



The Voice of the Night

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No one could understand why Colin and Roy were best friends. Colin was so shy; Roy was so popular. Colin was nervous around girls; Roy was a ladies' man. Colin was fascinated by Roy — and Roy was fascinated with death. Then one day Roy asked his timid friend, "You ever killed anything?" And from that moment on, the two were bound together in a game too terrifying to imagine... and too irresistible to stop.

Includes an afterword by the author.

The Voice of the Night Details

Date : Published July 1st 1991 by Berkley (first published 1980)

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Author : Dean Koontz

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From Reader Review The Voice of the Night for online ebook

Jackie says

2.5 stars

Nothing to really say about this book.

Maciek says

One of Koontz's most underrated novels. Roy and Colin are two unlikely friends; Colin is a shy and awkward bookworm, while Roy is the most popular kid in the down. Roy begins to confide in Colin and tells him his secrets, which Colin takes as jokes - but they might not be jokes at all.

Originally published under the pen name Brian Coffey in 1980, The Voice of The Night received almost no attention and I really don't know why. Scary, psychological, chilling and realistic, it will touch the soul of any man who was an outcast during his childhood, and was desperate for friendship. Totally Recommended.

Tim says

A story of 14 year old boys that start off as friends who turn against each other. Not my cup of tea, but I guess the writing is okay. 3 of 10 stars

Tom Jones says

A great book by Koontz. I was stumbling between a 8 and 9/10.

It's a coming of age story following two kids: Colin (shy, quiet and naive) and Roy (Popular, confident and well... Messed up in the head!)

The first thing said in the book is perfect: "So, have you killed anything?
What a way to start out a book. XD

Collin starts out very shy and naive. You want to just tell Collin that Roy is sick twisted in the head! Collin at the start is sometimes a little nervous of Roy but views him as a true friend and confidence booster. It's evident Roy is psychologically manipulating him so Collin can be just like himself. That's the whole point of the 'Blood Brother' thing.

Collin later throughout the novel becomes more confident, builds higher self-esteem and becomes less naive. The transition is done well.

Roy is the villain. Both 14 year old boys. He's evil, manipulative and two faced. Not two faced however to Collin. He shows his true self to him all the time.

You can see both have quite bad/sad lives. Terrible stuff with Roy concerning his sister and Collin not having a good/supportive family. Collin's parents are divorced and there is tension between them. It's explored not that much and I wish there was more. Collin's Dad I feel was a real arrogant drunk ass-hole and his Mother cared more about her job and herself as a businesswoman than caring for her own son. You feel sorry for Collin and at moments Roy; even though, he's insane.

I've got a theory behind the reason for Roy's evil personality and Collin changing slightly that links to the Kingsman's house. It's never stated in the novel but it's insinuated slightly of a supernatural part.

Roy had a bad life. He was always interested in the history of the town and what transpired there such as murders, killing and suicides. He read a article on The Kingsman house. Mr Kingsman killed his family due to him becoming insane and in the end killed himself. Blood everywhere, guts, heads decapitated and nailed to the wall. After, the house was abandoned. There is more to it but I will leave it at that.

Roy said he's been to the house before when he and Collin went. I believe the House inside lingers dark negative energy. The origin to me on the dark energy is something that affected Kingsman and it wants a new target, or Kingsman is the negative energy inside the house. Their spirits including Mr Kingsman are still in the house.

I believe the dark energy inside the house is what twisted Roy's mind to become crazy like Kingsman. It shows Colin to be a little different in a scene of the book when he first went in the house.

To me, the story focuses a lot on psychological manipulation. Collin is being manipulated by Roy but he's too naive, easily pushed around and has low self-esteem to see it or stand against him.

However, with a theory of mine, Roy is being psychologically manipulated. The answer: The dark energy from The Kingsman house. Again, it's never stated that is what happened. Only slightly insinuated to me and I just put together my own theory. That's what I like about Koontz. Some of his books you can put a theory up yourself on how a part of the story plays out.

The pacing is solid, flows very nicely and it is a real page turner.

It's divided into three parts. Part 1 was fantastic.

Part 2 and 3 didn't hold up with part 1. Part 1 is 70% of the book. Part 2 and 3 are coming to the end.

It should of got more suspenseful in those parts realistically. It didn't.

It had its moments of tension but it was a bit inconsistent during part 2 and 3.

The book was predictable. Not necessary a bad thing at all. However, it didn't really surprise me in places and I think the book could of done things or went into a direction some would find surprising.

This feels a lot like a 'Richard Laymon' book. The description, gore and the discussion of rape and sex made me feel I was reading a Laymon novel than a Koontz novel. It's quite a disturbing novel and quite upsetting in tone. I don't think this is a book for everyone. It's not a book I personally recommend to someone who wants to begin with Koontz. Later on? Yeah maybe.

The ending some are a bit hit or miss on. I don't mind it and I guess it explains what the character of Collin is like. He's not like Roy and if it was the other way round; Roy would of done it differently.

Overall, I enjoyed the novel. It's got problems. I personally feel Collin's parents should of been a stronger sub plot, the main story was predictable but the main problem was part 2 and 3 not on the same lines or better (because it should of been) than part 1. However, it was enjoyable with great moments, tense scenes, perfect pacing and a strong page turner. Took two days to read. Three hours on day 1 and 2 so I must of enjoyed it.

A fast and enjoyable read.

8/10

Josh Barnett says

You can read this review and others at my book blog site, joshsbookcorner.blogspot.com

To start this off, this is a really hard book to summarize the plot without giving away half of the plot. My description will be very vague, I apologize but I don't want to give away most of the plot.

Colin just moved to Santa Leona about two months before the story takes place. He becomes best friends with Roy. When Roy starts asking about death and rape, he doesn't know what to do. He doesn't want to believe the stories but if they are true, what can he do about them?

That's all good but is the book good? You came to the right place to find out. This is my review of a standalone novel, *The Voice of the Night* by Dean Koontz.

The plot of the story is actually really slow. It takes the book about 170 pages to actually pick up pace. While it was slow, I surprisingly actually enjoyed the slow part. The character of Colin must have hit a soft spot for me or something. Once the story picks up, it really picks up. You are on the edge of your seat all the way through until the very last page. The story abruptly ends so you don't know what happens to the characters after the story is over but that's alright for. It left it up to my imagination to guess what happened to the characters right after the story. The ending is a very satisfying ending though.

The characters of Colin and Roy are great. They are fourteen. They have really awesome chemistry together. The only other character the plays a big part of the story is the character of Heather, a fourteen year old girl. She is another great character. These three characters get really fleshed out from beginning to end. There are several minor characters but they don't play much of a role to the story and they for the most part are two dimensional.

I really enjoyed this book a lot. I recommend this book to fans of thrillers that don't mind slow stories cause it does pick up. I would also recommend it to first time Koontz readers and R.L. Stine fans since this one reads like a book you would find in his *Fear Street* series.

Dustin Crazy little brown owl says

Jeez! I've read this book four times and it's a real popper!

The *Voice of the Night*, told in simplistic form, is a coming of age story. Young teenagers Roy and Colin,

strike up an unusual friendship. The Voice of the Night explores how our past experiences, family relationships and relationship with our peers shape our lives & influence our decisions. Koontz highlights his classic storytelling with a mix of Horror & a love of Science Fiction.

Favorite Passages:

To Colin, who was a science-fiction buff, Roy appeared to be in telepathic communication with something that hid far out in the deep, dark, rolling water.

He wondered if Roy's parents really were nut cases. Of course, they weren't a couple of raving lunatics; they weren't certifiable. They weren't so far gone that they sat in corners talking to themselves and eating flies. Maybe just a little bit crazy. Just a tiny bit nuts. Perhaps they'd get a lot worse as time went on, gradually crazier and crazier, until ten to fifteen years from now they would be eating flies. It sure was something to think about.

"I'm a successful businesswoman. I can afford it."
She brought him a five-dollar bill, and he said, "It's too much."
"Blow the rest of it on comic books."

"Who said you're a nobody?"
"I did."
"What kind of a thing is that to say about yourself?"

"People who say they love you will pounce when they get the chance. You gotta always remember that they're just waiting for the opportunity to get you. Loves a trick. A cover. A way to catch you off guard. Never let down your guard. Never."

The night was a vast, dank cellar, home to that which crept and crawled and slithered. The night had ears and eyes. It had a horrible, scratchy old voice. If you listened closely, turning out your doubt and keeping an open mind, you could hear the dreadful voice of the night. It whispered about graves and rotting flesh and demons and ghosts and swamp monsters. It spoke of unspeakable things.

"So tell him to take his fishing pole and shove it up his ass. Tell him you won't go."

"Some people say they've seen spirits that glow in the dark, crazy things, headless children who come out onto this porch and run back and forth as if they're being chased by someone. . . or something."

". . . I'll put a knife at her throat."
"She'll scream."
"Not with a knife at her throat."
"She'll think you're bluffing."

"If she does," Roy said, "I'll cut her a little to show we mean business."

"What about the kid?"

"I'll have Sarah under control, so you'll be free to catch the brat and tie him up."

"What'll I tie him with?"

"We'll take along some clothesline."

He read half a dozen new paperbacks: science fiction, sword and sorcery, occult stories, stuff that was filled with monstrous villains, the sort of thing he liked the most.

Last night Hermit Hobson's collection of wrecks had been a sinister labyrinth. Now, in the bright daylight, it was only sad, a very sad and lonely place. By squinting slightly, you could look through the dead and pitted surface, through the sorry present, and see the past glowing in all of it. Once, the cars had been shiny and beautiful. People had invested work and money and dreams in these machines, and all that had come to this: rust.

Salvis says

This book changed me, in it's own way. It's my first Dean Koontz, so I haven't got anything to compare it to. But, I must say, that this book, so far, is one of my favorites. Dean did a great job making the reader intregrated through the whole plot.

For me, it's almost always the first book, that I'm going to compare other, this author's books to. I know, I should've started with the first book Dean ever wrote, and read them chronically, but, while sitting in the library, waiting for my friends, looking at Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's, than, Charles Dickens' work, this book just, sort of, spoke to me. So, I read the first twenty pages, and knew, that the book is something I'll enjoy - and it was.

And I also liked, what Dean did with the ending - simple, yet, it leaves you, kind of empty - hounding for more. For example, I wanted to read more about Heiser (I read the book not in it's original language) and Colin.

I know, that from a reader's point, it seems absurd, but, this book would make a great film, even a prequel to the first. I'm absolutely thrilled about Dean, and am looking forward to reading his work.

I must say, I like Dean's work, even better than Stephen King's.

All in all, I give this book five stars.

Ron says

Dean Koontz has used so many pen names (something I hadn't known). Ten by the count of Google. The Voice of the Night was originally published under the name of Brian Coffey (learned that here on Goodreads). But I have read quite a few of Koontz's books in the past. A few early ones, and then a bunch through the early 2000's. If there was one thing I could count on with his books, it's suspense. He's just good at it. Because of that, I liked *Odd Thomas* and books like *Life Expectancy*. Personal favorite: *From the Corner of His Eye*. I think he's best when combining suspense with emotion and a touch of the supernatural.

The Voice of the Night is what then? Well, the first half was awful. Those things I mentioned above – they did not exist here. Most of the dialogue between these two boys was, to put it simply, annoying. Back, forth, back, forth. People don't talk like this. And the direction these boys were heading put me off (BTW, the jacket description is misleading). I almost put the book down for good. But I had done just that with two recent books, and didn't want to give up on another.

Now guess what?! I liked the second half! Koontz changed directions on me! You sly dog. He didn't take the road I'd expected. The plot gained substance and reasoning. Suspense made an appearance. Moments of crappy dialogue remained in spots (case in point: Colin's mom became utterly ridiculous at this point. I think she's an excuse to free up the plot). This isn't Dean's "A-game" writing. The use of a pseudonym makes sense.

So this is like two books for me, one bad, one good. Together not so bad. Can't go above 3 stars, so I'm calling it "3-stars with a plus". Good to pick up a Dean Koontz again. Makes me want to read another of his oldies.

Irene says

I didn't realize that I had read this book many years ago when it was published under the name Brian Coffey. A few years ago I bought it when it was released on kindle under the name Dean Koontz. As I finally got around to reading it, bits and pieces came back to me.

Anyway, Colin is a shy and quiet, friendless, boy who loves to read and watch movies. His parents are divorced and he lives with his mother who is almost never home and does not seem to have much if any time for him.

He strikes up a friendship with Roy, or more specifically Roy chooses to strike up a relationship with him. Roy is a disturbed and twisted individual who enjoys torture and killing.

I would probably have rated this 5 stars if Koontz had not made the mother such a senseless flipping moron who would rather believe outrageous stories about her son with no proof and so easily having the wool pulled over her eyes by an Eddie Haskell type fake politeness. Therefore, 4 out of 5 stars from me.

Phrynnne says

I have read quite a few Dean Koontz books but this is the first one I did not really like. There was plenty of horror and suspense but the story never really grabbed me and the characters were more irritating than anything else. I could not believe in Roy at all, nor could I believe that Colin could turn around his own character in such a short space of time and go from being scared of his own shadow to planning and carrying out the events of the final scene. Oh well, there has to be the occasional fail when someone has written so many books. He is still one of my favourite authors.

Monica Go says

3.5 It was enjoyable and fast-paced.

Written very simply, I was able to fly through it; not too mention I was intrigued to know when Colin would realize the truth. About this, it got a little repetitive at the beginning.

I really liked how the night was almost represented as another character and its voice beautifully described more than once. I hated instead, the way Colin's mom acted when he was in need, she was a total bitch, I couldn't believe it; I wanted to smash her face. But at least in this book parents had their part.

I also kinda enjoyed the end. I have no idea if there's a sequel but I don't think so and I don't really believe in Roy's redemption.

Christine says

Not one of my fav Koontz novels. I had a hard time finding parts believable. Colin was too naive and Roy wasn't evil enough.

Tracy says

this was my first dean koontz, and as you can see from my library, it basically opened a flood gate. i was fairly young when i read this, probably close to the age of the main character, and this book disturbed me in a lot of ways. i think if i re-read it, i would be a lot more hardened toward it, because i've read and watched a lot in the horror genre in the years since then. but i will always remember and cherish this as the first (and among the few) books that quite literally made me squirm.

Fred says

Koontzland Group Read - December 2017

Dean Koontz in December: this is #4 out of 4 listed for me

What can Colin Jacobs do to protect his love? Will his best friend, Roy, be detrimental to the relationship Colin desires with Heather?

Colin & Roy are "blood brothers". Colin's girlfriend is Heather Litshitz. Roy Borden says girls are more interested in him & violence. He bullies Colin on attacking a "passenger" train but Colin cannot help him. Colin & Heather find Roy is adopted, Roy killed Belinda (his adopted sister) using his adopted father's car. (view spoiler)

First Read - May 2015

Colin Jacobs and Roy Borden are 14 year old "blood brothers" driven by Roy, a school bully. Does Colin hurt and kill animals as Roy demands? Heather Litshitz (14) enters the story - is it worth it to risk her life? The Jacobs and Borden parents are no help as one would expect. The book may take a little time to read to keep track of Roy-Colin "blood brother" relationships and Roy's training is fulfillment.

YouTube soundtrack 1 = <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=tgEJNLJ...>

YouTube soundtrack 2= <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=btdVtYb...>

Koontzland - Group Home

Edward Lorn says

Koontz-Alert Checklist (Every Dean Koontz book has at least one of the following ten things.)

1. Blond lead/love interest - Yes. There are quite a few blonds in this book, actually.
2. Dog(s) - Nope
3. Government conspiracy - Nope
4. Aliens - Nope
5. Serial Killer - Kinda
6. Bougainvillea plant - Nope
7. Sodium-vapor streetlight - Nope
8. Precocious child - Kinda
9. Town gone crazy - Nope
10. Psychic(s) - Nope

The Voice in the Night is my latest Koontz reread with my bubbly buddy, Smiley Smileson, also known as Delee. Did it withstand the test of time? Well...

This one almost lived up to my last reread. Almost. The ending didn't gel with me this time around. I don't see why anyone in Colin's situation would toss away his gun, and the dialogue after that was cheesier than Hardees' bacon and cheddar fries.

Mmm... bacon and cheddar fries... mmm...

Other than the ending, this was just as fun as the first two times I read it. It's still my favorite Koontz book. Does it have its problems? Sure. I did notice more this time around, like Weezy's refusal to believe her son, who'd only ever been honest with her. And the word "sororicide" which didn't fit the writing style at all. Seriously, that word stood out like a unicorn at a Trump rally. But, problems and all, I love this book. It reminds me of being a kid: from the foul language out of the mouths of babes to Colin's love of books and horror films to the fishing trips with a father who is the exact opposite of his son; this book makes me feel young again. And that's great, because, lately, I've been feeling older than my years.

Oddly enough, this entire book feels like a Richard Laymon novel. Every single page is bursting with Dick's influence on Dean. I can't believe I never saw it before.

In summation: This book rocks, but I'm not going to recommend it to anyone. I'm sure I'm biased here.

Final Judgment: A piece of my childhood that withstands the test of time.
