

Dance with the Devil

Deanna Dwyer , Dean Koontz

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Katherine Sellers came to Owisden in the winter, to be the secretary-companion to Lydia Boland, one of the wealthiest women in the country. The job was an exciting challenge for Katherine, and a needed change from the events she'd sooner forget. And her new employer was a charming and gracious lady. If only all of the people of Owisden and the little mountain village that huddled against the estate for protection were so nice, Katherine's happiness would be assured. However, beneath the charm stirred other emotions, other forces. There was evil in that mountain valley, a brooding evil that worshipped at a dark altar... an altar that had been built for unspeakable sacrifice! And Katherine was marked from the moment she arrived - marked to die!

Dance with the Devil Details


Date : Published 1972 by Lancer Books

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Author : Deanna Dwyer , Dean Koontz

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From Reader Review Dance with the Devil for online ebook

Robert Beveridge says

Deanna Dwyer, Dance with the Devil (Prestige, 1972)
[originally posted 17Sep2001]

I always figured gothic romance novels were written by terminally horny college students with a passing interest in the occult and a strong desire to make money by any means necessary. Dean Koontz gave evidence of same in the early seventies by writing a few gothics (three, if memory serves) under the name Deanna Dwyer. Of the various forms of Koontziana out there, the Dwyers are the most collectible—and that's saying something.

The books themselves are about what you'd expect—boy A meets girl, boy B meets girl, boy A gets jealous and accuses boy B of being the high priest of a Satanic animal-sacrificing cult who call up the devil in the woods... you know the drill. If you've read two Barbara Cartland books, you know the routine, including the supposed twist ending common to just about every romance novel I've ever read. But man, this stuff is funny. (As an amusing sidelight, it becomes obvious-- when you're looking-- that Koontz has a romance background. Compare and contrast the romantic relationships in Koontz' superstar-era novels with those in King...) ** ½

Ralph Carlson says

This is the best of the gothics I've read so far by Dean Koontz. While his gothics aren't the greatest, I find them very entertaining.

Simon Gelling says

Alright.Nothing much happens

Mary says

I read this book because Dean Koontz was co-author--not sure what year it was published but I would guess 30+++ years ago. It was an easy read and a bit of a pleasant surprise as to what passed for horror back then. Simple plot, simple characters, simple twist at the end. A pleasant but inane read.

Arnellies says

I wouldn't have thought of reading this book but I got sick last week and I was up all night. Once I started to

read, I couldn't stop. The book itself isn't very long but it grabs you instantly and your wondering what's going to happen next. I rather liked it but I saddened to realize that the book is written under dean koontz pen name from earlier in his career. I've read him before but this was really different from his later books. As I was reading this I was actually taking a break from reading hideaway by dean. It kinda reminds me of the book house on haunted hill, both are creepy in the same capacity.

Charybdis says

Another compact little gothic by Dean Koontz, writing as Deanna Dwyer.

Katherine Sellers sets out to her first job as assistant to Lydia Roxburgh Boland, one of the dozen wealthiest women in the country. It's wintertime and weather conditions in the Adirondacks are abysmal. Close to the village of Roxburgh she sees a hanged cat in the doorway of an old abandoned barn. Upon investigation she notices a pentagram chalked on the ground and signs of burnt candles. Witchcraft? Devil worshippers? The snow is so bad one of the locals has to drive her up to Owlsden, the Roxburgh residence high on the hilltop. This is Michael Harrison, who could very well become a romantic interest. However, her employer also has a son the same age, Alex. So life seems to look very brightly for Katherine: a wonderful job, a luxurious household, nice people all around and two eligible bachelors... if it weren't for the ominous signs of satanism in the region. Is she in danger?

Of course she is! Remember this isn't just a romance novel!

I loved the writing style: "The sky was a gray metal lid clamped on the pot of the world, so low and flat that it looked as if she could just reach up and tap a fingernail against it." Isn't that a wonderful way to make you see Katherine's surroundings? The story itself was very well done too; thankfully it isn't one of those formulaic gothics that fail to surprise you. There's a bit of psychology thrown in which was very refreshing to see. Gothic suspense novels are all about people lying and pretending and a heroine who doesn't know whom to trust. To this the author cleverly added another dimension.

Rebecca McNutt says

Well-written for the most part, though not the most original. *Dance With The Devil* was rather interesting but not memorable, and the characters were kind of boring.

Nigel says

This is the forth book written under the Deanna Dwyer pseudonym by Dean Koontz. As with others written under the Dwyer name this is centred on a slightly naïve and innocent person taking up a job in a remote house and then finding things are not all they seem to be.

Katherine Sellars finds herself isolated not only be house's (Owlsden) remote location but by the winter snow storm that is swirling around it and the nearest town. Her nerves are tested when on the journey to the house she comes across a cat that has been mutilated and hung from a barn. Moved beyond words she braves the cold to get out of her car and bury the cat. When Yuir the house butler come manservant warns her to lock her door at night and not wander around in the darkness she doesn't take it seriously. He goes on to

warn her about the Satanist cult that is often seen in the woods, she doesn't believe in this even when he explains about beliefs of his upbringing in Rumania and the legends of vampires. Werewolves etc. Still when she hears noises in the night of course she goes and investigates, once she finds its only owls calling in the night. The second time she finds occult symbols written in blood on her bedroom door. When the storm brings down the powerlines plunging Owlsden into darkness and cold her fear increases. Can those in Owlsden survive the night?
