



Ashley Bell: A Novel

By Dean Koontz

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#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY *BOOKPAGE* • The must-read thriller of the year, for readers of dark psychological suspense and modern classics of mystery and adventure

The girl who said no to death.

Bibi Blair is a fierce, funny, dauntless young woman—whose doctor says she has one year to live.

She replies, “We’ll see.”

Her sudden recovery astonishes medical science.

An enigmatic woman convinces Bibi that she escaped death so that she can save someone else. Someone named Ashley Bell.

But save her from what, from whom? And who is Ashley Bell? Where is she?

Bibi’s obsession with finding Ashley sends her on the run from threats both mystical and worldly, including a rich and charismatic cult leader with terrifying ambitions.

Here is an eloquent, riveting, brilliantly paced story with an exhilarating heroine and a twisting, ingenious plot filled with staggering surprises. *Ashley Bell* is a new milestone in literary suspense from the long-acclaimed master.

Praise for *Ashley Bell*

“A mind-bender filled with satisfying surprises.”—*People* (book of the week)

“[With] lyrical writing and compelling characters . . . Koontz stands alone, and this novel is a prime example of literary suspense. . . . One of his best.”—**Associated Press**

“Grabs you on page one and keeps you enthralled with ever widening loops of

intrigue, spine-tingling plot twists, absorbing characters and emotional involvement . . . extraordinary.”—***Bookreporter***

“Heart-pounding and mind boggling . . . a rarity of a thriller—one that asks big questions about life and destiny while succeeding in creating [an] eerie sense of reality.”—***Shelf Awareness***

“Strap in and hold on. . . . When a writer has managed to catch this kind of lightning in a bottle, every reader should experience the full jolt.”—***BookPage***

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Editorial Review

Review

“Expertly blending the mystical and the everyday, [Dean] Koontz creates alternate universes for his characters while playing hide-and-seek with the truth. . . . A mind-bender filled with satisfying surprises.”—**People (book of the week)**

“Dean Koontz outdoes himself with his latest journey, which solidifies his reputation as one of the best storytellers in the book business. . . . [With] lyrical writing and compelling characters . . . Koontz stands alone, and this novel is a prime example of literary suspense. . . . [He] knows what he’s doing, and the baffling story with the stellar character of Bibi Blair makes this thriller one of his best.”—**Associated Press**

“Grabs you on page one and keeps you enthralled with ever widening loops of intrigue, spine-tingling plot twists, absorbing characters and emotional involvement . . . extraordinary.”—**Bookreporter**

“A fascinating exploration of destiny that is heart-pounding and mind-boggling . . . Koontz is a masterful plotter, capable of juggling the many threads of this story without losing sight of the whole. . . . [He] knows how to captivate and surprise; readers will be handsomely rewarded by this well-paced thriller that blurs the line between what is real and what is imagined, between past and present, present and future. *Ashley Bell* is a rarity of a thriller—one that asks big questions about life and destiny while succeeding in creating such an eerie sense of reality that sleeping with the lights on might seem like a sane idea.”—**Shelf Awareness**

“Strap in and hold on. . . . The most stunning, flat-out crazy reading experience yet from a writer who specializes in surprises. If you’ve ever wondered how much fun it would be to *feel* a book unfold in real time along with its characters, you need to read *Ashley Bell* right now. . . . Along the way, Koontz salts [the] journey with a sweeping assortment of characters, some of whom threaten to shoplift the narrative and take it home. . . . When a writer has managed to catch this kind of lightning in a bottle, every reader should experience the full jolt.”—**BookPage**

“In every industry there exist ‘artists’ that are not only unforgettable, but know their craft better than the rest. Dean Koontz, yet again, proves that he is among these craftsmen. . . . There is so much to say about this treasure. The mystical plays a part, the reality of life on the edge plays a part and . . . nothing can be given away. What can be stated is that Koontz was born with that unbelievable gift to, in one paragraph, write a line that makes readers want to hide under their beds, followed by a joke that makes them laugh, and end with a line so beautiful they are stunned. If there was ever an author that deserved praise, it is, was, and remains, Dean Koontz. Do not miss this!”—**Suspense Magazine**

“[The] opening is gorgeous and crushing, and will shake awake anyone who thinks Koontz is just grinding out genre tomes. . . . It’s gripping stuff, but Koontz doesn’t stop there, adding a series of flashbacks regarding the alchemy of creativity and the fuel of trauma, and that’s before the *Say what?* twist that upends everything. . . . Fans will adore it. Koontz hits the canny nexus of horror, mystery, and fantasy here.”—**Booklist**

“Koontz crafts a story shifting between reality and imagination, highlighted by distinct descriptions. . . . Bibi’s a believable protagonist surrounded by interesting bit players. . . . Koontz’s setting, with California coastal fog a metaphor for illness and for knowledge beyond understanding, makes real the often surrealistic narrative. . . . [*Ashley Bell*] cuts between the fantastical and the believable to dissect evil, explore the power

of imagination, and probe the parameters of consciousness.”—**Kirkus Reviews**

“Throughout his long and outstanding career, Koontz has made a habit of melding and crossing genres to create his own brand of unforgettable fiction. Just when you think he can’t top himself, Koontz proves us wrong by creating his most mind-blowing and amazing book to date. *Ashley Bell* is an astonishing novel that sucks you in from the first page and delivers so many twists, you are bound to get whiplash.”—**RT Book Reviews**

“Dean Koontz has become an essential part of my library and my creative life, influencing me at the keyboard, an invisible mentor. *Ashley Bell* might be his finest and most personal novel yet. It is everything you’d expect from Koontz—multilayered and richly told and fueled by page-turning suspense—but it is also as tender as it is terrifying, a story about love, mortality, and the redemptive power of imagination.”—**Benjamin Percy, author of *The Dead Lands*, *Red Moon*, and *The Wilding***

“A mighty fan of Koontz’s story-making, I found his newest, *Ashley Bell*, to possess that rare hypnotic pull that I can’t get away from. It unfolds like a tricky Oriental fan, with layers and more layers of intrigue seeping through porous pages. But what makes my heart throb is not just the beauty of Koontz’s masterful prose, but the depth of his heart and the dizzying height of his wicked imagination, enchanted by his artless playfulness, easily making this novel about novel-making the best book of literary genre fiction on the landscape.”—**Da Chen, New York Times bestselling author of *Colors of the Mountain*, *Brothers*, and *My Last Empress***

“*Ashley Bell* is a lyrical, surprising, and sensitive novel, with the narrative propulsion that is Koontz’s signature. You won’t want to put it down except to contemplate its thought-provoking twists. Koontz manages to recruit a terrifically suspenseful story as part of a fascinating meditation on the hidden interactions of literature, health, and inner strength.”—**Matthew Pearl, author of *The Last Bookaneer***

“Readers will fall hard for Bibi Blair, the fierce and dangerously smart heroine of Dean Koontz’s mind-bending thrill ride, *Ashley Bell*. Koontz delivers a sharp, unsettling, philosophically stimulating examination of consciousness, memory, and the intense power of story. He doesn’t just ask the big questions, he turns them inside out. A philosophically stimulating nightmare you won’t want to wake up from.”—**Michelle Richmond, author of *The Year of Fog* and *Golden State***

About the Author

Dean Koontz, the author of many #1 *New York Times* bestsellers, lives in Southern California with his wife, Gerda, their golden retriever, Elsa, and the enduring spirit of their goldens, Trixie and Anna.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Willene Choate:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a book your ability to survive enhance then having chance to stand than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading a new book, we give you this Ashley Bell: A Novel book as nice and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Aaron Williams:

Now a day people that Living in the era where everything reachable by interact with the internet and the resources within it can be true or not involve people to be aware of each facts they get. How a lot more to be smart in acquiring any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Reading a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information specially this Ashley Bell: A Novel book because this book offers you rich data and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it everybody knows.

Alice Wilkerson:

The book Ashley Bell: A Novel has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was written by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research previous to write this book. That book very easy to read you will get the point easily after scanning this book.

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