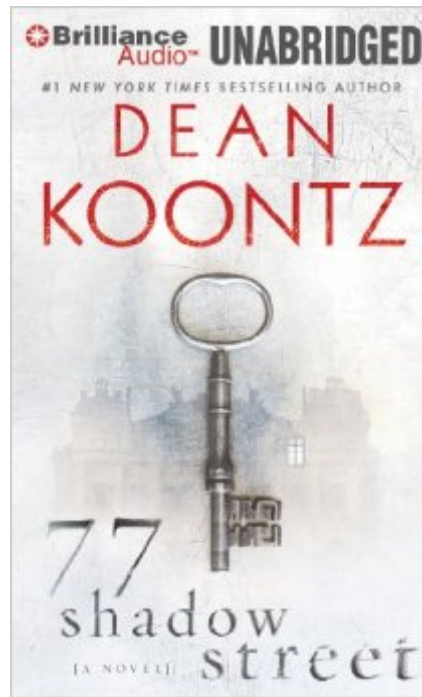


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77 Shadow Street



Synopsis

The Pendleton stands on the summit of Shadow Hill at the highest point of an old heartland city, a Gilded Age palace built in the late 1800s as a tycoon's dream home. Almost from the beginning, its grandeur has been scarred by episodes of madness, suicide, mass murder, and whispers of things far worse. But since its rechristening in the 1970s as a luxury apartment building, the Pendleton has been at peace. For its fortunate residents—a successful songwriter and her young son, a disgraced ex-senator, a widowed attorney, and a driven money manager among them—the Pendleton's magnificent quarters are a sanctuary, its dark past all but forgotten. But now inexplicable shadows caper across walls, security cameras relay impossible images, phantom voices mutter in strange tongues, not-quite-human figures lurk in the basement, elevators plunge into unknown depths. With each passing hour, a terrifying certainty grows: Whatever drove the Pendleton's past occupants to their unspeakable fates is at work again. Soon, all those within its boundaries will be engulfed by a deadly tide from which few have escaped. Dean Koontz transcends all expectations as he takes listeners on a gripping journey to a place where nightmare visions become real—and where a group of singular individuals hold the key to humanity's destiny. Welcome to 77 Shadow Street. Praise for the narration of 77 Shadow Street by Dean Koontz, performed by Peter Berkrot: "Narrator Peter Berkrot opens the creaking door and invites listeners inside with a gentle, unassuming voice. Ignore that dark thing you saw out of the corner of your eye—it's just a trick of the light. Berkrot performs with skill and assurance as strange voices, eerie sights, and inexplicable things take over the posh mansion." © AudioFile 2012, Portland, Maine

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dean Koontz's 77 SHADOW STREET is not an easy book to describe. On the one hand, it's a fairly familiar haunted house tale in which generations of residents at a posh Victorian mansion are sucked into a terrible nightmare. On the other hand, it's Koontz's little jab at the modern world, which he sees as disintegrating around us, leaving us unprepared to combat the ultimate forces of evil. The house itself, once called Belle Vista and now the Pendleton, happens to have been constructed on something Koontz calls a "space-time trapdoor," which opens every 38 years to suck in the hapless people unlucky enough to be in the vicinity. This can be scary, if a bit derivative (you'll be reminded of THE SHINING, 1408, THE MIST, and even the TV series AMERICAN HORROR STORY). There's an evil presence called "One" (who wants ultimate dominion), and another called "Witness" (who will help him achieve it). There are creepy creatures galore, and a few really grotesque happenings. But somehow the novel didn't work for me. The biggest problem with 77 SHADOW STREET is the way Koontz tells his story. There is a huge cast of characters, which are introduced slowly over the first half of the book through a series of vignettes told from differing perspectives. At first it's difficult to keep track of all of them; it's also difficult to get very attached to any of them.

As a huge fan of Dean Koontz, I could scarcely contain my anticipation while waiting for the release of his latest offering. I was looking forward to a heart-racing romp through the unknown with one of my favorite authors, so I cleared the decks of all book-interfering obligations, poured myself a glass of my favorite beverage, and settled in for a good read. I doggedly kept at it thinking "77" must just be a slow starter or that my mood wasn't right, but after all is said and done, this is one of the worst books I've read in a very long time. I don't normally write reviews, but I'm an avid reader of them, especially when approaching authors new to me. I've come to rely on my invisible friends to help identify the stars and the stinkers. When I find someone who likes the same books I do and for the same reasons, I'll go look at their other reviews for hints about what to read next. Folks, my disappointment with this book was so huge, that I found my voice. No, I take that back. I felt compelled to issue a warning to the virtual community of people who enjoy the written word: If you are looking for Dean Koontz, you will not find him here. Instead of being caught up in the suspense, my mind kept puzzling over how this book ever got published and what on earth was the editor doing. Who kidnapped Dean Koontz and when will they release him? His reading public is worried

and anxiously awaits his return. You can read the other reviews for a summary, but my personal experience is that I had a very difficult time reading this to completion. My thoughts would wander, I would need tea, I would need to call for a dental appointment, but mostly I needed many, many little mini-naps.

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