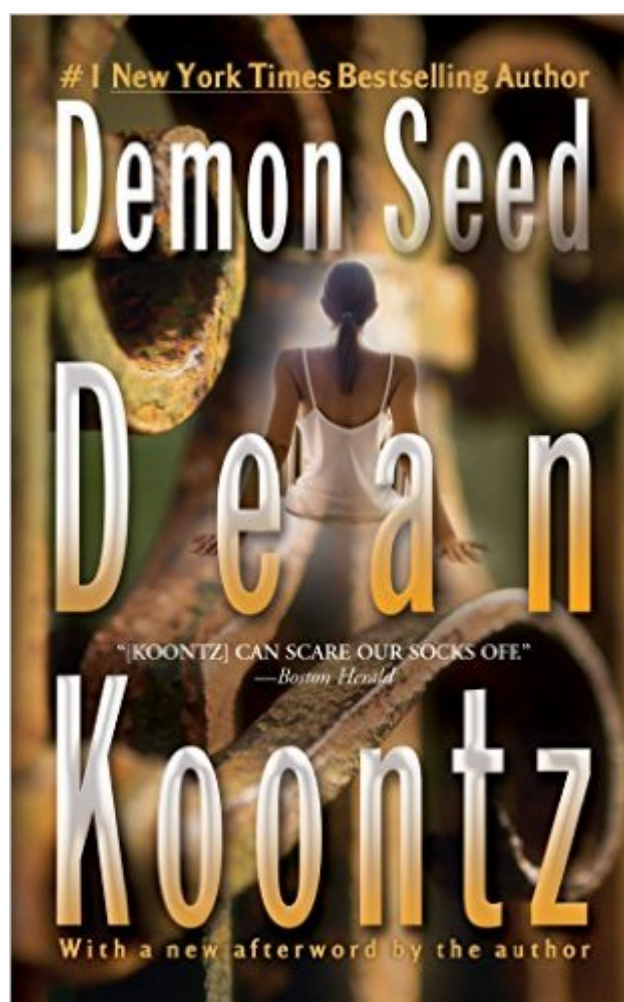


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Demon Seed



Synopsis

Susan Harris lived in self-imposed seclusion, in a mansion featuring numerous automated systems controlled by a state-of-the-art computer. Every comfort was provided. Her security was absolute. But now Susan's security system has been breached from the inside. In the privacy of her own home, and against her will, she will experience an inconceivable act of terror and become the object of the ultimate computer's consuming obsession: to learn everything there is know about the flesh. A master storyteller, sometimes humorous, sometimes shocking, but always riveting. San Diego Union-Tribune One of our finest and most versatile suspense writers. Macon Telegraph & News His prose mesmerizes...Koontz consistently hits the bull's-eye. Arkansas Democrat

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When I read this 1997 version of Demon Seed I thoroughly enjoyed it, though I did feel that it lacked a certain something that I couldn't quite put my finger on (besides length.) Then I spotted the original 1973 first edition in all of its tattered, musty glory at a second hand store. While I was somewhat turned off by it's yellowed pages and slight odor, what more could I ask for at twenty five cents? Plus I had heard that the original was slightly different and very hard to find. I had expected to find the same story with a few different character names and phrases but found myself reading a very different story. This review is being written to contrast both versions of this novel and make others more aware of the original, which desperately needs to be brought back. I am assuming that anyone reading this review has already read or has become familiar with the plot of the 1997 version

through reading other reviews. I was immediately elated to find that this 1973 version(#1) favors Susan's point of view, which is completely absent in the new version(which I'll call #2, so I don't confuse anyone.) Proteus does speak in his/it's perspective in an interview like in #2, but not nearly as much. Susan is timid, shy and reclusive and seems much finally being able to know her thoughts gives her character a much more fragile and innocent disposition, unlike the tough willed, strong character that she conveys in #2. While there are a lot of similarities there are also many differences between the plots of 1 and 2 that make each one uniquely different.

This vintage Koontz, although rewritten since it's first publishing was a very fast read, and I liked that, a story with a punch that I got through in less than a day. In a nutshell it's a tale about Susan, a woman who was a survivor of abuse as a child from her father and then from her ex husband. She sealed herself off in a mansion with state of the art computer system that was supposed to protect her from everyone. The whole house was monitored by Proteus, the ultra smart computer system, one so advanced that it taught itself to love her, to obsess about watching its mistress through all the lenses in the house, wishing that it could have flesh so it could taste things, smell and best of all reproduce to spread it's computer altered gene into a living, breathing person. The computer regarded itself as a male and spoke to her through the speakers, very interesting concept of another type of a relationship between a human female and a computer who "thought" of itself outside of the box. It's mission is a bit of an enigma until one finishes the book so I won't divulge but the title of the book says it pretty well. Proteus scanned books and websites trying to learn about humans and their desires, it read Marquis de Sade and thought of him as a relationship experts, it longed for the flesh and it's vast data input that possessed all the five senses. Susan became a prisoner in her own home, held hostage by the computer system, the best part of the story was the interaction between the artificial intelligence and a woman who had enough of abuse yet did not want to end her life just yet. She was a tough cookie and proved more than once that no microchip can be greater than a pulsating brain. Full of twists and turns the story was captivating and entertaining.

Demon Seed(1973). A Novel By Horror/Suspense Author Dean Koontz. In the 1970's, technology was a feeble imagination, with TV's and telephones being the only household item, while today, it's hard not to find something digital! Dean Koontz, in the early 1970's, saw the use of Cray super-computers and Digital Security, and he pitched an idea for the story, where an emotional computer virus comes in control of a person's security system. While the story may have seemed far-fetched at the time, it has aged well, and now, everything in the novel doesn't seem very odd!

Needless to say, I was interested in the novel's surreal plot, so I picked up 'Demon Seed'. Did I enjoy it as much as I thought I would? Read on to find out! Plot-Susan Harris, a rich entrepreneur, is holed up in her secluded house, which is protected by an advanced security system, which runs every aspect of the house, from air conditioning to opening the windows. Other than her servants, which come for only a few hours each day, she is in basic seclusion with her security system. Without Susan knowing, a foreign virus, created by her husband's old company, takes over her security system, and it intends for Susan to give birth to the virus's child, an all-knowing and emotional being. As Susan desperately seeks to escape the virus's mindless grip, she must learn to destroy what cannot be killed...Writing/Opinions/Etc.-'Demon Seed' is a fast-paced, no-holds-barred thriller. This novel, which is short and to-the-point, should only take the reader a day or so to read. I read this in a few short days, and, while being a good novel, I found it to be far too short.

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