



Watchers

Dean Koontz

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Watchers

Dean Koontz

Watchers Dean Koontz

On his thirty-sixth birthday, Travis Cornell hikes into the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains. But his path is soon blocked by a bedraggled Golden Retriever, who will let him go no further into the dark woods. That morning, Travis had been desperate to find some happiness in his lonely, seemingly cursed life. What he finds is a friend-a dog of alarming intelligence-and a threat that could only have come from the darkest corners of man's imagination...

Watchers Details

Date : Published May 8th 2008 (first published February 1987)

ISBN :

Author : Dean Koontz

Format : Kindle Edition 500 pages

Genre : Fiction, Thriller, Horror, Science Fiction, Mystery, Suspense

 [Download Watchers ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Watchers ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Watchers Dean Koontz

From Reader Review Watchers for online ebook

Richard says

3/10

I did not enjoy this book at all. I seem to be one of the few people though judging on the reviews on Goodreads and Amazon. I pretty much skimmed the last 200 pages which is the first time I've ever had to do that with a book but I knew I would be reading it all month otherwise.

The concept/plot of this book was intriguing to me and the whole ethical dilemma of animal testing with a bit of action thrown in for good measure sounded like it could be onto something. Add into that there is a Labrador running around in it then I was looking forward to it as I'm very dog friendly and was able to picture one of our Labradors as the lead.

But somewhere along the way it went bad. I could not get into this book at all. The characters weren't likable (except Einstein) and the pacing was dire. It felt like I was able to skim the last few hundred pages as I could tell when the pointless descriptions were coming and could jump to the bottom of the page and have missed nothing.

Even the ending was a bit bland and predictable. It seemed that some of the main characters in this weren't even considered until the end and were just neatly added into a passage to tie off loose endings.

The dog was the reason this kept me from putting the book down, I persevered but I probably shouldn't have. I didn't look forward to picking it up which to me made it seem more of a chore than anything. I don't think I will bother reading anymore by this author as this seems to be one of his highest rated. The only silver lining will be that the next Stephen King novel I read will feel all the better.

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

I haven't read Dean Koontz in years. I don't think I've missed much after reading this one though. BUT some of my other buddy readers think differently. They are wrong.

Dean Koontz can't even wash his panties in the same room with Stephen King.

Now that I've put that image in your head, I'll ramble some about the book. You have this lab who had been creating super smart critters to fight. They never really tell how so don't be getting your sciency on for this one. There is a hit man who is offing the scientist so that might be why Koontz doesn't tell us. Who knows?

I wanted at least a pretense of explanation. The lab has 'sired' a super smart dog and that other thing. The Outsider.

Then enter the guy character. He was sorta alright but not a character that would stick out in my head. For ex-Delta force I really expected a whole lot more bad-ass than he was.

Enter in Nora, she has lived her whole sheltered life in her mean old aunt's shadow. She has had really no contact with the outside world and is introverted as all get out. For about five minutes, because once she meets the guy she is the most beautiful woman ever and everyone wants to bang her.

All these characters are pretty annoying. The only ones I liked? The Outsider and the Dog, Einstein. I do think Einstein should have been a chihuahua though.

Chihuahuas rock. I have three and then I have the boy child's dog. (That's a whole nuther story on that one though.) But chihuahuas would have gotten this book an extra star from me. Because see how smart they are? (Blatant promotion of my own dogs coming here)

Faking sleep when tries to be made to go outside and pee in the rain: Smart!

Being Spider-Dog to try and jump in mom's plate of food: Smart!

Interupting mom's selfie taking to crawl on her shoulder wanting in the pic? Not really smart but you can't win them all.

Then the Outsider.

I wish he had ate perfect Nora and the guy and went on to make sciency babies with the dog, while they watched Mickey Mouse videos. Total win that would have been!

I read this as a buddy read with Delee, Stepheny, 2.0, Ed and Kelly.

Edward Lorn says

What started as a buddy read involving Stepheny, Dan 2.0, Delee, Kells. and Shelbs, soon descended into organized Koontz-shaming. Our seemingly harmless group excursion into one of Dean Koontz's best books became a game of Who Can Take the Hottest Squat On E.'s Childhood? That's fine, though, because Kells's and Shelbs's brains have been rotted by reading too much porn, and we all know that Dan 2.0 suffers from Ridiculous Disease, a disease that confuses fiction with real life and makes its sufferers believe that insane shit cannot happen in or around make-believe stories, unless that fiction is Harry Potter, who obviously gets a pass because wizards are the shit, yo.

I like each of the people listed above, even if they read almost everything wrong, because opinions are like Cheetos. Everybody wants to have them but no one wants to be seen with dirty hands. But Shelbs, Kells, and Dan 2.0 eat Cheetos with wild abandon, and have no problem wiping their neon-orange dusted fingers down the fronts of everything you hold dear. Seriously, you guys rock. I wouldn't change you for the world.

Needless to say, this book is awesome. It also sucks a load of donkey penis. While reading, you're likely to have a great time. It's only when you've completed this book and start another Koontz book that you realize that something has gone terribly wrong. Once you put down your second Koontz book and pick up your third, you begin shaking with terror because that feeling of unease has become sheer unadulterated terror. You throw the third book out the window and shriek after it, "Never again!" But then you pick up a fourth... and a fifth... and Tom fucking Cruise on a hydraulic crutch, you've finally realized what's happened. Dean

Koontz is a fucking hack who repeats himself in every book!

And *Watchers* is the book that started it all.

For those of you who do not know, the film version of *Watchers* was the first successful Koontz adaptation. Never mind that the world-weary Travis was played by the barely pubescent Corey Haim (who would later sell his teeth on eBay and die of a drug overdose but once had a thriving career), the film was an overall success because dogs and government-trained killers and monsters are rad! Everybody but Koontz fans liked the movie. The movie dropped a muddy deuce all over the source material, but Koontz made a few bucks. He's been trying to recreate the magic ever since. And then Koontz's Golden retriever, Trixie, died, and the poor bastard lost his fucking mind. After the death of his beloved pooch, every koontz book was about a super-smart doggie sidekick, a government-trained killer, or a monster. Sometimes all three happened. Sometimes only one of those things happened. Eventually Koontz found Odd Thomas and most Koontz fans rejoiced because, while the book was an obvious cash-grab based on the success of *The Sixth Sense*, it was original in comparison to the other bullshit Koontz had been dropping on fans from his throne on high. Odd would eventually shit the bed too, but we're not here for that. We're here to discuss *Watchers*, the best and worst thing Koontz ever did with his career.

I would hazard a guess and say that *Watchers* is the last original thing Koontz wrote. It is the end of the road when it comes to his imagination. Every book published after it can be found earlier in his career under a different title. While the character names and plots change slightly, Koontz only has ten templates with which to work. After you read more than five close together, you start to see the pattern that has made him a bestselling author. Because casual readers like the same old shit over and over again. It's comforting to know that Koontz will always deliver one of ten kinds of stories and that it will always be readable. He's the literary equivalent of a Marie Callender's pot pie. Each box contains a different meat, but the same old broth and veg baked into the same old crust. Nothing wrong with it, but you will get tired of it if you eat it every night.

In summation: A piece of my childhood that's withstood the test of time. I like it. I like it a lot. But I also know that it's kinda like saying you liked Hitler in 1936. You know, before he became *Hitler-Hitler*. People change. Dean Koontz is not Hitler, of course, but he's strayed far from the writer I once wanted to emulate. Somewhere along the way, he abandoned his imagination and succumbed to financial success. More power to him.

Final Judgment: The book that ended it all.

Jamie says

blah.... Now, I know that when someone writes a book it doesn't have to reflect real life, but does that mean that they couldn't at least try to make it seem real? Like whatever is going on in the book could really happen in the 'real' world?

Do you think that Dean Koontz could have wrote a book that wasn't so drippy with sentimentality towards his favorite breed of dog, that other people could actually get through it?

Well, I did - barely. It was soooo dang painful too. All his annoying story recipes were present such as: beautiful, perfect woman; strong, manly (yet so thoughtful)man; and technology gone awry. The point? To save one beautiful and amazingly smart golden retriever (can he talk? Oh, do you have to ask?) from a crazed and Evil baboon/pig (how evil? Evil enough to kill an amazing golden retriever, so thats pretty darn

evil). Will you wish you had spent your time doing something else? YES!!!

Stepheny says

3.5

So, I guess it's time to come clean, guys.

My name is Stepheny and I push books. *hangs head*

I know many of you had noooooo idea that I was a book pusher, but a select few have seen me doing it. It's time to clear the air once and for all. I push books because I like doing it. I like ~~foreing~~ encouraging others to read books that I love. I don't discriminate. I push books on kids, teens, adults and the elderly. I do it subtly as well as in an in-your-face manner. I push big books, small books, children's books and series. LOTS AND LOTS of series.

What happens when the pushees start to push the pusher?

She is forced to read Dean Fucking Kill Me Now Koontz.

My darling Delee, great and wonderful friend that she is, said "Ohhhhh no, Stepheny. You MUST read a Koontz book with me. I have read the Harry Potter books with you, I have read the Dark Tower books with you. It's time for you to read one for me!" So I bitched and moaned, whined and maybe even cried a bit. I tried the oldest trick in the book- procrastination!

Alas, my efforts were futile.

As much as I have programmed my brain to hate Koontz, I kind of didn't mind this one. STORYLINE-wise, anyway.

We have a depressed guy going for a hike in the woods to try to find himself. Ah, self-exploration- amIright? He is searching for meaning in his life after literally every person in his family has died and now his wife as well. But something is blocking the path.

Batman? No.

A dog. A beautiful golden retriever. But this dog is persistent and will not stop until the dude turns around(I seriously can't even remember his name. We'll call him Bob to save time and effort.) Bob turns around because something is coming at them- he senses its presence and the doggy does too.

Now we have....shit. I don't remember her name either. Honestly the dog is the only one I cared about. (#SorryDeleeNotSorry). Hmmm, let's call her Sally because essentially that's what she is. She is timid and shy and afraid of literally everything. OMG A LIGHTBULB?! That's the worst!

You guessed it- Sally and Bob meet and fall madly in love with one another. But what they discover is that this doggy is incredibly smart. Not just dog-smart, but people smart. Through a series of tests they discover this dog's story. And they name him Einstein.

Einstein was a test subject for a government agency. His level of intelligence was to be used to gain

information from other governments. Pretty fucking neat stuff right there. THIS part of the story I really enjoyed. MOSTLY because I loved Einstein and now my quest to find a brilliant doggy that can read has begun. I have a Siamese cat that howls when she wants out and stands by the food-bag when she's hungry. That's as far as I've gotten on this quest.

The search for Einstein and all of the other side stories were kind of lame. But what I will tell you is that there is another test subject meant for killing enemies of our government. And as good-hearted and sweet as Einstein the Other is just as evil and ruthless. THOUGH... (view spoiler)

I would like to thank my fellow buddy readers for giving me endless shit for being so slow while reading this.. ;) ;) My review is finally up. So there, Kelly! It wasn't 2017! Ha!

You can check out the reviews done by my favorite band of assholes here:

Shelby, Kelly, Edward, Daaaaaaaaaaan, and of course the one who pushed this book on me in the first place Delee.

??? 2.? says

★★???½

“We have a responsibility to stand watch over one another, we are watchers, all of us, watchers, guarding against the darkness.”

Travis Cornell truly believes he's cursed. Seemingly everyone he's ever loved has suffered an untimely death, including his entire army unit and more recently his wife. He's all alone in the world, scared to make any new connections, and he slowly slipping into a dark depression. He decides to take a day trip out into those Santa Ana foothills he loved so much as a youth, in an attempt to lift his spirits. He'd like to commune with nature, maybe shoot a few snakes, or shoot himself, who knows. As he's hiking down a trail, a Golden Retriever appears in his path, refusing to let him pass.

All of her life, Nora Devon has been under the thumb of her overbearing aunt. Homeschooled and locked away from the world, constantly reminded of the dangers of men. Taught to live vicariously through her books and artwork, never daring to venture out into the real world. So repressed that, even though her aunt has been dead for a few years now, she still exerts a strange hold over her. When Nora finally does decide to leave the house, she quickly realizes that everything her aunt always told her was true. She's immediately stalked and harassed by some lowlife bent on having his way with her. She's in a bad situation with no apparent means of escape, when a Golden Retriever appears in her path, just in time to thwart those advances.

Vince Nasco is a deranged hitman who believes he has a special gift which allows him to absorb the very life force of his victims. He's confident that once he's killed enough people he'll achieve immortality. One day soon a Golden Retriever may appear in his path, and put that belief to the ultimate test. *Ssssnap.*

Meanwhile, there's word of some strange goings-on over at Banodyne Laboratories. There have been a number of unexplained deaths and a lab explosion; rumors of some new technology called recombinant-

DNA. Could any of this be related to the string of grisly murders in Southern California? Why is the NSA conducting a frantic manhunt? What in the hell is going on here, and who is, "The Outsider?"

This story required much suspending of disbelief, which isn't a problem in and of itself, but when combined with mediocre writing and some cringe-worthy dialog, it's all a bit much. In particular, the scenes with the black NSA agent, Lem, yukking it up with his redneck sheriff buddy, Walt, were downright goofy. And those early sections with Travis and Nora eventually became insufferable, as he constantly had to reassure her and stroke her fragile ego. There were also a few too many dated references, and of course, all the shenanigans with the phone tracing added a lot more excitement to the tale than would have been the case with a more modern story. Unfortunately, there was also a major plot hole in the ending. (view spoiler)

Overlooking all its shortcomings, the story was still fun, in a sappy kind of way. I totally get how this could be a comfort read for those who grew up with Koontz. The love just oozes from the pages, and I was this close to actually rounding it my rating. But then I made one crucial mistake - I picked up that next Jay Porter book before writing this review and was reminded of what **good writing** looks like. Sorry guys, but Koontz is a freakin' hack, and honestly, I'm more of a German Shepherd kind of guy.

2.5 stars. If this is the best Koontz can do, I think I've seen enough. Adios Deano:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RaG7...>

"The human species is a parade of fools, after all, and I am often at the front of the parade, twirling a baton."

--Dean Koontz in the afterword

Buddy read with Eazy-E, The Lost Connection, Annie Wilkes, Boss Hogg, and the Monkey Queen.

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

Somehow I've managed to live over five and a half dog years without ever reading a Dean Koontz novel. However, when I was presented with the opportunity to do a buddy read with . . .

I jumped at the chance. What do I have to say now that I'm finished?????

I mean **LOTS** better because I really had a pretty horrible time while reading this one. In case you too have spent decades ignoring Koontz, here's the lowdown of what *Watchers* is about. We start with Travis, a supposed former Delta Force member who must have suffered some severe head trauma or something that made him no longer be awesome. Then we meet ~~Bella Swan~~ Nora. Poor Nora is a special snowflake who was forced to live as a recluse by her crazy ass aunt. Now that evil Aunty has finally kicked the bucket, Nora can let her freak flag fly. Ha! Not really. Nora can pretty much only drone on and on and on and on about how difficult things were for her while Travis tells her how much she is smart, she is kind and she is important. (I would like it to be on the record that I will gladly volunteer as tribute to deliver the

bitchslapping to Nora that she soooooo deserves.) Finally, we get to meet the star of the show – a/k/a the smartest pooch ever grown in a lab. No offense el doggito, but there can only be one Einstein . . .

Anywho, the whole story is about how Travis finds supermutt and then finds Nora and they fall into instalovey loveytimes and discover that Einstein is a real Einstein all while trying to keep it on the downlow that they have the dog everyone and their . . well dog is looking for while trying to avoid an abomination that was also created by the government known as “The Outsider” and not to mention not get whacked by a mafia hitman. You’d think with all that going on this would’ve been interesting, huh? Well, you’d be wrong ‘cause it was boring as shit. . . .

Basically this was eleventy trillion pages of a lesson on man’s inhumanity to man written by a dude who **seriously** has a thing for dogs. Like so much that I’m pretty sure he’s one of the people all the right-wing nutters were thinking about wanting to marry his pet when they were trying to keep gay marriage illegal.

Save your breath if you want to troll me. One thing I know for certain is . . .

Just ask Edward. Okay, maybe not him. Ask Shelby instead. I’d tell you to ask Delee but her interwebs is broke, Ron 2.0 disagrees with me 100% of the time out of spite and it will be October before he gets a review posted anyway, and Stepheny is on like Chapter 1 still so she doesn’t even know the snoozefest she’s about to subject herself to.

Simeon says

Unputdownable, with surprisingly deep characterization, and a super-smart dog that runs around adorably.

+ a nightmarish monster that escapes a laboratory and starts munching on the peaceful population of modern suburbia.

An immaculate mix of horror, romance, and action.

Alejandro says

This is one of the most popular novels of Dean Koontz. The story appeals not only horror fans but I think that readers who like techno-thriller may find quite amusing the book, since the story uses in a very creative way elements of science fiction and indeed you have a plot full of suspense. Also, the book has clearly many of the trademark things of Dean Koontz. You have a smart dog and can be easily one of the smarter dogs in Koontz's book, if not the smartest of all. If you are a dog-lover, this book will appeal to you totally. The narrative is fluid and it doesn't have much characters so, you will get into the book quite quick and you'll be way entertained. Highly recommended.

Maciek says

Very overrated...I had high expectations for the book, because of the almost universal applause it gets...and it turned out to be yet another Koontz dog novel.

The characters in this novel are shallow and cardboard - the ex delta force soldier, a widower, falls in love with an abused woman. Of course despite her abuse lasting for years she gets out of the shell in several months and gets pregnant, drives a car, even uses weapons !

The scene when they have weapons hidden all over their house is quite hilarious. Also, of course both of our heroes conveniently either invested their money/or inherited a large sum from a dead aunt, and don't have to work for the rest of their lives...and did I mention that the dog is special ?

2 words: You can read this book if you are a Koontz fan, you might even get engrossed in it, but it's one of those books that you forget the moment you put it back on the shelf.

WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says

3.5 stars

I read this for the '80s Horror square for Halloween Bingo

When the telephone rang, it startled her. She put down her pencil and reached for the receiver. "Hello?" "Funny," a man said. "Excuse me?" "They never heard of him."

I know this story has monsters, psycho killer, semi-curses, awful bitter aunt, and government agents, but this was the moment that sent a chill down my spine.

Nora's aunt that kept her just about child protective services needed isolated dies and leaves Nora alone and fearful of the world. When a tv repairman comes and seems to be hitting on her, she can't believe it and thinks she misinterpreted things. Of course she was right because no matter our upbringing, us women seem to have an innate sense of dude's up to no good. TV repairman turns out be a sexual harasser and stalker to the nth degree. Hence, the phone call where he lets her know he checked up on her she has a husband and is a police officer lie. This stalker plot introduces us to Nora and is a way to connect her with Travis and Einstein and then fades into the distance pretty quickly.

In the distance, very far away no, something shrieked, something that was not of God's creation.

Travis is out hiking contemplating his life as a cursed man. His mother, father, and brother are all dead, dying from circumstances that seem to be his fault, his delta force platoon all perished while he was only shot in the leg, and his wife only last a year before she died of cancer. He thinks he's cursed and has stayed away from making connections with people for the last couple years. When a dog comes out of the woods and warns him away from some noise that has Travis' neck hair rising, he finds himself the owner of a dog. The Travis curse thread fades out a bit too but he occasionally worries about it later with Nora.

Einstein our lovable Golden Retriever is on the run from government agents who are trying to bring him back to the lab he escaped from. Well him and The Outsider, an animal mixed DNA mashed up monster created to be a kill machine. The Outsider hates Einstein because he was the beloved smart dog in the lab and

people couldn't bear to look at *The Outsider* because he was so ugly, so he is driven to kill Einstein.

If that wasn't enough for you there is a contract killer who is being paid by the Russians to kill the scientists responsible for Einstein and *The Outsider*. Because they're jealous? Angry? The Russian connection was a bit muddled. Anyway the contract killer thinks every time he kills someone he absorbs their essence, but he also values the dollar because he puts two and two together and figures out the scientists he has killed created Einstein and he wants to capture the dog and ransom him back to the G-men or Russians.

The contract killer plot could have been left out as we get pov's from him early on but then he basically disappears until the very end and then gets a very rushed ending. I thought the beginning was interesting but then the middle sagged a bit as the focus on Nora and Travis falling in love was focused on more and them trying to figure out a way to communicate more concisely with Einstein. I wanted more of the suspense and horror feel we go from *The Outsider* but I was reading this for Halloween Bingo and was probably looking for something slightly different from the book.

What man had begun, man now ended.

I enjoyed the themes of morals in science, relationships, society, and oneself and I delighted in Einstein, the only thing that could have made him better was if he was a Rottweiler :) I wish the ending hadn't felt so rushed with all the villains being dealt with at once, it really made the pacing feel even more off kilter. A few technology and culture references show the story's age but otherwise, this hold up nicely.

Bianca says

I totally enjoyed *Watchers*. *Honestly? it is what it is, and, yes, some of the characterizations and descriptions were a bit, well, heavy handed. But--the dog, Einstein, is completely irresistible. Mostly is a real page turner. It was my before bed reading, and most nights it gave me nightmares, but I couldn't stop reading. And did I mention the dog?*

In the first chapter, Travis Cornell is hiking in Santiago Canyon, and he finds (or perhaps is found by?) a stray dog, who seems to be warning him about something lurking in the woods. Initially skeptical, Travis eventually realizes something IS following them, and, taking the dog with him, he heads for home. As Travis soon learns, this is no ordinary dog. I won't say why because how Travis discovers the truth about Einstein makes for fun reading. But as their relationship develops, the dog rescues him in all kinds of ways, most notably by introducing him to the lovely (but terribly introverted) Nora.

The bad guys in this book are really, really bad. With one exception--Koontz nicely complicates the evil thing that's pursuing Travis and Einstein. In a Frankenstein's monster kind of way.

In his afterward, written considerably afterward, Koontz talks about how readers continue to tell him how much they love this book. (It's because of the dog.)

Finally, it's worth thinking about why a dog with human intelligence is so darn appealing. What cultural fantasies about dogs and dogness--and human-ness--are played out here? Nearly every one--the way humans project all kinds of desires and moral behavior onto dogs, the idea that dogs make us human, that their goodness and loyalty bring out the best in us.

And, FYI? On the official Dean Koontz website, you can find a list of his other dogs stories. I'm planning to sample a few more.

Emily May says

I know this is a classic for many readers but I expected more, honestly. Watchers is my first read by Koontz so I have nothing to compare it to, but my first wander into his mind was disappointing. And a little weird.

It could partly be that this particular book doesn't withstand the test of time. There are definitely aspects that feel dated (I got a bit of shock when I realized how long ago 1987 actually was!). Even the array of stereotypical characters here felt old-fashioned-- ex soldier hero, abused beautiful damsel, cold-blooded psychopath, and a super precocious dog.

Admittedly, these days you cannot possibly meet a beautiful damsel in a thriller without her being behind it all, but I'd rather that than this sheltered abused beautiful virgin who is oblivious to her beauty and quickly breaks through her abuse trauma to aid Travis. And isn't it also very convenient that no one in this book has a job to go to because of inheritance, investments, or a mysterious caller who pays you to off people?

Watchers is about Travis (ex-soldier), Nora (damsel), Vince Nasco (hitman) and Einstein (the dog). Koontz takes us through several different perspectives and gradually (read: very slowly) uncovers the story about what is going on at Banodyne Labs. And... it's obvious, isn't it? I didn't really feel like there was much mystery here, and the ending just seemed to peter out under its own predictability.

Which might have been fine if I'd enjoyed the characters and/or the getting there, but **all of the characters feel one-dimensional and based in stereotypes**. And I like dogs as much as anybody but Koontz's dog love is a little weird, I gotta say. What's with having a "talking" dog as a main character, anyway?

Watchers is always the Koontz book that seems to get mentioned, but I'll try another if anyone has any better recommendations. For those curious about this: I should also point out that this thriller has some sci-fi aspects.

[Blog](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Youtube](#)

Emma says

I don't even care about all the things wrong with this book, I love it, I'm going to 5* it, and I'll internet fight with anyone who wants to question it.

Bark says

I recently reread this old favorite of mine as an unabridged audiobook. It was one of my childhood favorites so I was almost afraid to touch it and ruin the mystique I'd built up around it. Surprisingly enough, I managed to enjoy most of it despite the fact that I've become much pickier and crabbier about my reading choices as I've, eh, matured.

This is Koontz's famous tale about genetically engineered animals which is probably much more probable and frightening now than it was in 1987! Political bigwigs have managed to fund and create "The Outsider",

an intelligent killer who lives for the thrill of the kill. They've also created a golden retriever with the intelligence of a bright human (I state this because many dogs I know are smarter than many humans I've come across). The government intends to use the dogs as spies to learn about the ever elusive "enemy". After all, who would ever suspect a goofy retriever of spy tactics? These two genetically altered creatures are so smart they outsmart the scientists and escape the lab. The "Outsider" goes on a killing spree while the retriever finds a loving home with a kind man who names him "Einstein". For some inexplicable reason, "The Outsider" hates Einstein. Hates him with an undying passion and wants him dead (jealous of his doggy beauty, perhaps?). Because the two are psychically linked, it spends its time tracking down the dog when not decapitating innocent people and animals, that is.

The remainder of the book is filled with the antics of a crazed killer-for-hire, corrupt political goings-on, "The Outsider's" quest for death and destruction and the gooey-sweet love story between Travis, a victimized woman who is so naive as to be completely unbelievable and whose name I've already forgotten and Einstein the dog. This is the kind of love triangle I enjoy, haha.

I still loved Einstein this time around but spent a large majority of the book annoyed at the woman character who was all helpless, pathetic and needed rescuing. She was 30, THIRTY folks, and so sheltered and beaten down by a crazy old aunt that she had absolutely zero life experience and was completely missing a backbone. I don't remember noticing those things when I was a teenager or maybe I just accepted them as normal because I didn't know any better at the time. If that's the case, maybe getting older isn't such a bad thing ;)

I enjoyed the re-read and recommend this book to any dog lover and Koontz fan. It's still one of his best but not quite the five star read I remember.
