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Twilight Eyes



Synopsis

They're out there. Waiting. Watching. Unseen by normal eyes, but all too visible to Slim MacKenzie, a young man blessed or cursed by Twilight Eyes. They're out there lurking in the darkest shadows of an eerie, moonlit carnival. Feeding their twisted needs with human suffering. And fiendishly plotting the downfall of the human race. They're out there but don't scream. They'll hear you.

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Customer Reviews

Chilling...superbly scary! -- Los Angeles Times --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The books of Dean Koontz are published in 38 languages, and worldwide sales top 400 million copies. Eleven of his novels have risen to number one on the New York Times hardcover bestseller list, and several have been adapted into feature films and TV miniseries. Dean and Gerda Koontz live in southern California with their golden retriever, Anna, grand-niece of the famous and beloved Trixie.

I have become very disenchanted with Dean Koontz over the last few years; his recent work, in my opinion, leaves a great deal to be desired, and is overly preachy to boot. I look back on his earlier work with rather more affection, especially *Twilight Eyes*. This is one of those rare books I can go back and reread every few years, and still enjoy it nearly as much as I did the first time I read it. It

stands out from most of Koontz' work, mainly because here he eschews most of the trademarks he brings to almost everything he writes. Most of Koontz' books A) are set in California, B) have protagonists in their thirties, C) have a dog (especially a Golden Retriever, which Koontz seems to think is the noblest being in the animal kingdom), D) have a psychopathic human villain whose point of view is elaborately depicted, with extensive justification for his atrocious acts. Here the hero and heroine are just a couple of years either side of twenty, rather than Koontz' usual thirtysomethings, and the story takes place on the east coast (mostly Pennsylvania coal mining country). In fact, not only does the action take place elsewhere than Koontz' preferred southern California setting, he even set it in the past: the early sixties -- probably owing to the impossibility of having a freak show in this carnival if it had been set in the eighties when the book was written, and such attractions were no longer considered socially acceptable. A couple of his trademarks that he does bring in here are the "heroine with the traumatic childhood," and "patient and understanding hero who helps the heroine overcome her traumatic childhood." Still, these trademarks are a bit less heavy handed than in some of his other books, and he's not remotely as preachy here as he got to be later in his career. The story itself is an interesting one, where the teenaged hero can sense the presence of beings he calls "goblins" who can perfectly masquerade as ordinary human beings, but who are filled with hatred and loathing of humankind, and derive their sole pleasure from the anguish and suffering they inflict on the ordinary humans around them. The main character runs away to join a traveling carnival after he kills one of them in his home town, forever cutting himself off from "straight" society, and forcing him to make a life for himself among the carnies. This ultimately proves of great use to him in his crusade against the goblin-kind. The carnival setting also does much to set this book apart from Koontz' more usual fare, and makes it interesting in its own right as well. The explanation for the existence of the goblins turns out to be scientific rather than supernatural, and even though it is very farfetched, one can still suspend disbelief easily and enjoy the story. All in all, it's one of Koontz' more unusual and entertaining stories, and I recommend it.

This is one of my favorite books by Dean Koontz, along with "From The Corner of His Eye" "Tick Tock", and the "Odd Thomas" series. A lot of Koontz's stuff seems like it was written off of some ideas just changed up a little. Not being hard on Dean Koontz as I have read a ton of his books. But this one and the others I have mentioned seem exceptional to me.

Carl Stanfeuss was born with Twilight Eyes, a color his grandmother said foretold of psychic abilities. After murdering his uncle Denton at the tender age of seventeen, Carl flees Oregon,

shedding his name to become Slim MacKenzie, and join up with the Sombra Brothers Carnival. Of course, it wasn't bad that he murdered his uncle ... because his uncle was one of Them. The goblins. From his psychic abilities, Slim can see the piggish, doggish faces of the goblins hiding underneath the façade of normal humans. They live off the pain and suffering of others, gathering with glee at fires, accidents, shootings, and disasters. Once with Sombra Brothers, Slim goes to work for concessionaire Rya Raines running the High-Striker, and falls in love with the icy beauty. Among the others he meets is enigmatic freak Joel Tuck (the most compelling character in the book), and after discovering both Joel and Rya can see the "goblins" also, they set a plan in motion to infiltrate one of the horrid monster's nests in the town of Yontsdown. Unsure if they can actually rid the world of the beasts, Slim and Rya plan to extract vengeance from them for the death of Jelly Jordan, one of their friends. The book has an explosive culmination that won't leave you disappointed. The "goblins" are all too easy to imagine from Koontz's descriptions, and the depictions of carnival life well fleshed out without being overdone. Joel Tuck is my favorite character, Koontz describing the freak's appearance as "God having a bad day" or, worse, "fun with molding flesh". Koontz doesn't usually write in first person, which makes this a unique novel among all the others he's done. It's also an earlier novel of his, written before he developed a 'Stephen King' predilection for 'verbal diarrhea', overwriting his stories to the point where prose overcame the actual story. 'Twilight Eyes' is an adventuresome novel with a unique storyline and well written enough to keep you up all night long. I highly recommend it. Enjoy!

Great story with memorable characters and an easy to follow storyline. I've always been fascinated by the carny lifestyle and this book definitely fed that craving. I would have enjoyed a bit more insight into the carnival, maybe a chapter or two on the trip back to Gibtown, who knows what hijinx could occur. Regardless, it was a great book and a fine example of Koontz's work. Definitely recommend this one.

Twilight Eyes was the first of several Koontz novels that I've read. I saw the book in an antique and used book store and the cover grabbed my attention. I later found out, after becoming a Koontz fan, that the author has been fascinated with the carnival since childhood and it shows in this book. The story is centered around a young man named Slim MacKenzie who has a gift, Twilight Eyes. The story pulls you into the life of a carnie, and into the life of a boy who sees what few can, the true identity of the living on earth. Koontz pulls you right into the story after the 1st chapter, something he excels at. The carnival and characters are "rich" and real. You can smell the cotton candy and the

feel the dust kicked up from the carnival walkways in you're lungs. The "Demons" are also painted vividly and the suspense of battles between Slim and these evil beings is great as well. The story moves at a slow and steady pace and although I felt the ending could have been better this still remains my favorite Koontz book to date. If you love the carnival like I do or are looking to hop into the world of Dean Koontz I highly recommend this book. I plan on reading it again soon! Enjoy!

great book joe

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