



Mr. Murder

Dean Koontz

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Martin Stillwater has a vivid imagination. It charms his loving wife, delights his two little daughters, and gives him all the inspiration he needs to write his highly successful mystery novels. But maybe Martin's imagination is a bit too vivid... One rainy afternoon, a terrifying incident makes him question his grip on reality. A stranger breaks into his house, accusing Martin of stealing his wife, his children—and his life. Claiming to be the real Martin Stillwater, the intruder threatens to take what is rightfully his. The police think he's a figment of Martin's imagination. But Martin and his family have no choice but to believe the stranger's threat. And run for their lives. But wherever they go—wherever they hide—he finds them...

Mr. Murder Details

Date : Published July 5th 2006 by Berkley (first published 1993)

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Author : Dean Koontz

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From Reader Review Mr. Murder for online ebook

Jessica says

Marty is somehow linked to a murdering look-alike. The look-alike manages to track Marty down through a People magazine article on Marty, who they deem "Mr. Murder" because of his novels.

There are a few things in this book that mirror some of Koontz's other novels, which made it a little difficult for me to read. I only marginally cared for Marty and Paige, even though I loved their two daughters. I was annoyed by the look-alike, who seemed to be more of a pest than anything else (but a murdering pest, at that), and I was frustrated by his "handlers", who always seemed to be one step behind.

The ending was a little predictable, which I suppose was fine for a story that wasn't very strong. The only things that I really latched on to in this one was Marty's relationship with Charlotte and Emily. I loved the descriptions of their two very different personalities. I loved that one was a morning person, and one was very definitely not. I loved the scene where Marty comes upon one scowling at her feet, and the one-sided conversation that follows.

Other than that, there wasn't a whole lot to keep me engaged in this one, which was a pity.

Beth says

I had been getting bored with Dean Koontz in recent years (except for the Frankenstein books,) but picking this one up at a book fair has restored my faith. I haven't been this scared - the kind of scared where you're skimming pages in an effort to find relief and know you shouldn't be reading the book after dark - in years. And it's always refreshing when you can't figure out the ending until the end. Good stuff.

Maciek says

Reading this book made me remember just how much Koontz rehashes. There is nothing original in this book - black and white characters, government conspiracy, etc. If there were no secret organizations DK would be out of job. And how many times did a Koontz novel feature a heroic couple running away from an evil adversary?

All of this is embroidered by his "subtle" ideology (the good guy is a writer, the bad guy despises the written word). Apparently in Koontz's school of philosophy having a beautiful wife, two ideal daughters and being a succesful writer of suspense novels is good, and being a member of a seceret government organization is bad. Sometimes I wonder how he became a bestseller, since all he does is repeat himself over and over; but then maybe that's exactly the reason.

Seriously, if you want s story about a writer hunted by his mirror image read King's "Dark Half" instead (Koontz obviously did). This one is recommended only for Dean's biggest fans.

Phrynn says

Dean Koontz at his best. I'm giving this book full marks for the suspense - sitting on the edge of your chair, holding your breath type suspense. And he can keep it going at the same terrifying level for whole chapters! Wow! I have seen a few criticisms of the ending, maybe because the book does not end at the climax but instead spends a few quiet pages letting the reader get their breath back and wrapping up all the loose ends. I liked that myself. One I would certainly recommend to readers of the genre.

Ron says

Not nearly as good as other books by Koontz, and parallel to Koontz' newer and better *The Good Guy*. In addition to being science fiction (if I tell you, I spoil some of the fun), *Mr. Murder* carries a clear political message.

Even as science fiction *Mr. Murder* fails to convince. For example the Other's ability to heal goes far beyond any reasonable enhancement to humans. Certain injuries as--in and of themselves--fatal, with no possibility of the body reassembling or healing itself.

Rebecca Alston says

BORING! I liked the plot but the storytelling just bored me. I wanted to quit listening but I wanted to see how it ended. Total disappointment! This is the first Koontz book I've read and I doubt I will seek any more. I expected much more from such a popular author.

Lorna says

Horrible. This book is too similar to other books Koontz wrote. He just traded names of characters and settings.

The main character is a slightly inept writer with a saintly wife and too-smart-for-their-age daughters who are there for the cute factor. Of course they are all pursued by a psycho.

If you want to relive the memories of other Koontz novels, then you may like *Mr. Murder*. If you want something new and refreshing, then stay away. Far away.

Maicie says

"*Mr. Murder*" by Dean Koontz is one of his earlier books, written in 1993. Marty and his family are being chased by someone who looks just like him. Alfie, "the evil twin", wants Marty's life. The story has plenty of

suspense, gore, and humor. I enjoy Koontz's humor as much as I enjoy the suspense of the story.

I would recommend this book to anyone who is a Koontz fan.

Favorite quote (that had nothing at all to do with the story but made me bust out laughing): "...Believe me, Marty, this is a bad decade to be a bachelor, so many really nasty diseases out there. You meet a new girl, date her, give her a chaste kiss when you take her home - and then wait to see if your lips are going to rot and fall off."

Edwina Callan says

Hubby and I listened to this during the long ride to visit Arlington & the Washington, D.C. area. What a complete and utter thrill it was for an avid reader, like myself, to watch my non-reader husband get thoroughly sucked into this book and then want to spend time discussing it during meals and when we would stop for the night at a motel. That alone would have earned this book 5 stars but the way the author word-weaved his web, slowly ... oh-so-slowly ... increasing the tension was pure literary genius and really makes me wish that I could give it many more stars. Highly recommended.

Nora aka Diva says

Weird, freaky, suspenseful and fun to read is the best description I can give this novel. From beginning to end you won't want to put it down.

Supratim says

I found this novel in a second hand book shop. The title, the blurb and the fact that the protagonist is a mystery novelist piqued my interest. I love mysteries which has some mystery writer in it. :)

Please allow me to introduce you to Martin Stillwater. He is a mystery writer who has started to achieve fame and success. He leads a near perfect life with his psychologist wife Paige and two daughters, Emily and Charlotte. All of a sudden Martin starts to experience blackouts and senses a weird kind of fear.

There is also a nameless killer. He does not know his own name, has no memories about his family and has no idea who controls him. He simply knows what to do. This character has been "blessed" with extraordinary strength and unimaginable recuperative power. In sort the invincible killing machine. This killer is a big time movie lover and likes to think of himself as the hero. However, the character is also tortured by the loneliness and his meaningless life.

The killer gets drawn "westward" by an unknown force and he believes that he will get a life and family there. He breaks protocol and embarks on his journey. You have already guessed it ... the killer pays a visit

to Martin's family and the nightmare begins. Needless to say a lot of people are going to die.

Parts of the book have enough tension, suspense and action to keep you hooked. Gun fights, chase scenes, twists, some BIG conspiracy, interesting characters will keep you turning the pages.

The characters are pretty fleshed out. Martin is a good man – a good father, a good husband, a sort of person who does not want the death of innocents on his conscience even when his and his family's life is in danger. But, do not think for a sec that Marty is weak. I liked the way Martin would use storytelling to soothe his daughters' fear. Paige has also been portrayed as a very strong character and not some damsel in distress.

The killer's thought process was pretty chilling as well. The way he would justify his every crime is...amazing and horrifying.

There is another character who I liked very much. Found him a bit eccentric at first. But, later I liked him a lot.

This is just an action adventure thriller and do not expect much from it - only thrills. The premise has been used in many movies and novels. The end was predictable. Having said this, I have to say that I did enjoy parts of the book. I say parts because the book has a lot of flab. Had the author made it a bit more concise then the book would have been much more enjoyable.

A nice thriller if you do not mind the extra flab. There might be better books with the same storyline as well.

I shall end by saying that I do agree with Martin and Paige on one thing. Nothing soothes the mind like reading especially novels. :)

Cody Maxie says

I can't believe this book has an average of only 3.63!

Let me start off by saying what I loved about the book:

The writing was A+, everything was clear and I really enjoyed how he would really get the individual opinions down, like with Dean and his hatred for Star Trek.

The characters themselves got me engaged more deeply into the story and caring about their well being, another A+

The story, Oh man the story! You know how in some books you can kind of see what's going to happen at certain points? Well in Mr.Murder I thought for sure this would happen then wham! A twist! All of them well placed and making perfect sense too. A++

The ending is the only part of the book that is a little miss. It seemed a little off compared to the rest of the book, it was still good, just maybe a B instead of an A+.

One other little thing that bothered me is how mature the little girls were for their age. but other than that the characters were all really well polished.

Rebecca McNutt says

For the main character of this novel, his talent gets the better of him in the form of a homicidal imaginary friend that stalks him and threatens his family. Suspenseful, eerie and original, *Mr. Murder* is a frightening horror thriller about the power of words on a page.

Beth says

My very first Dean Koontz book, *Mr. Murder* is an interesting suspense-thriller about a successful novelist who has his life turned upside down when a man (who looks exactly like him) shows up to steal his life (the double thinks the novelist stole his life to begin with). It's quite intriguing and full of major twists that have you wondering where Koontz got his imagination.

Alejandro says

Murdering good!!!

THE DEADLIEST ENEMY

Back then (in 1994), when I read this novel, I enjoyed a lot.

I think that it was an interesting way to present the plot, since the main character, Marty Stillwater, is threatened by an unthinkable menace...

...himself...

...or at least someone who claims that he is Marty Stillwater too.

However, this "new" Marty is a coldblooded killer.

The story is alternated told from the perspective of the main protagonist and the main antagonist.

HOW ESCAPE FROM HIMSELF?

It's quite shocking when I was reading the chapters of "the other" since he is indeed a perfect killing machine and the way that he kills is so remorseless that it's really disturbing to read that scenes, but of course, it's all part of being a horror novel.

I think that this story is a loosely approach of the idea of *Frankenstein* where a mindless monster wants a life to his own.

And since, Dean Koontz, the author, has a book series about a continuation of the original *Frankenstein*, it's not odd that he has a fascination with that classic story and in this book, he evolved a twist in the plot to make an original story of his own.

MEET: DREW & KARL

There two supportive characters, Drew & Karl, that they are following the trace of "the other" trying to clean the mess that he is leaving on his bloody journey.

They are hired assassins and I found an enjoyable surprise when Karl is revealed as a Trekkie, so it was fun to read some dialogues of him.

An unexpected surprise in the book, maybe my main complain in the story, it is that it's never clear how or why, Marty Stillwater got involved in this messy business. He is a famous novelist (as many main characters in Koontz' books) but that isn't a factor of why poor Marty is suffering this threat.

However, in the general, I enjoyed a lot the reading experience.

Dustin Crazy little brown owl says

2015 Update: While I still enjoyed the story, I did drop the rating one star and this would not be #6 in my favorite Dean Koontz ranking - that was clearly my evil twin talking.

I read Mr. Murder as a mini-group read in the Koontzland - Dean Koontz group. While the ending could have been better, the story and mystery was plenty intriguing for me - intriguing enough that I'm ranking this at #6 in my list of Dean Koontz favorites. Mr. Murder wasn't quite good enough to make it into my top 5, but he's in my top 10 for sure :-)

The book reminded me a lot of Relentless by Dean Koontz, a story I'm absolutely in love with. Mr. Murder was published in 1993 and Relentless in 2009. My top five favorite Dean Koontz novels are in order: #1 Life Expectancy, #2 By The Light of the Moon, #3 Relentless, #4 Cold Fire and #5 The Taking. My list is of course, subject to change depending on future reading and re-reading. Thanks Dean for writing so many books to keep me entertained and all you Dean Koontz fans who haven't already joined - come become a Koontzlander in the Koontzland - Dean Koontz group on goodreads, you'll be glad you did because I'm the moderator :-)

Update: I just realized that my evil twin wrote this review. I don't know if I would really rank Mr. Murder as #6, but I'll go ahead and keep this review because since I have an evil twin, I clearly have a lot in common with Mr. Murder.

Mary JL says

When a disturbed stranger invades his home, accusing Martin Stillwater of stealing his wife, his children his

identity, Martin is shocked and startled.

Since the real Martin Stillwater is a write of mystery and horror novels, the police are going on the theory that this is a publicity stunt to Martin to sell more books.

Unwilling to risk his family's lives due to police inaction, Martin takes his wife Paige, and ther young daughters Charlotte and Emily and flees for his life. The mysterious intruder--still claiming to be Martin Stillwater pursues them. As he is a trained hitman, he presents quite a danger to the family.

The terror and dismay of the Stillwater is well portrayed. The willingness of 'the other' Martin's shadowy employers to kill four innocent people to protect their secrets is also chilling.

There a few small plot holes I won't go into but mostly this is a fast-paced mystery thriller, with a touch of Sf ideas. The characterization is above averge for a thriller. I found the ending a bit unexpected but I did like it.

Recommended to all readers of the horror/thriller/ mystery genres. due to the violence, I personally would not recommend for anyone under age 18 though.

Btw, this has nothing to do with the plot, but during the story, Martin tells his young daughters a 'bedtime story' called "Santa's Evil Twin". I would really like to see that completed and published. Mr. Koontz, if you'd be so kind....

Carlotta says

This book was given to me as a gift for my birthday by my boyfriend so I love that he gave it to me. However, Mr. Koontz could have written this story in half the pages. He spent more time beating the same jokes to death, describing nothing of interest, and repeating characteristics of his characters. The story could have been more interesting, regardless of how much it reminded me of some of his other works, if he had cut out about half of the pages. The book felt to me like he had a page quota to make, and by God, he was going to make it.

The only reason I gave it two stars was because of how interesting the daughter characters were, how much the parents loved them, and because my boyfriend, whom I adore, gave it to me and tried to find something I would enjoy.

Dave says

I read this book for the first time in ten years. I literally read it in two days straight. Talk about a page turner!

Marty Stillwater is a writer of mystery novels. He has a lovely wife called Paige, two adorable little girls, Charlotte, who's nine and Emily who is seven. Everything is good in his life.

Until one day he walks in to find an intruder in his house. An intruder who claims Marty has stolen his life. And the intruder wants it back. Everything. including his wife and kids.

What follows is a highy suspenseful cat and mouse struggle as Marty attempts to keep his family safe from

harm, against an increasingly desperate and brutal adversary.

Brandy says

5/5 Stars!!! I loved this book.It was suspensful,with strong Characters!!
