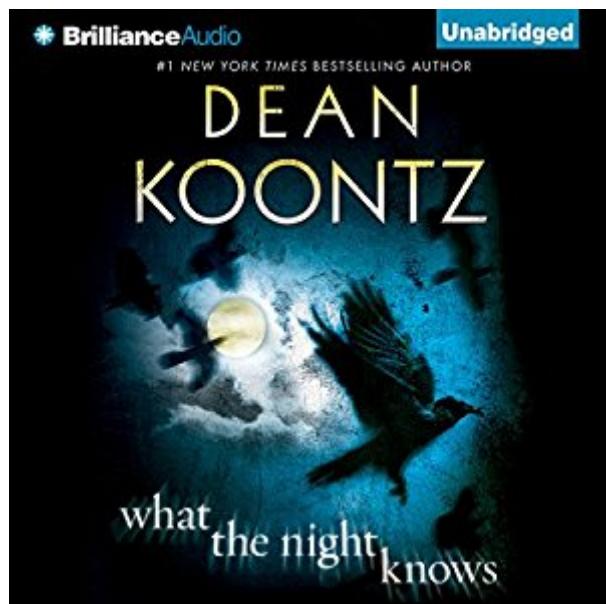


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# What The Night Knows



## **Synopsis**

In the late summer of a long-ago year, a killer arrived in a small city. His name was Alton Turner Blackwood, and in the space of a few months he brutally murdered four families. His savage spree ended only when he himself was killed by the last survivor of the last family, a 14-year-old boy. Half a continent away and two decades later, someone is murdering families again, re-creating in detail Blackwood's crimes. Homicide detective John Calvino is certain that his own family - his wife and three children - will be targets in the fourth crime, just as his parents and sisters were victims on that distant night when he was 14 and killed their slayer. As a detective, John is a man of reason who deals in cold facts. But an extraordinary experience convinces him that sometimes death is not a one-way journey, that sometimes the dead return. Here is a ghost story like no other you have read. In the Calvinos, Dean Koontz brings to life a family that might be your own, in a war for their survival against an adversary more malevolent than any he has yet created, with their own home the battleground. Of all his acclaimed novels, none exceeds *What the Night Knows* in power, in chilling suspense, and in sheer mesmerizing storytelling.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Possibly the worst book I've ever read by Dean Koontz. Slow, sluggish, a very hard read. I kept reading just to see if it would get better. I finally finished it and the end of the book is as stupid as the rest of the book. I'm now reading one of those Odd Thomas books and I hope he hasn't lost his touch on that series. Other than him knowing absolutely nothing about guns and bullets and making

mistakes that only a person that never shot a gun would make, I have enjoyed most of his books. This one is a real stinker. He also seems to enjoy showing off his vocabulary by using words that could be replaced by common phrases.

After purchasing the eBook, and (unfortunately) missing the cutoff for being able to return it, if I hadn't read a review somewhere that'd mentioned there was a huge supernatural element constructing this novel (reason for wanting to return), I wouldn't have known it from the opening pages. I'm not really a fan of supernatural, so at the beginning the fact that this treaded supernatural lines came as a delightful surprise. The interview with Billy Lucas hooked me. It was chilling, suspenseful, and thought-provoking, each word causing me to wonder more and more why this seemingly perfect 14 year old murdered his family with every, rushed turn of the page.

Unfortunately, even though we eventually find out that Billy wasn't "truly" in control of himself that night (enter supernatural elements), I wasn't 100% happy with the reasoning as to why Alton Turner Blackwood became a serial killer. Koontz wrote a solid case for Blackwood's disturbingly sick nature through a slew of journal entries within the novel. I'll give him that. Very twisted, still believable stuff. But, when Koontz really turns over the angst card, throwing in the complications regarding the supernatural powers, somewhere along my reading journey, the suspension chain of believability was broken, tarnished beyond repair. I get that whilst reading we're supposed to let go of everything we know, open up our minds to ideas we never thought possible (especially in a novel such as this), but it all became way too much to take in. I think this is because (for me, at least) it didn't feel 100% supernatural to begin with. Either way, as I continued to read on, certain scenes and such continued to ring false, overdone. Up until around the two-hundredth or so page, the pacing was all-consuming. I thought I was going to give myself a nervous breakdown due to how fast I was grinding through the novel. In classic Dean Koontz fashion, the literary master of words had me pining to find out what was going on. But, sadly (dead smack in the middle of the story, no less), the tale all but came to a complete standstill. It's as though it branched off from Calvino (which whom I must note I dug immensely--he reeked true detective), to the rest of his family members: the artsy wife, his three kids, etc. At one point I was waiting to hear about Grover, the family dog. The story and all its beautiful tension lost its way, the plot doing nothing but riddling my mind with confusion. From there on, the book never gripped me the way in which it did in the first half, never quite gave me the same deep, terrifying bone-shivers it initially did in the opening scenes. Nonetheless, Koontz rallies toward the finish line, eventually bringing everything full circle in an overall satisfactory read. This is a book in which I believe "most" Koontz followers will enjoy. That said: someone new to him might not be as

generous. Though this one wasn't a true winner for me, I'll forever remain a fan of anything in which Mr. Koontz puts out into the universe for me to enjoy. Happy reading!

This book starts well, then becomes less so. On one side the journals of the psycho are chilling & very good.. The protagonist's involvement with the killer at a mental hospital and the scene surrounding the first murdered family are spot on. However the story changes quickly. The main character, John, a homicide detective dealing with the killer, returns home to a self involved family. They seem not real at all. Rather they come across as plastic and I had a very difficult time identifying or getting involved with them. All their needs as a perfect little upper middle class life is in place. The three children are also bright and perfect. The artistic wife; the same Her perfection revolves around making a small fortune selling her artwork. She is the perfectly attractive woman, as well. Their dog is even perfect, as is the two person house staff. The main character is the husband who is terribly emotionally scarred. Some 20 years earlier, as a boy, his family was slaughtered as well. They seem to need never leave the perfect little world under the roof. It's just not a real setting. I almost closed the reading there. The plastic family is in touch with the outside, it seems, only when necessary. There are chapters given to the antagonist, psychotic murderer who seemingly re-surfaces after a long hiatus. There are excerpts from his journal which delve into his early life. I found those to be the most interesting parts of the novel. Though, when he re-surfaces, to begin his crimes anew a little less supernatural would have done well. The family itself and their dealings with him really never waiver far from their "Perfect" status and become truly boring. Wholly, the book is so-so. The ending is nothing special at all. It's just there. The saving grace is Koontz writing style, which is good given the book is not. Kindle readers beware. The novel ends at around 88%. The remainder is given to a preview of another Koontz book.

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