

If You Like Dean Koontz ...



Few best-selling authors blend elements of as many genres as Dean Koontz does in his blockbuster novels that combine Suspense with Horror, Fantasy, and Thrillers. He is an author who refuses to be slotted in any single genre. Whatever he writes, he envelopes readers in a cloak of lush, evocative language and atmosphere. His stories often focus on the battle between good and evil, and his characters are placed against nearly impossible odds from which they emerge victorious. These hard-edged stories create a menacing atmosphere and nightmare tone but end on an optimistic note with good triumphant over evil. (Courtesy of Joyce Sarricks & Novelist)

Darwin's Radio by Greg Bear

Molecular biologist Kaye Lang has a theory on human retroviruses and it has just been verified with the discovery of SHEVA, a virus that has slept in our DNA for millions of years and is now waking up. Kaye and her colleagues must race against a genetic time bomb in this international adventure taking place in a cave high in the Alps and in Southern Russia. Also try [Darwin's Children](#) and [Vitals](#).

Running With the Demon by Terry Brooks

In small town Hopewell, Illinois a major showdown between good and evil is about to take place. Fourteen-year-old Nest Freemark knows little of her dead parents, having been raised by her grandmother, and even less about why she can see evil creatures in the park and woods when no one else can. Her six-inch-high friend, Pick, a sylvan, helps her keep an eye on things, but it seems that darkness is ready to burst out upon the light. Knight of the Word, John Ross, is on his way to Hopewell, drawn to help defeat the evil demon before it gains control over Nest. This trilogy continues with [Knight of the Word](#). Brooks also bridges this series and his *Shannara* series with [Armageddon's Children](#).

The Passage by Justin Cronin (Adult Fiction)

First, the unthinkable: a security breach at a secret U.S. government facility unleashes the monstrous product of a chilling military experiment. Then, the unspeakable: a night of chaos and carnage gives way to sunrise on a world forever altered. As civilization swiftly crumbles into a primal landscape of predators and prey, two people flee in search of sanctuary. FBI agent Brad Wolgast is a good man haunted by what he's done in the line of duty. Six-year-old orphan Amy Bellafonte is a refugee from the doomed scientific project that has triggered apocalypse. He is determined to protect her from the horror set loose by her captors.

You Don't Scare Me by John Farris

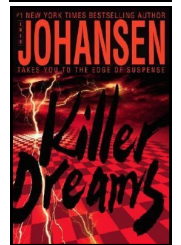
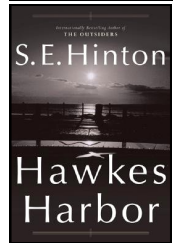
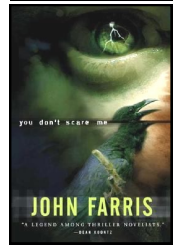
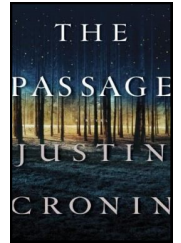
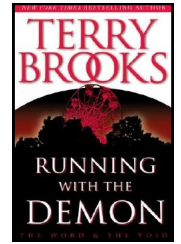
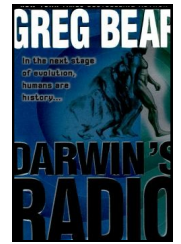
Chase Emrick was fourteen when her mother married Crow Tillman. Maybe it was his creepy name, or his glass eye that he kept covered with a black eye patch, or maybe it was the rattlesnake tattoo that curled around his left wrist onto his hand, but for some reason, Chase just knew Crow Tillman was pure evil. Now, Crow Tillman is ten years dead, but he hasn't stopped haunting Chase Emrick. Everyone she's ever been close to suffers horrible fates, leaving Chase all alone in this world. Haunted by Crow, she has spent the last ten years of her life proving that a dimension lies unseen in our reality - one where the dead can inflict their will on the living: a netherworld of horror where Crow Tillman is in complete control. Also try [Phantom Nights](#).

Hawke's Harbor by S. E. Hinton (Adult Fiction)

Conceived in adultery and born in sin, Jamie Sommers was destined to repeat the sins of his parents -or so the nuns told him. And he proved them right. Taking to sea, Jamie sought out danger and adventure in exotic ports all over the world as a smuggler, gunrunner-and murderer. Tough enough to handle anything, he's survived foreign prisons, pirates, and a shark attack. But in a quiet seaside town in Delaware, Jamie discovered something that was enough to drive him insane-and change his life forever. For it was in Hawke's Harbor that Jamie came face to face with the ultimate evil....

Killer Dreams by Iris Johansen (Adult Fiction)

If you close your eyes, he'll get you. Sophie Dunston knows all too well how dreams can kill. As one of the nation's top sleep therapists, she specializes in the life-threatening night terrors that her ten-year-old son, Michael, suffers from. But she is also an expert in another kind of terror--the kind that can turn a dream life into a living nightmare in the blink of an eye. Also try [Pandora's Daughter](#).



Desperation by Stephen King

In *Desperation*, Nevada an alien force has slaughtered everyone in town and is now in the body of a patrol cop who picks up two motorists. One is a burned-out novelist and the other an eleven-year-old boy who hears the voice of God. In true King fashion, the story features a small cast of likable yet deeply flawed protagonists that may or may not make it to the final page in one piece. Also try the companion novel, in which characters may have the same names and occupations, but very different personalities, [The Regulators](#), written under King's pen name Richard Bachman, as well as any other King novel, including psychological thriller [Dolores Claiborne](#).

The Lake by Richard Laymon

Although a bit more hardcore and gruesome than Koontz usually is, Laymon's strength is writing about adolescents. In this story, mother Leigh is forced to confront her horrifying past when her eighteen-year-old daughter Deana, while hanging out at the lake during the summer, is tormented by a sadistic killer who plunges them both into a world of terror and insanity, making them beg for death. Also try [Darkness, Tell Us](#).

Swan Song by Robert McCammon

In a wasteland born of rage and fear, populated by monstrous creatures and marauding armies, earth's last survivors have been drawn into the final battle between good and evil, that will decide the fate of humanity: Sister, who discovers a strange and transformative glass artifact in the destroyed Manhattan streets ... Joshua Hutchins, the pro wrestler who takes refuge from the nuclear fallout at a Nebraska gas station ... and Swan, a young girl possessing special powers, who travels along Josh to a Missouri town where healing and recovery can begin with Swan's gift. Also try [Boy's Life](#) and [Speaks the Nightbird](#).

Creepers by David Morrell (Adult Fiction)

On a cold October night, five people gather in a rundown motel on the Jersey shore to make preparations to break into a nearby abandoned hotel--built by a reclusive millionaire during Asbury Park's golden days--but the group of urban explorers, joined for the evening by a reporter, are unprepared for the danger, terror, and death awaiting. The sequel is [Scavenger](#).

Brimstone by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child (Adult Fiction)

In an exotic mansion, Jeremy Grove's charred remains are discovered in an otherwise locked and barricaded room. The area smells of brimstone, and singed into the floorboard appears to be a cloven hoofprint. According to rumor, Jeremy made a Faustian pact with Satan in his youth. Did the Dark Lord finally demand payment? The *Diogenes* trilogy continues with [Dance of Death](#), also try the other *Pendergast* novels starting with [Relic](#).

Manhattan Hunt Club by John Saul

When Jeff Converse is convicted and sentenced to prison for an assault he didn't commit, he believes matters couldn't get any worse. Of course, he's wrong. While being transported to prison, he's kidnapped and thrown into the tunnels below the New York subway system, where he's the latest participant in a game in which humans are hunted for sport by a group of the city's business and civic leaders. The only way Jeff can win is to make it to the surface alive, which, not surprisingly, proves more difficult than it sounds. Also try [Nightshade](#).

A Winter Haunting by Dan Simmons

Returning to the small Illinois town of his childhood to pick up the pieces of his shattered life, and regain his confidence as a writer, Professor Dale Stewart leases an empty farmhouse of a long-dead friend, who had been murdered in the summer of 1960, but instead of finding peace and quiet, he finds that the house is haunted. Simmons is also known for being able to write across genres, often combining elements of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, and Mystery. Also try [Song of Kali](#) or [The Terror](#).

Lost Boy, Lost Girl by Peter Straub

A woman commits suicide for no apparent reason. A week later, her son - beautiful, troubled fifteen-year-old Mark Underhill - vanishes from the face of the earth. To his uncle, horror novelist Timothy Underhill, Mark's inexplicable absence feels like a second death. After his sister-in-law's funeral, Tim searches his hometown for clues that might help unravel this mystery of death and disappearance. He soon learns that a pedophilic murderer is on the loose in the vicinity, and that shortly before his mother's suicide Mark had become obsessed with an abandoned house where he imagined the killer might have taken refuge. Also try the sequel [In the Night Room](#).

The Strain by Guillermo del Toro and Chuck Hogan

The story begins onboard a grounded plane that has just landed at New York's JFK airport. Police and emergency medical crews are called to investigate the possible outbreak of a mysterious disease, which has killed all but four of the plane's passengers. Unknowingly, something more ominous is responsible for the carnage, which now threatens the city and soon the entire country. Unlike the sexy bloodsuckers of paranormal romances and the cuddly vampires of teen fiction, these undead creatures are slick, dark, and frightening. Also try [The Fall](#).

