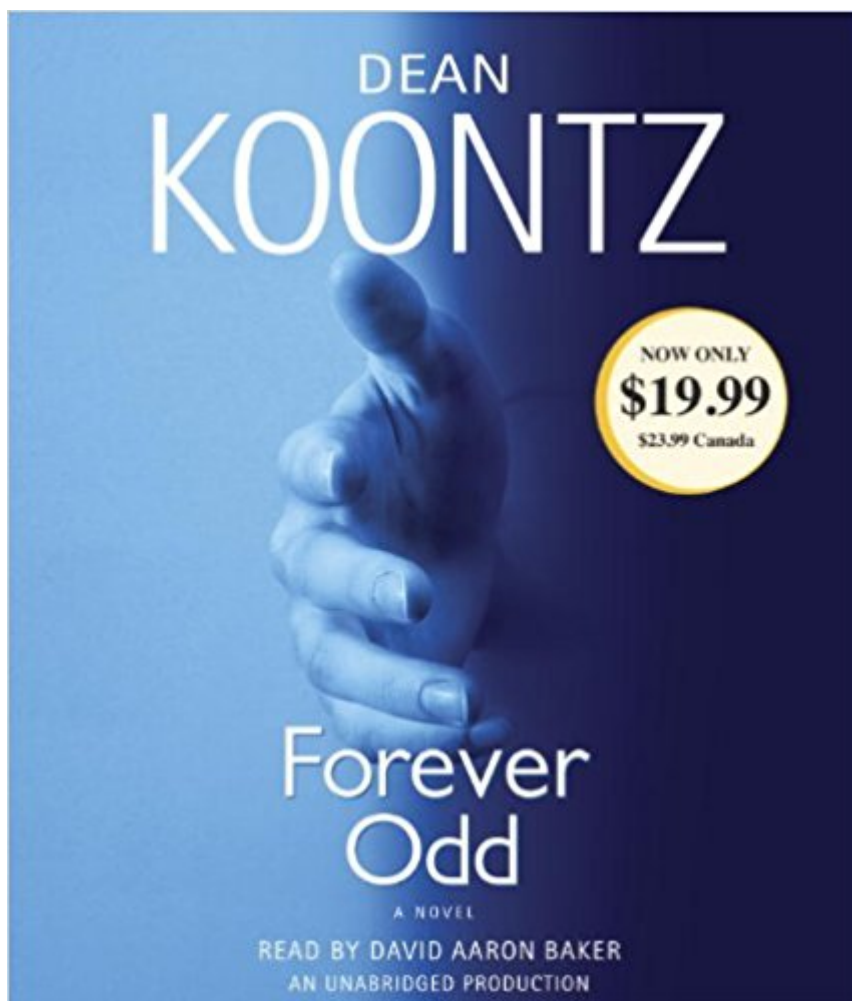


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Forever Odd (Odd Thomas)



Synopsis

Every so often a character so captures the hearts and imaginations of readers that he seems to take on a life of his own long after the final page is turned. For such a character, one book is not enough—readers must know what happens next. Now Dean Koontz returns with the novel his fans have been demanding. With the emotional power and sheer storytelling artistry that are his trademarks, Koontz takes up once more the story of a unique young hero and an eccentric little town in a tale that is equal parts suspense and terror, adventure and mystery—and altogether irresistibly odd. We're all a little odd beneath the surface. He's the most unlikely hero you'll ever meet—an ordinary guy with a modest job you might never look at twice. But there's so much more to any of us than meets the eye—and that goes triple for Odd Thomas. For Odd lives always between two worlds in the small desert town of Pico Mundo, where the heroic and the harrowing are everyday events. Odd never asked to communicate with the dead—it's something that just happened. But as the unofficial goodwill ambassador between our world and theirs, he's got a duty to do the right thing. That's the way Odd sees it and that's why he's won hearts on both sides of the divide between life and death. A childhood friend of Odd's has disappeared. The worst is feared. But as Odd applies his unique talents to the task of finding the missing person, he discovers something worse than a dead body, encounters an enemy of exceptional cunning, and spirals into a vortex of terror. Once again Odd will stand against our worst fears. Around him will gather new allies and old, some living and some not. For in the battle to come, there can be no innocent bystanders, and every sacrifice can tip the balance between despair and hope. Whether you're meeting Odd Thomas for the first time or he's already an old friend, you'll be led on an unforgettable journey through a world of terror, wonder and delight—to a revelation that can change your life. And you can have no better guide than Odd Thomas. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Series: Odd Thomas (Book 2)

Audio CD: 7 pages

Publisher: Random House Audio; Unabridged edition (April 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0739369415

ISBN-13: 978-0739369418

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1.1 x 6 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 912 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #587,715 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (K) > Koontz, Dean #49 in Books > Books on CD > Horror #210 in Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy

Customer Reviews

A dead-on performance by narrator Baker brings Koontz's supernatural thriller to life. Odd Thomas, the psychic protagonist of Koontz's 2003 novel of the same name, is blessed, or cursed, with the ability to see the dead. Thomas is summoned to the house of his best friend, Danny Jessup, by Danny's murdered father. Danny is missing and it is up to Thomas to find him. His search leads him to an old, abandoned casino and into the clutches of the frightening Datura, who plans to use Thomas and his powers to further her own demented and deadly exploration of the supernatural. Baker excellently keeps the suspense as taut as Koontz's prose. He gives Thomas an appropriately youthful vocalization while at the same time capturing the "old soul" weariness of someone who has seen and endured too much sorrow and tragedy, for his age. With Datura, Baker offers a perfect interpretation as he bounces effectively from seductive through menacing to just plain insane. Baker hits all the right thrills in this enjoyable melding of reader and writer.

Simultaneous release with the Bantam hardcover (Reviews, Nov. 7). (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Grieving the loss of his fiancée, killed during the climax of his eponymous debut despite anything he and his supernatural intuition could do, Odd Thomas returns in a more suspenseful but less piquant adventure. Only a year older (21), he feels almost ancient and more rueful than ever about his gift for seeing ghosts, Dr. Wilbur Jessup's in particular. The loving stepfather of Odd's brittle-boned friend Danny was alive yesterday, so Odd investigates, as the "psychic magnetism" that attends his ghost-seeing compels him to, and finds the physician brutally murdered and Danny missing. Odd tracks Danny and his abductors to an abandoned casino-hotel, closed by an earthquake that killed dozens five years ago. It's a trap. Danny is bait to draw Odd to Datura, a spookily self-absorbed, wealthy porn entrepreneur and New Age nut, who, obsessed with violent death, wants Odd to make ghosts visible to her. He can't, but there are eight ghosts in the casino, one of whom comes in

handy when Odd escapes Datura and her two gorillas, rescues and hides Danny, and engages in the protracted, lethal game of cat-and-mouse that makes the novel good-to-the-last-page enthralling. Quite apart from Odd's moroseness (understandable given his circumstances and endearing youthfulness), the tale's stranglehold suspense allows for less of the offbeat humor that lightened Odd Thomas (2003). Datura is a creation that allows Koontz some sledgehammer polemicizing against alternative religion and spirituality, which additionally darkens things. Not to complain, though. This is only slightly less than top-drawer Koontz. Ray OlsonCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

I purchased Forever Odd because it was the second in the Odd Thomas series. I read Odd Thomas and enjoyed the main character and liked the book. Forever Odd was just ok. Had the typical good vs evil characters and some Dean Koontz' shocking moments. I am a fan of Dean Koontz and have read about 25 of his books. One of the things I like about Koontz as compared to Stephen King is that things in Koontz' stories COULD happen. Unlikely, but possible! Forever Odd pushed it a little too far (c'mon - a mountain lion???). At times I couldn't wait to get back to the book, and other times I just wanted to finish it. Doesn't hold a candle to "Lightning," or "Midnight," or my favorite "Watchers." Recommended if you are a fan of Dean Koontz and/or Odd Thomas, and want to read the series.

**** spoiler alert **** The first half of the book is Odd's discovery of the disappearance of his childhood friend and the brutal murder of the friend's stepfather. He searches for his friend Danny, thinking the murderer and kidnapper is Danny's biological father, a convict. He discovers halfway through the book that the blame, in fact, lies with a different culprit, and spends the rest of the book trying to figure out how to defeat her. It is out of this structure that my main complaint arises. The villain, Datura, is evil, sadistic, and bloodthirsty to the core. She seeks out ghosts and even the ability to see them herself. She revels in causing pain. In short, she is a flat character. She has no intriguing backstory, redeeming motives, or even moments of uncertainty; she's just horrible. This flatness, or simpleness, is a great exception to the many other utterly unique and delightful, oxymoronic and relatable, complex characters that inhabit Koontz's books. Full review at: (...)

Odd is so likable and we so want him to be able to overcome and be happy. But life is here to throw

more wrenches in his way. Some spoilers if you haven't read Book One, *Odd Thomas*, which you should before reading this one. This is a good, if quieter and slower-paced read than *ODD THOMAS*. We still have Odd with his dead-seeing power and his good heart that wants to help, even if it puts him at risk. This time, rather than major bodach-thrilling carnage, we have someone Odd cares about deeply in trouble--kidnapped by one whack Voodoo-ish skanky beauty. Odd, we know (as the series continues) will overcome, but as in all things, it's the how, the pace, the suspense, the characters, the why that makes stuff interesting. Koontz can write, so that's not even an issue. Koontz can plot, so we know it will have escalating danger and a ticking clock. However, Mr. Koontz seemed a bit too enamored of his research material, and I found some of the detail overwhelming. It's like I wanted to say, "Enough about the tunnel already, or the hotel, or the this or the that." The amount of setting descriptive detail, while understandably some being needed for placing the reader in the situation, did feel excessive. I skimmed A LOT in spots. One quibble: If this Danny was such a dear, close, valuable friend, how come he was, like, not around in the first book? I know, I know, authorial license to add and enrich a character who continues in a successful series, but I had a hard time accepting this guy was like "a brother" when he's dumped on us out of the blue. In a novel that leaves us with an Odd with lots of time to reflect (as we read endlessly about some setting details), what shone for me in his ponderings was the seriousness of Odd asking some cosmic questions. Questions that evil makes us ask. I really thought Koontz did a great job of anchoring the metaphysical with the physical. He's great at metaphors, so no surprise. Anyway, by the end of this part of his story, Odd comes to some serious cosmic recognitions. As his writer pal says: He already knows. He must just recognize. After facing another example of human evil, Odd faces the truths he already knew. And that many of us readers know, too. By the end, he's ready for a different phase of life, a change, and so we'll go on with Odd to his next place and quest. He's a terrific character, one we can love and root for and one we wish to continue to learn about. This is a good read. This has some thrilling moments. This has some scary moments. This has some heartwarming moments. But the book is not as page-turningly paced as the first, and for those of us who really like to whip the pages...like me...one star off.

Nice sequel to *Odd Thomas*. The book itself is a solid 4 star read. I ordered the audio book which gets 1 star. The last three chapters of disc 5 and part of the first chapter of disc 6 are ruined with a nearly constant hiss. It sounds like an am radio station that gets static when you get too near overhead electric or telephone wires. I made the mistake of ordering the entire series of on audio book, by the time I got around to book two in the series, the return period elapsed. So now I'm

stuck with the discs. I'll donate them to the library...

This one was pretty good. Probably my second least favorite of the series, which is a titled reserved for book 3; however, with that being said, even my lesser favorite novels are still really good. I've completely enjoyed reading the entire series. In this novel we are still near Pico Mundo, where the events and characters from the first novel were. After finishing the series and looking back at this one, I can now see how it could fit in the complete story line, which has given me a deeper respect of this particular story. If you read the first book, and are considering reading the whole series, just work through books 2 & 3. The rest of the series will completely make it worthwhile. It's a very fun series to get involved with.

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