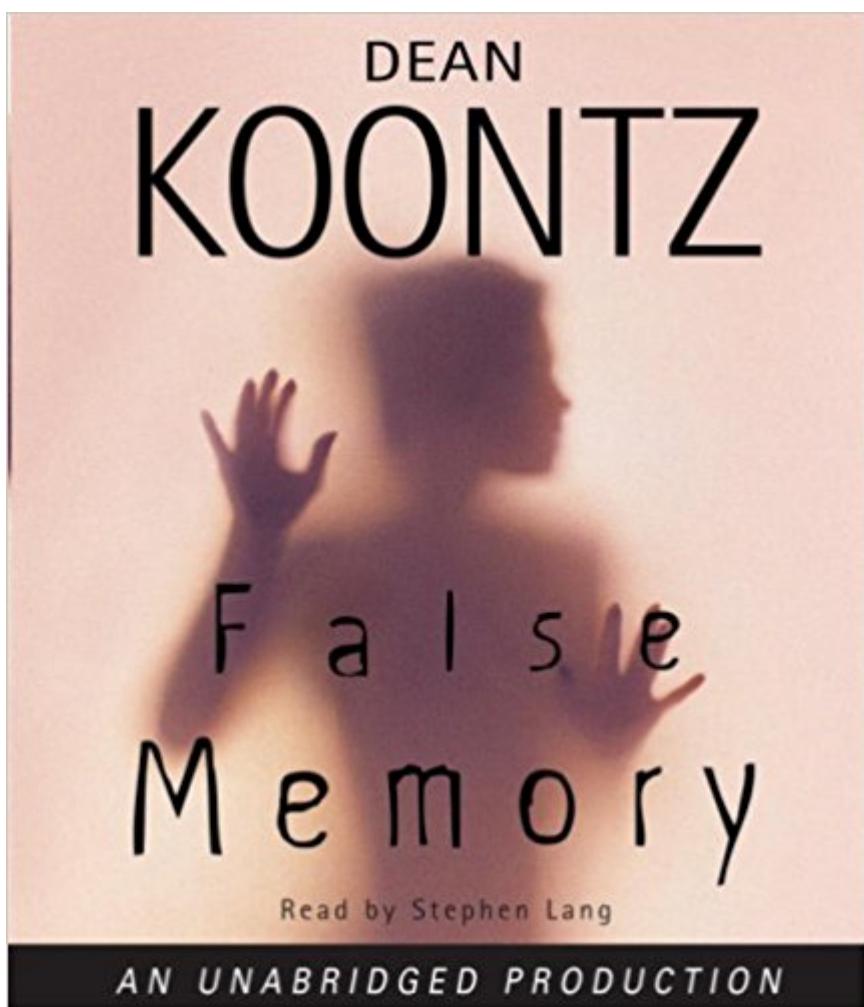


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# False Memory (Dean Koontz)



## **Synopsis**

It's a fear more paralyzing than falling. More terrifying than absolute darkness. More horrifying than anything you can imagine. It's the one fear you cannot escape, no matter where you run...no matter where you hide. It's the fear of yourself. It's real. It can happen to you. And facing it can be deadly. Fear for your mind. From the Paperback edition.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Not a continuation of the Moonlight Bay series (Seize the Night and Fear Nothing) as many fans were expecting, False Memory is nonetheless just as powerful and compulsive as anything Koontz has written before. Martie Rhodes is a successful young computer games designer with a loving husband, Dusty, and a seemingly normal life. Her best friend, Susan, however, suffers from agoraphobia, or a fear of open spaces, and relies on Martie to take her to weekly therapy sessions. Suddenly and inexplicably, Martie herself begins exhibiting worrying signs of a mental disorder, fearing herself capable of inflicting great harm on her loved ones. At the same time, Dusty's brother Skeet also succumbs to irrational mental behavior and tries to throw himself from a roof. It soon becomes clear that these four characters are involved in something much more than a sinister coincidence. Koontz's great skill, as he demonstrates so well in this novel, is creating believable characters and thrusting them into seemingly impossible but--for the period of the story--completely plausible situations. The plot is as carefully layered as the most intricate orchestral compositions, and Koontz conducts the proceedings with almost unbearable tension. One of his greatest abilities

as a writer, however, is tapping into the dark paranoia of society. As we approach the Millennium, and an age in which we are becoming increasingly desensitized to death and violence, Martie's fear of herself, known as autophobia, seems a terrifying warning that soon the only thing we will have left to fear is ourselves. Deeper meanings aside, this is easily one of his best thrillers. The prose moves at a breakneck speed, and the denouement will leave you with a pounding heart and chills up and down your spine. Koontz delivers exciting, boundary-breaking fiction better than anyone else in the game, and *False Memory* (though at times shocking and disturbing) is a perfect example of a master author in top form. --Jonathan Weir, .co.uk --This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

Koontz's latest offering centers around evil and powerful psychiatrist Dr. Mark Ahriman, who has developed an effective procedure for "brainwashing" his clients that he uses for fun and profit. Husband and wife Dusty and Martie Rhodes, themselves among the victims of the drug-and-hypnosis-based method, become aware slowly, through a series of accidents, of the doctor's malevolent influence. They struggle, sometimes against themselves, to discredit and defeat him. Koontz's legion of fans will recognize again his skill at making the improbable seem possible, and even likely. Actor Stephen Lang reads with skill, especially the chilling inner and outer voice of the psychopathic doctor. Recommended for purchase as demand warrants. --Kristen L. Smith, Loras Coll. Lib., Dubuque, IA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

One of the first books I ever read from Dean Koontz, this novel set the stage and expectations for all future works I would read from the author. It is a tale of how powerful persuasion of the mind can be, and it is a captivating read. I cannot and will not summarize it as it would take away from the experience of enjoying the book, so I say that it is an awesome read, and if you've never branched into Koontz stories, this is a great one to start reading.

I became a fan of Dean Koontz, for a short time, back in the mid to late 90's. Then, for a period of 20 yrs, both life got in the way (trying to survive and then raise a family) and I then relegated myself to only reading the classics, when I could or classics in the making (Nathan Englander, et al.) Well, now I'm back to reading Dean Koontz and I couldn't be happier. As a former orphan, foster child and scared teen mother, who saw the dark side of so many fake smiles, trying to find my way in this "cruel" world and, so many times, questioning reality or why I even bothered; to now a warm, strong,

wise woman, with humility, who made it and has been moderately successful in life and as a mom (my greatest achievement), I find that Dean's characters are well fleshed out, ring true and they resonate with me and my own perceptions of life, very well. His protagonists have heart and are likeable and the evil that lurks, as in real life, often comes at you with a smile; such a deadly weapon. This long nugget of a story was no different and I enjoyed it very much. That his stories have happy endings does not bother me at all, even if they sometimes don't feel like they would play out well in real life and you think, "That would never happen; in real life they'd be alone, dead or homeless!" Because, unlike in real life, where happy endings are often withheld, in the magical land where the characters of books reside, you get to change that. And for some of us, these stories and happy endings have even sustained us and given us that sliver of hope we've always needed.

another homerun by Koontz. worth reading! He delves into the mind and how it can be manipulated.

Great Koontz. As usual, False Memory has all Koontz's elements: a madman with evil designs,a smart dog, foul weather, and hero and heroine. All turns out well for the good guys, and punishment or death to the madman. A very long book, but well worth reading.. If Koontz isn't an expert in many scientific fields,.his imagination surely makes up for it. It seems a great deal of research has been done for False Memory.. Also, if the ability to keep the reader in suspense by using many descriptive passages, then False is the best I've read..Richard Hall

I've never been this impressed by an author before. I've always read paranormal romance books written by women. I never thought a man could capture the romance that I wanted to read but my grandma convinced me to try Dean Koontz so when she passed away I wanted to honor her in some small way so I read intensity by Mr. Koontz and I've been hooked ever since

One of my favorite books. So sick. So creative. Dean Koontz is one of my very favorite authors and this work left me wanting to have a further relationship with the main characters--another book!

First of all, shame on all those customers who feel it necessary to give away certain plot mechanisms (LIKE THE VILLAIN, FOR GOSH SAKE!); this is one thing that really irritates me about reviewers who have no regard for the people who haven't read the book, and spoil the surprise for them. Anyway, back to FALSE MEMORY. Dean Koontz is undoubtedly a prolific and smart writer. He doesn't pretend to be a great writer; he is successful because he is an ENTERTAINING writer,

and "False Memory" with all of its implausibilities, loop holes, and seemingly endless scenes, is still a darn good read. The characters of Dusty, Martie, Skeet and Fig Newton are very likeable and readers should empathize with the horrible plight they have been placed. Also, the character of Susan Jagger is a remarkably sympathetic character, in a very small but important supporting role. The story opens with Martie taking her agoraphobic friend Susan to the remarkable Dr. Mark Ahlstrom. Next thing you know Martie confronts her own phobia: autophobia, fear of oneself. Now that's one to knock your socks off. Granted, the scenes in which Martie rushes through the house to get rid of any potential weapon are a little too long and overwrought, they establish the depth of her paranoia. Koontz reveals the villain early in the book, and even though you know what's going on, you don't have all the gory details until a showdown late in the book with Dusty's parents. And the villain of this piece (I WON'T TELL!) is one of the vilest Mr. Koontz has presented us with. And you know what's nice--Koontz doesn't try to make us feel sorry for the guy because of his pathetic childhood existence. Nor does Koontz leave us hanging with any loose ends in this one. That is certainly refreshing after having just finished Stephen Dobyns' "Boy in the Water" and Peter Straub's "Mr. X". Mr. Koontz has learned through his years of successful writing that ultimately you have to please your audience; scare them, puzzle them, but don't leave them hanging in the air with presposterous literary shenanigans. Congratulations, Dean, on "False Memory." It's one of your best works!

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