three-part short novel titled *Odd Interlude* was released in ebook-only form this summer. Tell us a little about the way this was conceived and written. Did you have that planned before the new novel or did it come to you later in Odd's journey?

DEAN: I had written a 32,000-word ebook novella, *The Moonlit Mind*, to intrigue readers about a forthcoming novel, *77 Shadow Street*. The novella sold very well and drew strong reader response. In fact, I'm pretty sure a lot of people liked *Moonlit* better than *77 Shadow Street*! So as I was finishing *Odd Apocalypse*, my publisher asked me to write a 60,000- to 70,000-word short novel in three parts to reintroduce readers to Odd. It was outside the seven-book arc of the series, and I had great fun with it. By the way, those readers who don't do ebooks tend to get exercised about a piece appearing only digitally. In order to avoid being whacked by an irate reader while waiting at the counter for my Big Mac, I am happy to tell you that *Odd Interlude* will be published in paperback within a few months.

MICHAEL: Rumor has it a movie of Odd Thomas is on the way, and that you're pleased with it, which is anything but the rule when it comes to adaptations. What can you tell us about the film version and why you are so pleased with Stephen Sommers' take?

DEAN: I have a glowing review of the film at deankoontz.com and on my official Facebook page. Anton Yelchin and Addison Timlin give wonderfully nuanced and affecting performances. Steve's sense of pace and his writing are even better than his previous best, and his scene transitions are amazing, something really new and highly effective. The picture drops much

from the book, but at the same time it's absolutely true to the book, to its characters and its themes. Steve is also a great guy and a family man. When he'd send me long emails about progress on the picture, he'd write also about his daughters and family things. After one such email, I wrote him back to say that he was so normal, compared to most of my Hollywood experiences, that I was getting suspicious. I said I was steeling myself to wake up one morning and discover that he'd been arrested with Charlie Sheen, crossing the border from Mexico in a school bus loaded with drugs and explosives. (continued) >Read the full interview>See all of Michael Koryta's books --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Praise for the Odd Thomas series: One of his finest books, and Odd himself is a superb character Independent Odd Thomas is a page-turner ... A read-at-a-sitting novel with a terrific final twist Observer Humour, humanity and horror, the classic Koontz concoction The Times Praise for Dean Koontz: Dean Koontz is not just a master of our darkest dreams, but also a literary juggler The Times A terrific pursuit story ... clever, up-to-the-minute, and riveting Guardian There's surprise after surprise, including a killer finale ... a read-in-one-go novel Independent on Sunday Psychologically complex, masterly and satisfying. --The New York Times --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have read and enjoyed all of the Odd stories from the first one up to this one; this one seems a departure in structure form and style. I can't really say why I did not like this Odd book but I just never felt engaged in the story or the majority of the characters. I did not enjoy this at all and felt it was more a series of disconnected vignettes than one cohesive story. However, I will continue with the next one in the hopes that this one was just a momentary deviation from the Odd books I truly enjoy.

I love Dean Koontz - his books have provided hours of pleasure and excitement over the years. That said, the first half of this book was a slog, which is the reason for 4 stars instead of 5. But, read through, because the second half of the book has all the action, weird science, and strangeness of vintage Dean Koontz. The Odd Thomas character is interesting, partly because he is not the superhero we are all used to seeing in so many books, TV shows and movies today. And yet, he is a heroic character who takes the true moral path at the critical crossroads. Koontz shows us evil and horror, but with hope, because the endings are good and the characters endure in their resilience and honesty no matter how much evil they have to face, and overcome. I think that stories

like this give us something to hold on to, and something to help us reject the easy slide into brutality and cultural bullying that pop culture encourages so ubiquitously. In the first half of the book, Odd does a lot of wandering, which seems pointless and a bit boring. But then the science "fiction" kicks in, explaining many of the discoveries of the wandering Odd and bringing the clash of irresponsible scientific research, past and future, and good and evil people into full Koontzian glory. Fast forward through the first, but slow down and enjoy the second half of the book. It has a thoroughly satisfying ending, and an engaging romp through time travel, as well as an enjoyable glimpse of the inventor and scientist that was Tesla - not to mention the hint of a future visit with Alfred Hitchcock. This isn't a fast paced thriller - but it is an engaging book, with good characters, an interesting plot line, and the occasional cynical humor that is almost always part of a good Koontz story. I truly enjoy the fact that Koontz is able to bring each of these stories to a satisfying end while still setting the expectation of more Odd to come - very few authors are able to pull this off, but Koontz does it well. A good book, well worth the money, and a story that will give me something to think about till the next installment of Odd Thomas comes out!

This was an incredibly dark story in the Odd Thomas series. It's got a little bit of the world of technology (as kind of seen in Brother Odd), but getting more on track with the paranormal world. Odd and Annamaria are together now, and the story takes place at an old ranch with very strange acting characters. Odd quickly learns that there's something weird going on, and sets out to figure out what it is. I really liked this one, it is a little on the darker side, but it really shows some new sides to Odd and the world he lives in. A must read in the Odd series.

Dean Koontz's writing is often so beautiful it is more like poetry than prose. I have only read 5 of his books in the "Odd Thomas" series. Of these, I found the most beautiful writing in "Brother Odd", my favorite to date. Dean certainly gives the reader a lot of things to think about. I love that. I also love that he gives his opinions on what goes on in modern US, as well as on other things. I gave him only 4 stars because of the violence. If writers like Baldacci, Grisham, so on can write a thrilling mystery without a lot of graphic, and /or unnecessary, violence, I don't understand why Koontz can't, and I won't read any of his other series besides this one unless he stops the violence.

This is one of the more thoughtful of the Odd Thomas novels, looking with cynicism at the human soul's tendency toward moral decline. Central character Odd Thomas asserts throughout that the longer one lives, the more jaded he or she may tend to become, ever more likely to spiral into

various forms of moral depravity to relieve boredom and meaninglessness by seeking ever-more-intense and satisfying gratifications. He envisions immortality as a detriment to appropriate scruples and constraints, and a grave risk to ruining the soul as opposed to a perfecting of it. Immortality and wealth together comprise an absolute power that corrupts absolutely. I would guess some reviewers may be offended by this (sometimes religious-sounding) pessimistic view of human nature expressed in Odd Thomas's narrative. The loss of Odd's love-of-a-lifetime, his sympathy toward the wandering spirits he sees, his reflections upon and quotations from literature, poetry, and Shakespeare's sonnets all reflect the struggle to overcome loss, and grief's tendency to dampen hope and desire to continue moving forward. This melancholic view seems so different than, for example, the hope sprinkled throughout "Dragon Tears" (expressed even in the behavior and thoughts of a dog!) one of Mr. Koontz's earlier novels. Despite his habitual anticipation of defeat, Odd fuels himself with enough faith to keep on in his efforts to wring out a victory over powerful evil. Do painful, ugly events happen? Yes. Are people sometimes shockingly cruel and ready to commit evil? Indeed. But there are some--and Odd seems to move among them--who despite suffering (because of it?) cling to a slender hope. Here's hoping Odd discovers a measure of hope and meaning in return for his sufferings. This installment ranks with the best in the Odd Thomas series.

I really like this series but have to admit that at this point they are all kind of running together. It seems like I have read this plot somewhere before. Like maybe in the last couple of books. Two to go. No way I won't finish out the series.

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