



Your Heart Belongs to Me

Dean Koontz

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From the #1 "New York Times" bestselling master of suspense comes a riveting thriller that probes the deepest terrors of the human psyche--and the ineffable mystery of what truly makes us who we are. Here a brilliant young man finds himself fighting for his very existence in a battle that starts with the most frightening words of all...

At thirty-four, Internet entrepreneur Ryan Perry seemed to have the world in his pocket--until the first troubling symptoms appeared out of nowhere. Within days, he's diagnosed with incurable cardiomyopathy and finds himself on the waiting list for a heart transplant; it's his only hope, and it's dwindling fast. Ryan is about to lose it all...his health, his girlfriend Samantha, and his life.

One year later, Ryan has never felt better. Business is good and he hopes to renew his relationship with Samantha. Then the unmarked gifts begin to appear--a box of Valentine candy hearts, a heart pendant. Most disturbing of all, a graphic heart surgery video and the chilling message: "Your heart belongs to me."

In a heartbeat, the medical miracle that gave Ryan a second chance at life is about to become a curse worse than death. For Ryan is being stalked by a mysterious woman who feels entitled to everything he has. She's the spitting image of the twenty-six-year-old donor of the heart beating steadily in Ryan's own chest. And she's come to take it back.

Your Heart Belongs to Me Details

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~?~Autumn♥♥ says

There is a lot about heart disease and heart medicines. It seems he was hearing the odd sounds his own heart was making at first and they were making him paranoid. It could also have been his heart medicines which were changed.

A twin sister in the Orient is killed so he can have her heart but he doesn't know this only that he traveled there with his cardiologist to get a new heart but later the living twin comes after him! Its very rough. She is determined to get revenge but she should have gone after the cardiologist NOT poor Ryan. He was born with this genetic condition which is an enlarged heart. He only had a year to live when it was diagnosed.

Laine says

Weird. I think he wrote this one to make money.

I did very much like this ONE sentence: "of the qualities that draw a bright woman to a man, truthfulness is equaled only by kindness, courage, and a sense of humor." Now I could riff on that for a while, and enjoy myself immensely. The rest of the book is pitiful.

One keeps trying to think otherwise, however, since Koontz mentions the roots of violence to be ..."lust, envy, anger, avarice, and vengeance. The tap root is ignoring the truth."

OK he is trying to be DEEP and MEANINGFUL and IMPORTANT but I must report he fails miserably. I hated all his lame references to William Holden, Edgar Allen Poe, etc. and resent very much that he tries to piggyback off of their particular genius.

Not worth a look even, in the last analysis, and I want my time back!

Donna says

This was another Koontz dud to me. A rich, young internet guru suddenly starts having heart problems. But instead of accepting it as just "life sucks sometimes - even for the rich" he gets paranoid & starts thinking someone has done this to him, i.e. poisoning. So he tries to "take control" and find out who is plotting against him. Thus begins his downward spiral. For some reason, I just couldn't connect to this character or even commit to a decision - is he crazy or is he sane? There is very little action in this story - everything is told from his perspective with much descriptive prose. Very little dialogue and when there is finally action (and at last a bad guy) at the end, it was almost like an afterthought. Maybe I'm getting ADD as I get older, but I don't have much patience for all the descriptions & subtexts - just cut to the chase and tell the story! So maybe the problem was more me than the author with this book, but it was definitely not one of my favorites.

Carol says

I listened to this book on CD on my car. I can't tell you why I listened to the whole thing but I just kept hoping it would get better. It didn't. I used to love Dean Koontz' books but lately they just don't appeal to me but I keep trying. In this one, a paranoid computer guru has to have a heart transplant and is totally paranoid both before and after the transplant, obviously, with good reason. Not my favorite book by Mr. Koontz.

Miss Kim says

Gah! Is someone going to come up with a cure for my compulsion to force myself to finish books that suck? I am a fan of Koontz, but this one is not worthy of a recommendation.

Ryan is a 30 something dotcom phenom. He starts to have heart problems and becomes paranoid that someone close to him is poisoning him, because he has barrels of money. It turns out he needs a transplant. He gets hooked up with a doctor that will get him on the top of the list 'at any cost'. He tells no one about his issues or his plan, save his girlfriend who he phones on the way to get the new heart. We flash forward a year and this is where it all falls apart. He has not talked to his girlfriend in 9 months, but we never get to know what happened. Someone is trying to kill him. His parents are a**holes. His girlfriend has published a novel and he keeps reading it over and over hoping to find a clue as to why she left. He keeps thinking about her telling him about writing and using subtext so whatever you are trying to say is implied to the reader. This is how the whole damn book is! Nothing is ever said or explained, unless you want to know a 4 paragraph description of the interior of a room or the weather. There is this whole side story of this freak that does assisted suicides and also keeps preserved cadavers in his home for decoration. This part is interesting, but it falls flat because it has no relevance to the story at all. In the end, we find who wants to kill him, but it is stupid!

Dustin Crazy little brown owl says

Back in 2008 I read the hardcover girl with her nose in a flower edition. The book caused me to be mad at Dean for six months. During those six months I read some earlier great books by Dean Koontz such as *Hideaway* and *Cold Fire* etc. The next Summer (2009) I was happy again with Dean because he published three new books that I enjoyed: *A Big Little Life*, *Relentless* and *Dead and Alive* of course that December 2009, I was once again mad at Dean when I read *Breathless*, but that's a different story.

I have been saying I would re-read *Your Heart Belongs to Me* and give it a second chance when it was chosen as the group read in Koontzland. The time has come. *Your Heart Belongs to Me* is the July 2013 Group Read in the Koontzland - Dean Koontz group and I'm currently re-reading it. That one-year gap between chapter 31 and 32 was really something and what a lousy ending!

Koontz has explored similar themes and expressed similar ideas in better works. I would recommend *Velocity* and *Hideaway* in lieu of *Your Heart Belongs to Me*.

Obsidian says

Apologies on all of the Dean Koontz reviews today. I am just reading books as I find them in my messy under construction house. This has led me to re-read some Koontz books (really just skim since I have read them before). I forgot how much I disliked "Your Heart Belongs to Me" until my re-read of it. A main character who I didn't care for and a BS ending just made me roll my eyes. Koontz for once didn't have a HEA ending, but the whole book felt seriously out of sync.

A rich man named Ryan Perry has the whole world in his pocket. He has a woman he loves (Samantha) and can do anything he wants. Then he gets sick and gets diagnosed with something that is damaging his heart. If he doesn't get a heart transplant, he is going to die. Then Ryan starts to investigate how something could have caused him to get sick and then starts running scared from an unseen enemy. When Ryan meets with a doctor who promises he can get him on the top of a heart transplant list and damn the cost, the book goes sideways from there.

Ryan sucks. I really didn't like him and when we figure out as readers what happens and how Ryan was "saved" I really despised the guy. I can't recall Koontz ever writing a main character this way before. Ryan and Samantha are finished after his heart transplant and you are left wondering what the hell happened. When the book skips a year later we find out what Ryan has been up to and how he wants to reach out to Samantha again. When someone starts stalking Ryan and telling him that his heart belongs to her I maybe laughed a few times. The woman and the fear that Ryan has is not scary at all. I just felt bored and hoped that the woman ended up killing Ryan so something interesting would happen.

Samantha is perfection in literary form. Does Koontz know how to write women any other way these days? She is also a writer so when she and Ryan ends things, he spends a lot of time dissecting her work in order to read about the subtext behind her words. I hope you like the word subtext. I think it appeared like a billion times (sarcasm).

There are secondary characters I can't even recall or care about too much since in the end they don't matter. We have a red herring character who was just freaking odd and terrible. A mysterious nurse whose name I am blanking on.

I think the biggest issue I have with this book is that I don't think Koontz knows what it wanted it to be. We have Ryan who goes from being happy and in love with Samantha to then thinking she is all femme fatale. It doesn't ring true based on what Koontz shows us and we have to wade through a ridiculous amount of red herrings to figure out what is going on. The book was overly descriptive about things I did not give a damn about. At one point I wondered did I wander into a James Patterson novel (I stopped reading that guy years ago because I don't care to read about the thread count of people's fucking bedsheets) and felt really annoyed.

The dialogue was painful as hell to wade through. No one talks like this and stop it!

The flow was awful too. We just skipped a ton of stuff that I think was necessary to even get a gleam of figuring out what could possibly be happening.

As I said the ending was terrible. Koontz should have just went dark with things and been done with it. Also there are dogs and I maybe screamed a bit about that.

Bill says

I pretty much read this book in 2 sittings...I was that excited for some new Koontz. I thought it was great too. It's a great example of the new style of writing he has taken on in the past 5 years or so, yet totally unique in a sense that...I guess in a sense that he broke all the rules of classic storytelling. I literally turned page after page just wondering why he was taking the story where he was, and when it was all said and done I was sort of speechless. After finishing the book I felt like someone ought to after investing hours in a story. Read it.

Leah says

This book started out great. I quickly realized that most of the book was never-ending prose about dreams or the weather and very little character story, which is what I really enjoy in a book. And what the heck was with the "yellow... yellow... yellow" paragraph, that was echoed occasionally? Was that *subtext* (you'll get it if you read the book) for cowardice or some rude stereotype about oriental people? Ugh. The thinly veiled Poe references didn't ring true (sorry for the pun) either. Wish I hadn't wasted time on this one.

Mark N. says

After having finished Koontz's "Your Heart Belongs To Me" today on my lunch hour, I found this website after doing a Google search to find out what others thought of this particular book. After having read a number of the reviews for it here, I think it's safe to say that for many, the book didn't live up to their expectations.

Given the short summary of the story to be found on the back of the cover, I think it's easy to get a false impression of what one might be in for with this book. If one is looking for a standard cat-and-mouse thriller (which seems to be what one is promised), this is not the book to find it in. Instead, this is a book that turns out to be a food-for-thought kind of book, which I find much more satisfying. I found it necessary to go back and read the final chapters a second time to make sure I got the full subtext of the story and what Koontz wanted to say with this book. Clearly, he does have something to say, and at the end of the read, I sadly find myself in somewhat the same shoes as the protagonist: somewhat blind to the wonders of mortality, and far too willing to overlook my own selfishness and greed as I march down the lifetime that has been given me, taking too many things for granted.

The book does have a happy ending, but it's not necessarily the happy ending we'd like it to have; what is served up is what the antagonist in the last part of the story is searching for: justice, and for good measure, a nice serving of mercy as well.

I read Koontz not only because he knows how to tell a good story, but also because, with his later works, I find myself uplifted by the end, having been reassured that most people are basically good, and who want to do the right thing (see Koontz's "By the Light of the Moon").

Becky says

Your Heart Belongs to Me is about a 34 year old internet entrepreneur, Ryan Perry. He learns of a terrible medical condition that limits his life to a year if he doesn't receive a new heart. The first thing Ryan does is begin to search for an answer about his condition. Years later, Ryan is visited by a woman claiming that she wants her heart back. And she's willing to use violence to get it.

I loved this book! It had romance, it had drama and mystery. Koontz's use of the English language is AMAZING! I listened to the unabridged version of this book and the reader was incredible as well. The beginning of the book is a little slow, but the relationship that is painted so vividly between Samantha and Ryan is interesting. Their conversations almost always got a laugh out of me! I loved the way that they spoke to each other, and the quick wit between them. This book was not at all what I expected and that is a great compliment. There are a few complexities in the book, so I think that if I read/listened to it again, I might gain even more from it.

Jodi says

Healthy, wealthy Ryan Perry discovers he has a heart disease that only a transplant can cure. But he starts having feelings of paranoia and after the transplant, odd things, supernatural things, seem to be happening.

Unfortunately, the story doesn't hold together very well in any aspect. Perry is neither a likeable nor dislikeable character. In fact, only a nurse and a security guard are even vaguely memorable and they have bit parts. The book doesn't flow in any one direction and ultimately makes little sense. The story might have been deeper had it been told from more than one POV but Perry wasn't particularly introspective. He was good at doing nerd things - heavily focused on one thing for hours, days, months, but he didn't really connect dots. Though the dots that were eventually connected, didn't form a recognizable picture.

Ashley Lovett anderson says

I'm not quite sure about this book. Some parts it kept my attention and I wanted to keep reading and then other parts I was soooooo bored and didn't want to keep reading.

Maciek says

Another horrible creation from Dean Koontz. Once one of my favorite guilty pleasures - his books, while flawed, were entertaining. But now? Dissing his new novels is so easy it's not even funny.

Your Heart Belongs to Me (2008) is an attempt at a medical thriller, in the vein of Tess Gerritsen and Robin Cook. The premise is as follows: Ryan Perry, a 34 year old disgustingly rich guy has a heart problem and is in desperate need of a transplant. He receives one, but soon starts receiving messages from the whoman

whose heart beats inside his chest.
She wants it back.

Sounds interesting? Sure it does. Koontz has a great idea, and his *The House of Thunder* is also a medical thriller which proven to be highly suspenseful, so I expected great fun, But then I remembered that *THOT* was written in 82.

"Your Heart" introduces two brand new cardboard: Ryan Perry and Samantha whatshername. Ryan is introduced as a millionaire, "richer than most kings", because he created a social networking site called Be2Do. At 34 he's the King of the world, which basically means that he carries a hard on for his girlfriend and carries out insane conversation with her. And he has a corporate jet. Samantha is a struggling author, though she's able to work the hours she wants, because you see, life is good.

"Now, on this Wednesday morning, he said, "Pumping six-footers, glassy and epic, sunshine that feels its way deep into your bones."

"I've got a deadline to meet."

"You're too young for all this talk about death."

"Are you riding another train of manic insomnia?"

"Slept like a baby. And I don't mean in a wet diaper."

"When you're sleep-deprived, you're treacherous on a board."

"I may be radical, but never treacherous."

"Totally insane, like with the shark."

"That again. That was nothing."

"Just a great white."

"Well, the bastard bit a huge chunk out of my board."

"And—what?—you were determined to get it back?"

"I wiped out," Ryan said, "I'm under the wave, in the murk, grabbin' for air, my hand closes around what I think is the skeg."

The skeg, a fixed fin on the bottom of a surfboard, holds the stern of the board in the wave and allows the rider to steer.

What Ryan actually grabbed was the shark's dorsal fin.

Samantha said, "What kind of kamikaze rides a shark?"

"I wasn't riding. I was taken for a ride."

"He surfaced, tried to shake you off, you rode him back down."

"Afraid to let go. Anyway, it lasted like only twenty seconds."

"Insomnia makes most people sluggish. It makes you hyper."

"I hibernated last night. I'm as rested as a bear in spring."

She said, "In a circus once, I saw a bear riding a tricycle."

"What's that got to do with anything?"

"It was funnier than watching an idiot ride a shark.""

I once read that Koontz bases his characters on his real life friends. I don't know who he knows, but he sure oughta make some new acquaintances because his characters always talk nonsense 24/7. What's more, Koontz awful descriptions take the cake:

"She was as perfect as a mirage, blond hair and golden form, a quiver of light, an alluring oasis on the wide slope of the sun-seared sand."

"beauty of a degree that seemed mythological, radiant eyes the precise shade of a green sea patinaed by the

blue of a summer sky, golden hair crowned with a corona of sunlight, goddess on a holiday from Olympus."

"The only leaf shadows that touched Samantha's face were braided across her golden hair and brow, as though she wore the wreath of Nature's approval."

"The sun searched her eyes and revealed in them the blue of the sky, the green of the sea, the delight of being in harmony with millions of tons of water pushed shoreward by storms three thousand miles away and by the moon now looming on the dark side of the earth."

I once admired Koontz for being able to describe a scene in vivid, almost cinematic detail. But now his writing is so fake, so forced you can literally see how he thinks for hours about every word and where it might be in his collection of thesauruses. He lost the ability to pace the story with natural flow, to use words in a way that appeals to readers; it's a wonder that he doesn't include a footnote saying "Yes. I'm THAT good".

Maybe he has "green eyes in which the striations were like the bevels in a pair of intricately cut emeralds" - yes, that's a quote too.

As the plot thickens, Ryan changes his doctor and subscribes to a International Organ Donor List. After a month (that's crucial) he receives a heart transplant from a woman who had a crash and is in vegetative state. Ryan goes to Shanghai, gets his transplant, and Koontz skips a year.

We met Richie Ryan and it turns out that even though he's healthy, his girlfriend has left him. Why? Because apparently that's what people do their friends and lovers when they are in need. Koontz spent 200 completely pointless pages of Ryan investigating her mom, dad and dead sister, because he thought that one of them has poisoned him (my guess it was the sister) so maybe Sam learned about it and left him afterwards - who wouldn't?

However, the fun starts here.:

"The approaching swell might have been the arching back of some scaly leviathan, larger than a thousand sharks, born in the deep but rising now to feed upon the sunlit world."

Ryan receives gifts from a woman who claims that the heart belongs to her. I'll skip the unnecessary subplots, because believe me, they ARE unnecessary, and the big mystery is slowly unveiled.

It turns out that Ryan got his heart from a murdered political prisoner in China, a woman named Lily, who was put in prison because she practiced Falung Gong. The woman who haunted Ryan was her sister, Violet. Violet is pissed off at Ryan because apparently he didn't caught the "subtext" (his transplant was way too fast, ya know) and they killed her sister to get him his heart. She's also a government agent - yeah, really. Ryan, a desperate man who was left with less than a year, was supposed to say "no" to a transplant that would save his life. In his place I'd bought a gun and shot myself in the head. Wouldn't you?

Violet trashes Ryan around, shots him in the foot and goes out somewhere because Koontz just can't kill the main character and has preaching plans instead for him.

Again a year, two, three or ten pass and we see Samantha visiting Ryan in the orphanage he now runs. Samantha of course is a bestselling novelist (as every writer in Koontz's books). It turns out that Ryan gave away all his money, because he felt that what happened to poor Lily was his fault, because he didn't get the "subtext". He urges Samantha to marry someone else, and kicks her out of the orphanage. When you think it just can't get any worse, a golden retriever marches in.

"Your Heart Belongs to me" is not a "riveting thriller that probes the deepest terrors of the human psyche" - it's a joke. Koontz hacks out cliché after cliché, and ends it in the worst of all possible ways - instead of using

his money to prevent cases like his from happening, Ryan gives it all away hides in an orphanage with Golden retrievers and disabled kids which are supposed to bring him solace. I don't know why; probably he feels guilty, because he's completely innocent. I don't know how Koontz made up this ending since it's a paradox, but I think it had a lot to do with petting his favorite dog.

A tedious, miserable hogwash. I don't know what happened to the old bald guy with a moustache but I'd sure like to see him back, since this new one surely is a miserable writer.

Jerry says

Man this guy was great about 10/15 years ago. This is the third chance I have given him and I just can't stand his characters any more. The premise sounded quite interesting but as soon as I read some dialogue between the characters I thought "jeeeesus" I'm not reading this crap. They are sickeningly cheesy and totally over the top. I read three pages and took the book back to the shop. That's it for me and this author. I will remember him for night chills, whispers, phantoms and intensity. Not for anything recent. Shame.

Mike (the Paladin) says

This one gets a star because I needed to rate it something to make a comment. If I could I'd give this one negative numbers...really, Mr. Koontz what were you thinking? Were there some bills due and you needed some quick cash or something?

Mr. Koontz has written some excellent reads...and then there are a few like this one. *sigh*

-1 star.

Rodesh Govender says

Dean Koontz has managed to deliver a first class waste of time. An exceptional disappointment. The pages in this book feel to be worth less than the notes of the Zimbabwean currency.

It is books like this that make me want to stop reading.

For shame Dean Koontz.... For shame.

Scott says

I have a saying that if you can make it through the first hundred pages of a Dean Koontz book, you won't be able to put it down. This book is a perfect example of that. Though it doesn't have the usual formula

recognizable in many of Koontz' books (several different stories that are woven together just in time for a momentous conclusion), it does have the usual Koontz "surprise:" things are not what you thought they were.

In short, this had all of the things that I have come to love in Dean Koontz' works: the verbose descriptions, the painstaking detail that he uses to describe certain events or skills, and the depth that he gives to his central characters. But the best part is how his work reminds you of things in your own life, tragedies survived or triumphs savored, and the continuing struggle in the world of good versus evil.

It is funny how you can start out reading a Koontz book as a kind of escape, and by the end he brings you right back around to think about life, which leads to thinking about YOUR life.

Ryan, the central character, [spoiler alert:] has all of these signs, some would say he got messages. Some of the messages just came through ordinary people, some good people, some not so good, but they were definitely the messages that he needed. I think life is like that at times--we get little hints about what we are supposed to do-- do this nice deed, or avoid being angry or resentful about a certain event.

Dean Koontz isn't for everyone. A lot of people don't like the preternatural elements--- or the far-fetchedness (is that a word?) of his stories. Perhaps they would like one of his books that is more straight forward like *The Husband*. But fans of Dean Koontz will definitely like this one.

Joel says

Until the last 40 pages or so, this felt like the Koontz book that might finally convince me to stop reading his new books. Then it was vaguely redeemed in the final pages. I do mean vaguely, though. The explanation of things is actually not very impressive, we find out that significant information was left out of the earlier story so that the reader can't too easily guess what was happening, and the wrap up is too tidy. The only reason I found it vaguely redeeming was the way it changed the story's overall portrayal of the main character. It took away some of my earlier annoyance.

I suspect my compulsion to keep reading Koontz's new books will continue, though we'll see. The Odd books are the only ones that seem even somewhat inspired anymore. Perhaps not surprising when the books are coming out like clockwork, one every six months, with a writing style that seems to mimic R.L. Stine more all the time (it's noticeable, for instance, when a paragraph is longer than five lines or a chapter longer than six pages.)

Why can't I break my addiction? Why can't Koontz go back to writing the somewhat less preachy and much more compelling, not so by-the-numbers books of his past? And yet, they're still just compelling enough for me to continue reading them. (Or maybe it's just the vague sense of accomplishment I get from pounding them out in a day or two, since they read so fast and easy.)

Anyway, even if you're a fan of Koontz, if you don't have to read all his books, I'd recommend giving this one a pass. It's pretty mediocre and the overwriting borders on ridiculous at times, even for Koontz. And you'll very possibly find yourself wanting to strangle the main character throughout most of it. Don't bother.

Emma Bennett says

This was the first thriller in a long time that lived up to my expectations and then some. I felt genuine fear, and had action and excitement from the first few pages. This is definitely not a slow burner, with, yes, some strange characters and some odd surprises but it all worked. I did find the ending a little cheesy though.
