



## The Darkest Evening of the Year

By Dean Koontz

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With each of his #1 *New York Times* bestsellers, Dean Koontz has displayed an unparalleled ability to entertain and enlighten readers with novels that capture the essence of our times even as they bring us to the edge of our seats. Now he delivers a heart-gripping tour de force he's been waiting years to write, at once a love story, a thrilling adventure, and a masterwork of suspense that redefines the boundaries of primal fear—and of enduring devotion.

Amy Redwing has dedicated her life to the southern California organization she founded to rescue abandoned and endangered golden retrievers. Among dog lovers, she's a legend for the risks she'll take to save an animal from abuse. Among her friends, Amy's heedless devotion is often cause for concern. To widower Brian McCarthy, whose commitment she can't allow herself to return, Amy's behavior is far more puzzling and hides a shattering secret.

No one is surprised when Amy risks her life to save Nickie, nor when she takes the female golden into her home. The bond between Amy and Nickie is immediate and uncanny. Even her two other goldens, Fred and Ethel, recognize Nickie as special, a natural alpha. But the instant joy Nickie brings is shadowed by a series of eerie incidents. An ominous stranger. A mysterious home invasion.

And the unmistakable sense that someone is watching Amy's every move and that, whoever it is, he's not alone.

Someone has come back to turn Amy into the desperate, hunted creature she's always been there to save. But now there's no one to save Amy and those she loves. From its breathtaking opening scene to its shocking climax, **The Darkest Evening of the Year** is Dean Koontz at his finest, a transcendent thriller certain to have readers turning pages until dawn.

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## The Darkest Evening of the Year By Dean Koontz Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

### Amazon.com Exclusive:

***The Darkest Ice Cream of the Year* by Dean Koontz** I once said writing a novel is sometimes like making love and sometimes like having a tooth pulled--and sometimes like making love *while* having a tooth pulled. I arrived at one of those joyful yet excruciating moments while working on *The Darkest Evening of the Year*. Because I am obsessive about the revision of each page--the word *fussbudget* is embarrassingly apt when I am brooding over whether to use a comma or a semicolon--I have more than once held on to a manuscript until the drop-dead date for delivery. When that date rolled around for this book, I had written everything, but I was unwilling to send all of it to my editor. I withheld the last fifty pages for another four days, causing a quiet panic in those at my publishing house who are responsible for meeting production deadlines. Although the book was done, I felt that something was wrong with Chapter 63. The action worked, the characters were in character, the mood was sustained...but something *felt* wrong with it, some fine point of the villain's motivation. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, I worked 12-hour days, trying to identify the source of my doubt, but couldn't specify it to my satisfaction. Nothing like this had ever happened to me. Previously, my worst struggles with a story had come in the first two-thirds, and the final third had been, if not a sweet swift toboggan run, at least a sleigh ride. Sunday, I got up at 6:00 and set to work, revising, looking for the thorn I could feel but couldn't see--and ended up working 22 hours, eating at my desk, before tumbling to the problem at 4:00 a.m. Monday morning. "Eureka!" I cried, but I was so weary and my voice was so weak that my shout of jubilation came out as a squeak. The revisions required to Chapter 63 were minor, but after working 58 hours in four days, after having passed a night without sleep, I was unable to focus sharply enough to get them done in the little time that remained before the production schedule would be derailed. In desperation, I turned to that source of creative energy and literary enlightenment that is without equal: ice cream. I shuffled to the kitchen and snared a Dreyer's Slow-Churned Vanilla Almond Crunch bar from the freezer. I devoured this sweet-and-creamy muse, and felt the scales lift from my eyes; inspiration sparkled between my ears. I finished the revisions and e-mailed the final version of Chapter 63 to my editor with not a minute to spare. Although the American Heart Association will take issue with me, my advice to young writers stuck on a scene is to stop worrying about your arteries and give your wheel-spinning imagination what it needs to find traction: a tasty shot of fat and sugar. --Dean Koontz, *October 2007*

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From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Set mostly in Southern California, this topnotch thriller from bestseller Koontz (*The Good Guy*) depicts with unabashed emotion and wit the magical powers of golden retrievers—in particular, a female named Nickie, who will stop at nothing to save innocent children and protect their guardians. Amy Redwing, the survivor of a horrifying marriage, establishes Golden Heart to rescue golden retrievers, rehabilitate the abused ones and find forever homes. A supernatural chain of events ensues after Amy and her architect boyfriend, Brian McCarthy, rescue Nickie during a violent intervention in a family dispute. Soon the pair are on a mission that leads to a transformative confrontation with a number of ugly characters—Gunther Schloss, a frustrated aspiring novelist turned killer-for-hire; Moonglow, a psychobitch in the Mommie Dearest league; and Moonglow's lover, Harrow, a self-obsessed sicko. This is the perfect book for thriller addicts who know the darkest hour is just before dawn and for canine lovers who remember

dog spelled backwards is god. (Nov. 27)

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Review

"*Silence of the Lambs* meets *Marley & Me*."—*People*

"Compulsively readable...With a magician's expertise, Dean Koontz sets his multiple story lines spinning."—*Boston Globe*

[A] top-notch thriller...with unabashed emotion and wit...This is the perfect book for thriller addicts who know the darkest hour is just before the dawn, and for canine lovers."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Just barely into Koontz's thriller, I understood why he's a bookselling giant."—*Entertainment Weekly*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Edna Miller:**

Hey guys, do you wish to find a new book to read? Maybe the book with the concept *The Darkest Evening of the Year* suitable to you? The actual book was written by a well-known writer in this era. The book *The Darkest Evening of the Year* is one of several books that everyone reads now. That book has inspired lots of people in the world. When you read this guide you will enter the new age that you have never known before. The author explained their strategy in a simple way, thus all people can easily recognize the core of this book. This book will give you a lot of information about this world now. To help you see the representation of the world with this book.

#### **Sean Lee:**

In this time of globalization it is important for someone to obtain information. The information will help professionals understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information, for example: internet, newspapers, books, and soon. You can see that now, a lot of publishers which print many kinds of books. The particular book that I recommended for your requirements is *The Darkest Evening of the Year*. This review consists of a lot of information from the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented as how the world has grown up. The dialect styles that the writer uses to explain it are easy to understand. The writer made some analysis when he wrote this book. That is why this book is ideal for all of you.

#### **Dwight Hancock:**

Don't be worried should you be afraid that this book will probably fill the space in your house, you can have it in e-book technique, more simple and reachable. This kind of *The Darkest Evening of the Year* can give you a lot of pals because by you considering this one book you have issues that they don't and make you more like an interesting person. This kind of book can be one of the steps for you to get success. This guide offers you information that perhaps your friend doesn't realize, by knowing more than additional things make you to be great persons. So, why hesitate? We need to have *The Darkest Evening of the Year*.

**Irene Hoyt:**

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