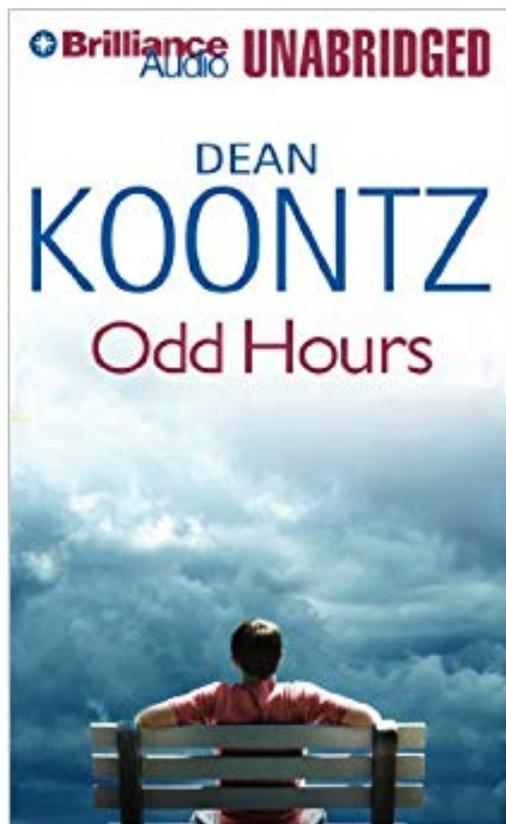


## Odd Hours (Odd Thomas Series) by David Aaron Baker, Dean Koontz



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“Koontz forges the kind of sweeping melodrama complete with screwball laughs, nail-biting moments, and surprises that is the bedrock of American narrative fiction.” —*Booklist*

Only a handful of fictional characters are recognized by first name alone. Dean Koontz’s Odd Thomas is one such literary hero, who has come alive in listeners’ imaginations as he explores the greatest mysteries of this world and the next with his inimitable wit, heart, and quiet gallantry. Now Koontz follows Odd as he is drawn onward, to a destiny he cannot imagine. Haunted by dreams of an all-encompassing red tide, Odd is pulled inexorably to the sea, to a small California coastal town where nothing is as it seems.

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“Takes off at breakneck speed...a superb story from one of our contemporary masters.” —*San Antonio Express-News*



## Reviews of the **Odd Hours (Odd Thomas Series)** by David Aaron Baker, Dean Koontz

Tygrafym

The lowercase treatment above is not a mistake. For those who have traveled along Odd Thomas' path this story marks a departure, and one I am not necessarily comfortable with. Part of Odd's charm is his guile. He relies on his wits and wit to keep him going, to foil nefarious plots, and always come out one step ahead. Although the wit is present, this Odd is suddenly the action hero (a word he constantly disdains). A mold that he does not comfortably fit into.

I will not go into plot points here because this book must be read and you must draw your own conclusions. Suffice it to say that the story is entertaining and worth the investment of time spent walking Odd's path beside him, but now I wonder where this story goes and will this loss of innocence herald more changes that will bring Odd grief and more sadness?

Cargahibe

Never before have I read detective stories. Yet, upon discovering "Odd Thomas" I've been vastly drawn in. Quirky, bright, morally committed to serving people and needs they reflect, this young psychically gifted restaurant worker is drawn into yet another life/death scenario, that this time threatens the specter of nuclear attack. Curious suspenseful plot, peppered with insights and humor, had me laughing out loud and not wanting to put the book down. A life's journey championing justice for the Spirits of those earthbound and wrongly killed, as well as comforting the disembodied beings not yet ready to move fully into the hereafter, proves "Odd" to be a unique hero. Humor companions deep philosophical truths and musings woven repeatedly into the unfolding of each book in this series. Many so clear and important I am writing them down as I read along. Koontz's variety of engaging characters, both as very much alive persons along with the Spirits, captured my interest and held it! He is a provocative and meaningful writer who teaches us yet again some of life's most important lessons, while telling us unforgetably fine stories. Dr. Robin Bentel

Yanki

I love Dean Koontz and his Odd Thomas series. But this one? God awful. I feel like he wrote it in less than 3 days and didnt bother to give it a second look. The description "fillers" were just so annoying and there was one part where Odd was literally stuck under a pier for, I kid you not, 3 chapters! Also, Odd seems to carry on a sidekick from this book. Anna Marie and she annoys me. Always speaking in riddles. Almost as annoying as the guy in white at the end of Matrix Revolutions. But dont let this ruin it for you on the series. All the other books are wonderful.

Leniga

In this case it should perhaps be seen as a bad sign that even the publisher couldn't come up with much to say about the plot of Odd Hours. It's pretty simple and straightforward—Odd has to stop an ugly group of people from wreaking devastating havoc with some extremely powerful weapons, and along the way he has to protect an enigmatic, pregnant young woman.

Annamaria, the young woman, is a walking fortune cookie. She answers every question Odd Thomas throws at her with vague philosophical clichés. She doesn't even turn out to have all that much to do with the plot of the book, despite appearing prominently in Odd's prophetic dreams of disaster. She disappears for most of the narrative. She's more annoying than enigmatic, and Odd's inability to get information out of her feels artificially prolonged.

Much like book three, *Brother Odd*, this installment starts out slow. Unlike that book it doesn't pick up halfway through—it waits until much later in the narrative to evince any real tension and quick pacing.

Added to the annoying character and dull pacing is a distinct carelessness with regard to the details of previous novels in the series. Early on in the book Odd says that he has no birthmark. Except, you know, for the distinct birthmark that is so central to his relationship with Stormy in the first book, *Odd Thomas*. Said birthmark even comes back into the picture on page 300 of this installment itself. Unfortunately that isn't the only error.

Books one and two (*Odd Thomas* and *Forever Odd*) were flat-out delightful, and the second half of book three (*Brother Odd*) was at least engrossing and engaging. *Odd Hours* doesn't pick up until the very end, lacks a colorful supporting cast, and contains continuity errors that make it seem like Koontz was phoning it in. It's a real shame.

Unde

You know, I'm still not sure why this series is a bestseller. The progression of these stories are not terribly fast-paced and are filled with some of the most meaningless dialogue I've ever read. Some of the stuff Odd talks about with his kooky friends have absolutely no bearing on the content of the main story and, frankly, it has since gotten annoying to read about the ghosts of dead celebrities and Odd's quirky philosophies.

Still, I guess this story was okay since the threat posed was a higher risk to the public on a massive scale, but there was far too much silliness in this for me to take it serious. The bad guys in this are morons and anyone serious about creating mass destruction wouldn't have taken a man calling himself "Harry Lime" serious. Does "Harry Lime" even sound like a real name for a government official? It doesn't even sound like a real alias.

Other than the bad guys, I'd say all but maybe one character - and that was the woman who gave Odd a gun - was absolutely pointless. The girl, Annamarie, he meets at the beach - pointless. His oath to protect her with his life - pointless. She might have been the one who pointed him in the direction he set out on, but with his psychic magnetism - as *Odd Thomas* likes to call it - I don't think he needed her at all to find his calling this time around.

I don't know - I'm just not enthralled with this series. The last one, *Brother Odd*, was so bad I almost didn't read this one and while *Odd Hours* wasn't as bad as that one, I grew bored with it until about the last 10 percent and I only got interested then because I was at the end. As much as I'm coming to not like this series, I do see myself reading *Deeply Odd* because that one actually sounds interesting.

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