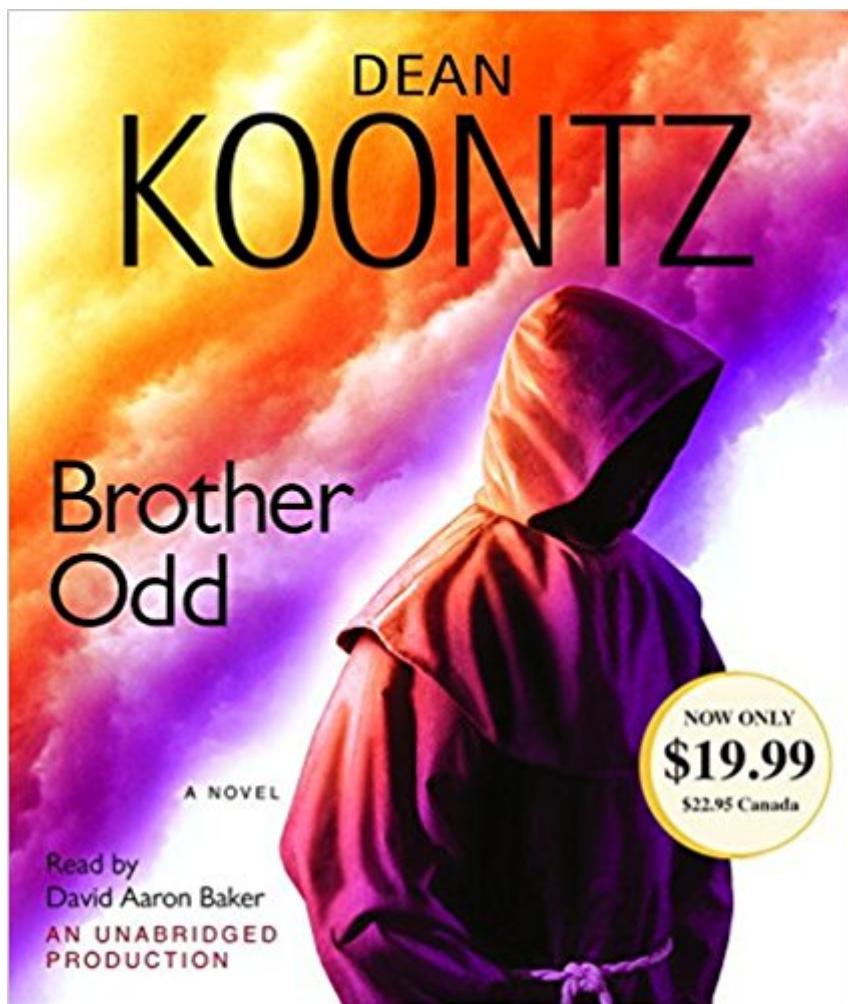


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Brother Odd (Odd Thomas)



Synopsis

Loop me in, odd one. The words, spoken in the deep of night by a sleeping child, chill the young man watching over her. For this was a favorite phrase of Stormy Llewellyn, his lost love, and Stormy is dead, gone forever from this world. In the haunted halls of the isolated monastery where he had sought peace, Odd Thomas is stalking spirits of an infinitely darker nature. Through two New York Times bestselling novels Odd Thomas has established himself as one of the most beloved and unique fictional heroes of our time. Now, wielding all the power and magic of a master storyteller at the pinnacle of his craft, Dean Koontz follows Odd into a singular new world where he hopes to make a fresh beginning—“but where he will meet an adversary as old and inexorable as time itself. St. Bartholomew’s Abbey sits in majestic solitude amid the wild peaks of California’s high Sierra, a haven for children otherwise abandoned, and a sanctuary for those seeking insight. Odd Thomas has come here to learn to live fully again, and among the eccentric monks, their other guests, and the nuns and young students of the attached convent school, he has begun to find his way. The silent spirits of the dead who visited him in his earlier life are mercifully absent, save for the bell-ringing Brother Constantine and Odd’s steady companion, the King of Rock ‘n’ Roll. But trouble has a way of finding Odd Thomas, and it slinks back onto his path in the form of the sinister bodachs he has met previously, the black shades who herald death and disaster, and who come late one December night to hover above the abbey’s most precious charges. For Odd is about to face an enemy who eclipses any he has yet encountered, as he embarks on a journey of mystery, wonder, and sheer suspense that surpasses all that has come before. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

Bestseller Koontz's third Odd Thomas novel (after *Forever Odd*) offers an irresistibly offbeat mix of supernatural horror and laugh-out-loud humor. A resident of St. Bartholomew's Abbey, a monastery in the Sierra Nevada mountains, Thomas has the ability to see the spirits of the dead, a gift he has used to resolve mysteries and prevent future tragedies. As the story opens, the seer is unsettled by visions of bodachs, sinister ghostlike entities whose appearance precedes some dire tragedy.

Thomas frantically searches for some sign that will help him head off disaster, even as St. Bart's is thrown into turmoil by the disappearance of one of its members. Thomas must figure out both the identity of the person or being behind the terror and the most effective way to restore peace to his haven. While newcomers may find the villain's underlying motive a bit over the top, the narrator's engaging voice should continue to give this series cross-genre appeal. (Nov. 28) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

The third adventure of Odd Thomas, the boy (well, he's 21, but still . . .) who sees ghosts, has a lighter feel to it than the gruelingly suspenseful *Forever Odd* (2005) and the funny and moving *Odd Thomas* (2003). It's reminiscent of a sunny monster-movie sequel--say, *Son of Frankenstein*--in which stock characters do their shtick with a wink and a nod: "Dontcha just love us?" In this case, yes, we do. Odd has retreated to a monastery in the Sierra Nevadas that permanently hosts a billionaire physicist in an underground lab. The mogul has given his entire fortune to support the monastery and attached convent in their work of housing and educating severely damaged children, the most interesting of which is now a 25-year-old artistic savant. As the story opens, bodachs--animated shadows that gather in anticipation of lethal violence, which only Odd among the living sees--are invading the children's quarters. Can Odd mitigate the coming cataclysm? Of course he can, despite the arrival of murderous bone creatures and grim Death itself, for the monks include quite a contingent of reformed martial sinners, most memorably Brother Knuckles, formerly of the New Jersey Mob, and another guest, a mysterious Russian librarian from Indianapolis, who is more and different than Odd thinks he is. Koontz salts Odd's narration with some wonderful zingers at the expense of cultural degeneracy and political folly. A darned good time should be had by all readers. Ray OlsonCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

I've been wanting to read this one for a while and waited for it to be on kindle. This is a story about an unusual young man who sees spirits and dead people. I have read most of them. They are all wonderful. I love Dean Koontz' style of writing. He lays on the spookiness, but doesn't overload the graphic violence. In this one, the young man in question (Odd Thomas by name), goes to a monastery to rest after his last adventure. This doesn't last long. The Bodachs are back hovering around the children who live at the monastery and that are cared for by the nuns who live there. Bodachs are dark spirits of the dead who feed off violence that is impending. Odd has to stop this from happening even though he doesn't know what is going to happen or where it will come from. There is also an order of monks there who live in one part of the monastery. Odd enlists their help including that of a rather colorful character by the name of Brother Salvatore--a former Mafia enforcer who only broke legs--never killed anyone. Odd calls him Brother Knuckles for obvious reasons. When the even finally begins to happen, and the monsters come out, Odd is right where he's supposed to be--fighting off evil and defending the monastery and it's inhabitants. Great story.

Wow. I can't believe I'm giving this author two stars, but there it is. I came into the Odd Thomas series with a bit of a chip on my shoulder in the first place because I really hate reading serials. I'm the kind of person who feels like if I read the first story in a series and it didn't suck too bad I'm going to feel compelled to move on to the next (with the exception of Fifty Shades Of Grey; please don't even get me started on that - even now I still can't believe I bought into that hype). That's exactly what happened with me and Odd Thomas. The first two books in the series raised enough of my interest to make me read the third and now I'm just wondering what the hell I just read. There must be a lot of Elvis fans out there (yes, I did just say that) because I just can't see why this is a bestseller. Odd Thomas is a truly unique and likeable character, but I'm just not in love with all of the dry humor in what is supposed to be a suspense novel - speaking of which, there is a noticeable lack of the aforementioned in this third novel, Brother Odd. My particular beef with this one when I was at least able to give the other two the came before it three and four-star ratings was the agonizingly slow progression of the story. It took way to long to get to the goods in this one. And the so-called goods wasn't even that good compared to the threats he helped thwart in the past. As a matter of fact, the problem I had in this book was similar to the problem I had with 77 Shadow Street and its that the source of the threat was hard to mentally comprehend. Odd himself admits difficulty putting the beings he's confronted by in words, but its a bit annoying as a reader when you can't create a mental picture of the entities or creatures being described. Besides that, you don't find out

what is what until the final seventy percentile or last hundred or so pages of the story. There is no true climax with the source of the threat being dismantled with pathetic ease and, frankly, when you look at the final count, it makes you wonder if there was ever any danger at all. I'm sorry, but this one didn't cut it for me. I liked *Forever Odd* - I found that one suspenseful. This one, not so much. If *Odd Hours* bores me the way this one did, I'm probably going to call it quits with Oddie.

Brother Odd is a slower, more contemplative book than its predecessors. On the one hand, this is sort of appropriate for a book that takes place in a monastery and is about Odd trying to take a break from his stresses. On the other hand, this makes for a dull first half of the book. I found myself repeatedly putting the book down during this time because it just didn't suck me into the story. It also wasn't as relentlessly, wonderfully quotable as the first two books. Since Dean Koontz is typically a master of fast pacing and tense events, this is surprising. The humor in this one felt a bit off from that of previous books. Odd comments on his own identity as a smart-ass, but in the past his humor always felt a bit more earnest. Now it's dryer and sharper. I could see this as character development, particularly given some of the dark events in Odd's life. It's a rather sudden break from the last book, however, and I would have thought it more likely after the events of the first book rather than the second. Also, Odd's endearing wit has been the strongest part of his offbeat narrative, so changing that too far throws off the feel of the book. Thankfully the tension and pacing pick up in the second half of the book. By the end it had sucked me in quite thoroughly, although I never found myself even tempted to shed tears "in some ways for me that's the mark of connecting emotionally with a book, and the first two books had a tearful moment each. While *Brother Odd* isn't as tense and whimsical a ride as *Odd Thomas* and *Forever Odd*, it is quite engrossing for half of the tale. It has an imaginative plot that's extremely different from those of the first two books; I love Koontz's ability to come up with something totally new for Odd to do in each installment.

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