



False Memory: A Novel

By Dean Koontz

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False Memory: A Novel By Dean Koontz

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

No fan of Dean Koontz or of psychological suspense will want to miss this extraordinary novel of the human mind's capacity to torment—and destroy—itself.

It's a fear more paralyzing than falling. More terrifying than absolute darkness. More horrifying than anything you can imagine. It's the one fear you cannot escape no matter where you run . . . no matter where you hide.

It's the fear of yourself. It's real. It can happen to you. And facing it can be deadly.

False Memory . . . Fear for your mind.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Not a continuation of the *Moonlight Bay* series (*Seize the Night* and *Fear Nothing*) as many fans were expecting, *False Memory* is nonetheless just as powerful and compulsive as anything Koontz has written before.

Martie Rhodes is a successful young computer games designer with a loving husband, Dusty, and a seemingly normal life. Her best friend, Susan, however, suffers from agoraphobia, or a fear of open spaces, and relies on Martie to take her to weekly therapy sessions. Suddenly and inexplicably, Martie herself begins exhibiting worrying signs of a mental disorder, fearing herself capable of inflicting great harm on her loved ones. At the same time, Dusty's brother Skeet also succumbs to irrational mental behavior and tries to throw himself from a roof. It soon becomes clear that these four characters are involved in something much more than a sinister coincidence.

Koontz's great skill, as he demonstrates so well in this novel, is creating believable characters and thrusting them into seemingly impossible but--for the period of the story--completely plausible situations. The plot is as carefully layered as the most intricate orchestral compositions, and Koontz conducts the proceedings with almost unbearable tension. One of his greatest abilities as a writer, however, is tapping into the dark paranoia of society. As we approach the Millennium, and an age in which we are becoming increasingly desensitized to death and violence, Martie's fear of herself, known as autophobia, seems a terrifying warning that soon the only thing we will have left to fear is ourselves.

Deeper meanings aside, this is easily one of his best thrillers. The prose moves at a breakneck speed, and the denouement will leave you with a pounding heart and chills up and down your spine. Koontz delivers exciting, boundary-breaking fiction better than anyone else in the game, and *False Memory* (though at times shocking and disturbing) is a perfect example of a master author in top form. --*Jonathan Weir, Amazon.co.uk*

From Library Journal

Koontz's latest offering centers around evil and powerful psychiatrist Dr. Mark Ahriman, who has developed an effective procedure for "brainwashing" his clients that he uses for fun and profit. Husband and wife Dusty and Martie Rhodes, themselves among the victims of the drug-and- hypnosis-based method, become aware slowly, through a series of accidents, of the doctor's malevolent influence. They struggle, sometimes against themselves, to discredit and defeat him. Koontz's legion of fans will recognize again his skill at making the improbable seem possible, and even likely. Actor Stephen Lang reads with skill, especially the chilling inner and outer voice of the psychopathic doctor. Recommended for purchase as demand warrants. AKristen L. Smith, Loras Coll. Lib., Dubuque, IA

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From Kirkus Reviews

Koontz widens his canvas dramatically while dimming the hard brilliance common to his shorter winners: 1995's taut masterpiece, *Intensity*, and 1998's moon-drenched midsummer nightmare, *Seize the Night*. This time the author takes up mind control, wiring his tale into the brainwashing epics *The Manchurian Candidate* and last spring's film *The Matrix*. The laser-beam brightness of his earlier bestsellers fades, however, as he stuffs each scene with draining chitchat and extra plotting that seldom rings with novelty. Martie "Martie" Rhodes, a video-game designer, has developed a rare mental disorder: autophobia, fear of oneself. Meanwhile, her husband Dusty's young half-brother, Skeet Caulfield, has

decided to jump off the roof of a building the two men are repairing because Skeet has seen the Angel of the next world, who has revealed that things are pretty wonderful there, and he wants to come on over. Martie's best friend, real-estate agent Susan Jagger, is newly coping with agoraphobia, fear of the outdoors. What's more, Susan knows she's being visited and raped at night by her separated husband, Eric, although all her doors and windows are locked. She can't remember these rapes, but her panties are stained with semen. So when she sets up a camcorder to record her sleeping hours, she gets a huge surprise after viewing the tape. How these mental and physical events have come about ditto the psychiatric background of the Keanuphobe millionairess who shows up (yes! she fears Keanu Reeves) has something to do with the ladies' psychiatrist, Dr. Mark Ahriman, the son of a famous dead movie director whose eyes the doctor keeps in a bottle of formaldehyde and studies, in hopes of siphoning off Dad's inspiration. Although the whole story could have been told to better effect in 300 pages, Koontz deftly sidesteps clichs of expression while nonetheless applying an air pump to the suspense: an MO that keeps his yearly 17-million book sales afloat. -- *Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Fabiola Stewart:

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Kermit Diaz:

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