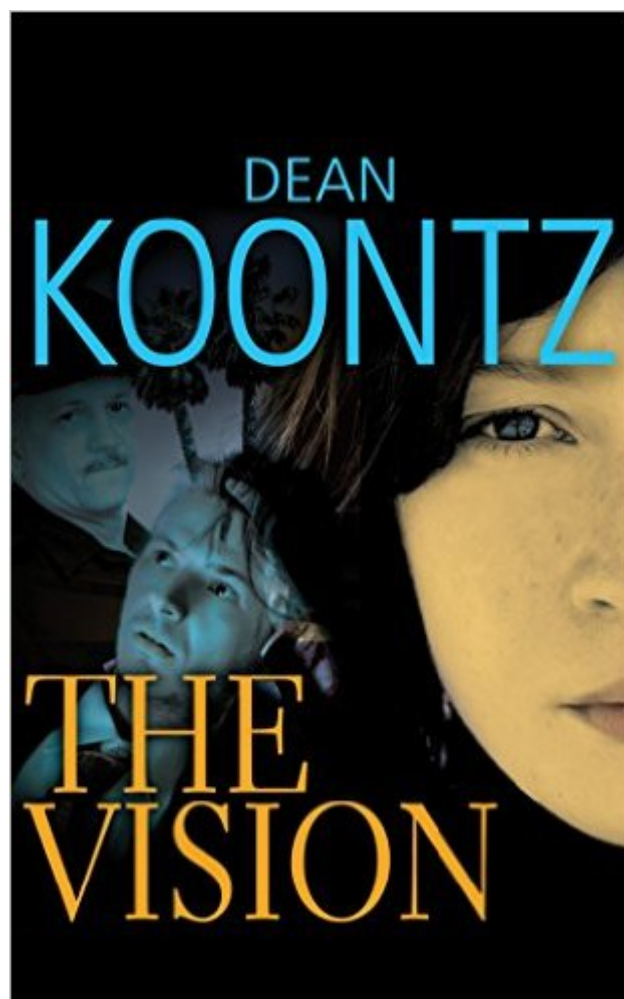


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# The Vision



## Synopsis

With more than 200 million copies of his novels sold, Dean Koontz is an undisputed master. And in *The Vision*, he once again displays the talent that led the Chicago Sun-Times to call him "brilliant" and the San Diego Union-Tribune to praise his "always riveting" writing and his "wonderfully fiendish" plots. *The Vision* is one of Dean Koontz's early novels is a chilling look into the paranormal and what occurs when a psychic channels the mind of a crazed killer. Mary Bergen, a gifted clairvoyant, uses her psychic ability and haunting visions to help the police solve crimes both past and present while feeling powerless to stop the murders, until she envisions her own death.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Yes, this book explains why I would never want to be psychic. Too much stress!! However, psychics make for great stories & good reading! This book is about a woman who basically spends most of her time helping the police catch criminals using her psychic powers. It's not something she even really enjoys, it keeps her up at night & it's stressful on her marriage- however, she can't stop the visions. Especially the one, the one that seems to be trying to tell her something, the one leading her to evil...to someone she is close to. This book is a quick read, only about 300 pages, which is small for Koontz. It goes by in a flash, it'll keep you guessing until the end. I'll admit- I had two guesses on who I thought the "bad guy" was, one was right, but the ending still surprised me.

In this slim novel, originally written in the late 1970s, many of the standard elements of Koontz's

better work appear: psychic ability, a romantic element, gripping prose. However -- and maybe this is because I have read several other, recent novels -- I found this one predictable. The story revolves around psychic Mary Bergen's vision of several murders that seem to have familiar victims (although she can't nail down why the victims are familiar to her). She is also torn between loyalty to her brother, Alan, and her new husband, Max, who don't get along. The setting is the Christmas season, and this provides the right weather conditions -- rain and cold -- and the right contrast -- happy season v. grisly murders -- to keep the reader's interest to see what will happen next. Unfortunately -- at least for me -- I pretty much guessed 'whodunit' in the beginning, so although I doubted myself a couple of times (kudos to Koontz), I enjoyed the 'why' more than the 'who'. The end is gripping, and the fate of the core characters is up in the air. Good, but not his best.

This book completely took over my rainy afternoon and turned into a study in fascinating mystery! The central character of this book is Mary Bergen, a sweet, sensitive, psychic. She endured a torture at the tender age of 6 that she can't remember. Through the physical and emotional trauma at that tender age, she developed psychic ability. She uses that psychic ability to help police solve homicide cases and find the killers. With her during these endeavors is her devoted brother Alan, always at her side, pained with concern over her. Also there is her tough, but tender husband, Max. Max is depicted as a tough character with eyes of cold steel that only show tenderness when he is with Mary. Of course Alan and Max don't get along, each hating the other. Soon a series of brutal murders begin to take place. Mary sees the crimes committed, can feel the pain of the young women who are murdered, but never manages to develop a vision of the killer's face. Soon, she knows, this killer is going to come after her. Can she solve this series of brutal crimes before she becomes the next victim? This story is well written but short enough to read in a single day. Koontz crafts characters that you genuinely care about, and some fearsome, evil characters as well. None are comic book, stereotype characters, which makes them all the more believable. The story is so well told that it'll draw you in and keep you held in its grip until the brutal end.

I found this book to be fairly mediocre in the main, however, some parts (towards the end in particular) made it worthwhile reading. The story revolves around Mary Bergen, a clairvoyant who has visions so terrifying she blocks them out before she can find out their true meaning. It is then assumed these visions could actually be of her own death. Throughout the book Koontz leaves many clues to who this potential killer may be, many of them misleading. So basically it ends with you trying to figure out who the bad guy could possibly be. Although I was tricked into thinking it was

the wrong guy the eventual conclusion is fairly obvious(that is unless you are stupid like me). I would certainly recommend this book but it is one of Dean's earliest and personally I have enjoyed the books he has written over more recent years such as; Fear Nothing, Intensity and Strange Highways etc...

The Vision is more a mystery than horror novel. It's about a psychic woman named Mary who spends her time helping the police track down criminals. She was traumatized as a child (like so many Koontz characters tend to be) but has been repressing the memory of it from herself. She can remember being raped and beaten by the family gardener, who later hung himself in his jail cell, but she also recalls the sound of wings beating and she can't recall the source and what it had to do with the attack on her. Meanwhile a serial killer is on the loose, but she's unable to fix an image of him in her head for the police. She's never had so much trouble trying to identify a killer before this, and try as she might, she just can't call up a picture of him in her mind. She's having constant nightmares and is haunted by the mysterious sound of leathery wings that has haunted her since her attack. But now she senses that the sound of wings is connected to this serial killer. Is her childhood attacker really dead? Is the killer possessed by his spirit? What is the source of the sound of wings, and how is it connected to her childhood attacker and the serial killer? I was shocked at the identity of the killer, but I see that many people found it obvious, so now I'm feeling a bit slow. I didn't see it coming a mile away. The killer was absolutely disgusting, and what happened to Mary as a child is nauseating. The Vision is not one of Koontz's best, but it was an enjoyable two day read. The same can be said about other Koontz books from the 70's, such as Shattered and The Face Of Fear. I feel that Koontz's best will always be Intensity and Watchers. I'm now moving on to my 23rd Dean Koontz-The Servants Of Twilight.

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