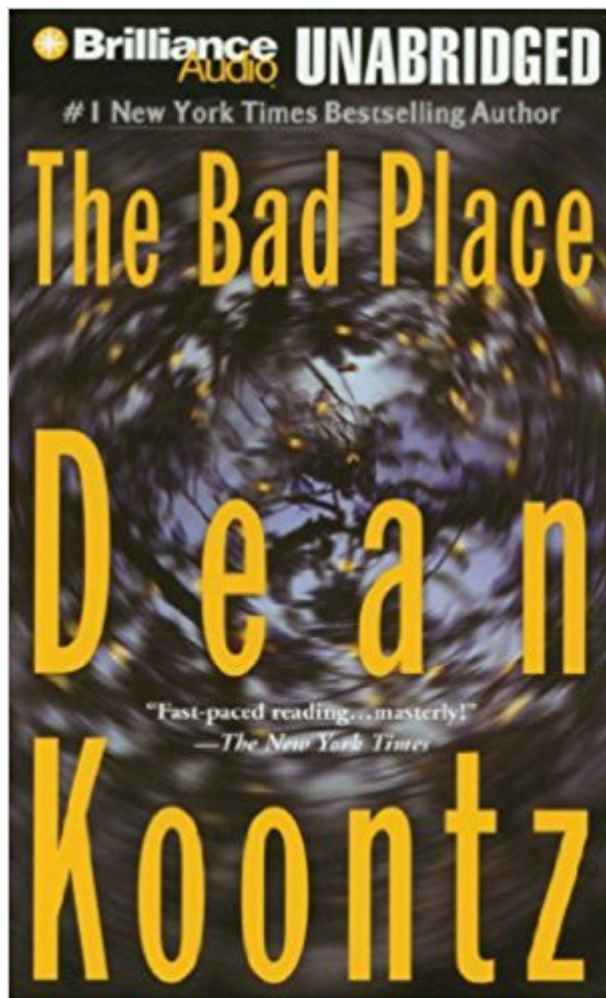




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The Bad Place



Synopsis

Frank Pollard awakens in an alley, knowing nothing but his name and that he is in great danger. Having taken refuge in a motel, he wakes again only to find his hands covered in blood. As far as he knows, he's no killer. But whose blood is this, and how did it get there? Over the next few days Frank develops a fear of sleep, because each time he wakes he discovers strange objects in his hands and pockets—objects far more frightening than blood. Husband-and-wife detective team Bobby and Julie Dakota specialize in high-ticket corporate security investigations, but when a distraught and desperate Frank Pollard begs them to watch over him, they can't refuse. Out of compassion and curiosity they agree to get to the bottom of his mysterious, amnesiac fugues. It seems a simple job: just follow a client who wants to be watched and tell him where he winds up. But as the Dakotas begin to discover where their client goes when he sleeps, they are drawn slowly into ever-darkening realms where they encounter the ominous figure stalking Frank. Their lives are threatened, as is that of Julie's gentle, Down's-syndrome brother, Thomas. To Thomas, death is "the bad place" from which there is no return. But Julie and Bobby—and their tortured client—ultimately learn that equally bad places exist in the world of the living, places so steeped in evil that in contrast death seems almost a relief. Praise for Dean Koontz "A master storyteller, sometimes humorous, sometimes shocking, but always riveting. His characters sparkle with life. And his fast-paced plots are wonderfully fiendish, taking unexpected twists and turns." The San Diego Union-Tribune "One of our finest and most versatile suspense writers." The Macon Telegraph & News "His prose mesmerizes" Koontz consistently hits the bull's-eye." Arkansas Democrat "An exceptional novelist—top-notch." Lincoln Journal-Star

Book Information

Audio CD: 13 pages

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Unabridged edition (January 3, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1455855278

ISBN-13: 978-1455855278

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.1 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 298 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,430,380 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in Books > Books on CD

> Authors, A-Z > (K) > Koontz, Dean #393 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Horror #5735
inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

Customer Reviews

A psychic child warns of danger as a murderous family stalks its amnesiac brother and the married detective team the brother has hired to help him. "Koontz should lure even more readers to his myriad following with his terrifyingly credible fantasy," predicted PW. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Pencil in two more best sellers for Koontz, author of *Strangers* (LJ 4/15/86), *Watchers* (LJ 3/1/87), and *Lightning* (LJ 1/88). Originally written under the pseudonym "Leigh Nichols" and published as a Pocket Books paperback in 1979, *The Key to Midnight* (#8 on the 11/1/89 LJ Prepub Best Sellers List) tells the story of expatriate songstress Joanna Rand, owner of a trendy Japanese night club in Kyoto. When vacationing private eye Alex Hunter recognizes Joanna as the victim of an unsolved ten-year-old kidnapping case, the tale takes an eerie turn into the all-too-real science of mind control and psychological conditioning. In Koontz's latest offering, *The Bad Place* (#20 on the 11/1/89 LJ Prepub Best Sellers List; Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 9/1/89), amiable Frank Pollard hires a husband-and-wife detective team to watch over him while he sleeps. Every time poor Frank nods off, he awakens covered with blood and in possession of some decidedly weird objects. Soon, our detectives discover that Frank is teleporting in his sleep, endlessly pursued by a grotesque genetic freak which threatens to destroy them all. This masterful rendition marks Koontz's full maturation--and the point at which he displaces Stephen King as America's premier weaver of horror yarns. Public libraries should expect big demand for both novels.- Mark Annichiarico, "Library Journal"Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

I've read many horror thrillers by Stephen King & Dean Koontz & others, and loved most of them. This was not one of my favorites. (spoiler alert): First you have a guy who likes biting people on the neck and sucking their blood till they die. I would have preferred a good ole' vampire story instead of a sicko. Then there's the unique sexual orientation / incest twists between his sisters & mom & him. (I'm trying not to give too exact spoiler details). Creepy in a bad way. Definitely unique twists but made me uncomfortable reading it. The supernatural effects & twists just weren't quite enough to overcome that feeling. Yet still a page-turner - I read the whole dang thing :OP

Classic Dean Koontz novel. He blends suspense, science fiction, horror and a little romance to write a superb novel. Action from start to finish. I have read over 45 of his books. This ranks right up there with Watchers, Lightning, Phantoms and Strangers as one of his best novels. It is slightly over 400 pages, but I couldn't put it down. I finished it in 2 days. It is well worth the reading time.

Dean Koontz is one of my favorite authors, I've read many of his books. Some were superb, others..meh. The Bad Place was one of those 'meh' books. I felt his use of violence was overdone, almost as a fill in to lengthen the book. The characters, to me, were superficial, not his usual in depth personality descriptions. I finished the book, but would not recommend.

I am a big fan of Dean Koontz, and have read most of his books. Some, I liked a lot, some not as much, but in general I enjoyed most of them. Not this one. I know you have to have a certain amount of imagination to accept his stories, but some of the premises in this book are completely ridiculous, and to be honest, downright gross. This book is just plain creepy, and not in a good way. There are many good Dean Koontz books out there, pick one of those instead.

This was my first Dean Koontz novel, so I guess I'm just not a fan. It reads like an action movie script. That being said I don't enjoy books that spend pages upon pages describing a scene or feelings either; but this was just way too simplistic for me. I didn't make it more than a few chapters in before I gave up.

Competent audio performances but this is clearly a much earlier Koontz book and lacks the character development and plotting that are seen in his more mature efforts.

But now that I've read it non-stop for a few days I'm too tired to tell you why it was great except to say that if you love a happily married, witty, kick-ass couple, you will love this book.

I have the unabridged format and the narrators are splendid. The story line is Koontz all the way. If I had to read it myself, maybe I wouldn't have gotten as much out of it.

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