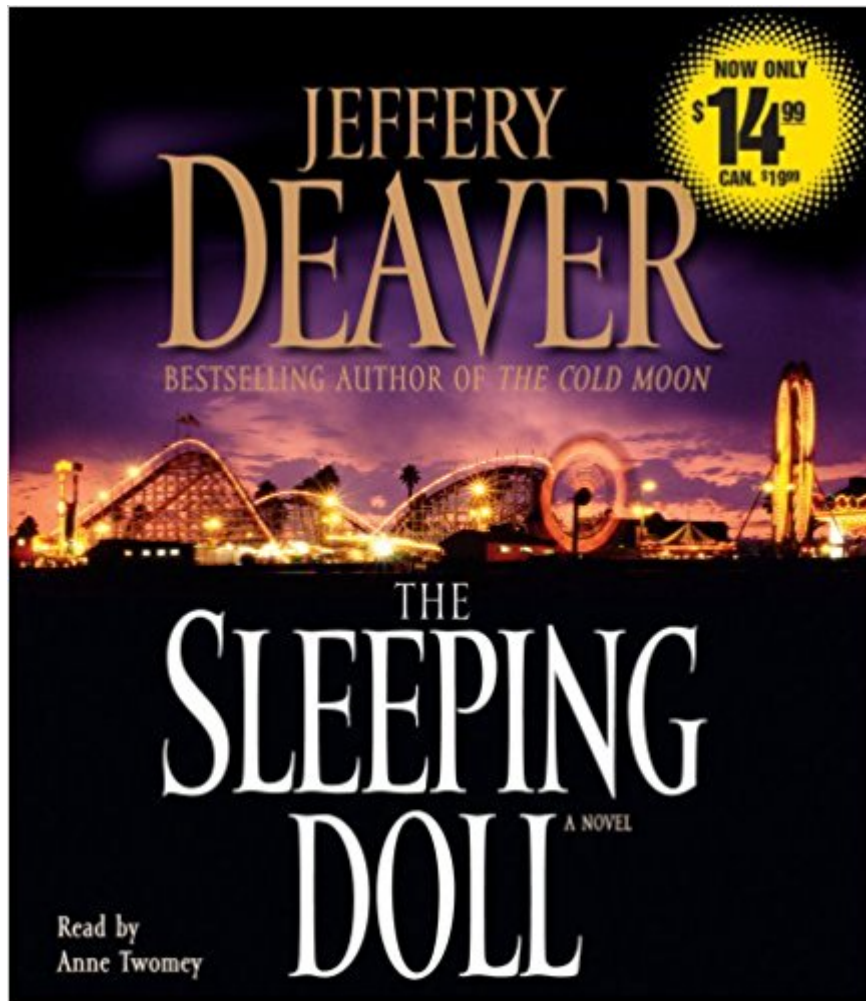




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The Sleeping Doll: A Novel



Synopsis

When Special Agent Kathryn Dance is sent to interrogate the convicted killer Daniel "Son of Manson" Pell as a suspect in a newly unearthed crime, she feels both trepidation and electrifying intrigue. Pell is serving a life sentence for brutal murders years earlier that mirrored those perpetrated by Charles Manson in the 1960s. But Pell and his cult members left behind a survivor who -- because she was in bed hidden by her toys -- was dubbed the Sleeping Doll. Pell has long been both reticent and unrepentant about the crime. But Dance sees an opportunity to pry a confession from him for the recent murder -- and to learn more about the depraved mind of this career criminal. But when Dance's plan goes terribly wrong and Pell escapes, leaving behind a trail of dead and injured, she finds herself in charge of her first manhunt. As the idyllic Monterey Peninsula is paralyzed by the elusive killer, Dance turns to the past to find the truth about what Daniel Pell is really up to. She tracks down the now-teenage Sleeping Doll to learn what really happened that night, and arranges a reunion of three women who were in his cult at the time of the killings. The lies of the past and the evasions of the present boil up under the relentless probing of Kathryn Dance, but will the truth about Daniel Pell emerge in time to stop him from killing again?

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio; Abridged edition (June 9, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743582950

ISBN-13: 978-0743582957

Product Dimensions: 5 x 1 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 254 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,161,294 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 in [Books > Books on CD](#) > Authors, A-Z > (D) > Deaver, Jeffery #5762 in [Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers](#) #12714 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > General](#)

Customer Reviews

Kathryn Dance, an investigator with the California Bureau of Investigation, returns from Deaver's *The Cold Moon* (where she was a secondary) in this post-prison break pulse-pounder. Dance is the lead cop handling the escape of psychopathic killer Daniel Pell, dubbed "Son of Manson" by the press for his "family" of young runaways and his most horrendous crime, the

murders of computer engineer William Croyton, Croyton's wife and two of their three children. The only child left alive, nine-year-old Theresa, is known as the Sleeping Doll. Pell, charismatic and diabolically intelligent, continually eludes capture, but Dance, a specialist in interrogation and kinesics (or body language), is never more than a few suspenseful minutes behind. Dance is nicely detailed, and procedural scenes where she uses somatic cues to ferret out liars are fascinating. The book sags in its long middle, but toward the end Deaver digs into his bottomless bag of unexpected twists and turns, keeping readers wide-eyed with surprise, and leaving them looking forward to more of the perspicacious Dance. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Jeffery Deaver is the international, #1 bestselling author of more than twenty-seven suspense novels, including *The Bone Collector*, which was made into a film starring Denzel Washington. He lives in North Carolina.

Excellent, compelling and informative. Fast-paced, continually twisting story of searching for a cult leader who has escaped from prison. Believable characters, interesting dialogue and surprise ending."She and her best friend, Martine Christensen, ran a website called

"American Tunes," after the famous Paul Simon song from the 1970s. Kathryn Dance was not a bad musician, but a brief attempt at a full-time career as a singer and guitarist had left her dissatisfied (which, she was afraid, was how she had left her audiences)."Well, I'll tell you. When my father was in Nam his platoon sometimes had to take out Vietcong tunnels. Sometimes they'd find booby traps. Sometimes they'd find VC. It was the most dangerous job in the war. Dad developed this fear that stayed with him all his

life."Claustrophobia?"No. Volunteerphobia. He cleared one tunnel, then never raised his hand again. Nobody can quite figure out why exactly you stepped forward on this one."I will re-read parts of this book. Look forward to other works by this author.

I am a long-time fan of Jeffery Deaver--specifically his Lincoln Rhyme series and some of this non-series books like *The Blue Nowhere*. This is my first time reading one of his books in the Kathryn Dance series. I was interested to read this because, when the character was introduced in a Lincoln Rhyme novel, I thought she was an interesting character and wanted to know more about her and the science of kinesics. I read this 600-page book over a LONG period of time. I always

keep a book in my car for when I go out to lunch between errands/volunteering, am waiting in a doctor's office, etc. This book has been my "car book" for quite some time. So was this story as compelling and intense to me as someone who read it in a day or two? Of course not. But it was still a pretty compelling story about a cult-type personality who is trying to gather his "family" back together after leaving prison, and the crimes that are committed along the way. Having read this book, I still really like the Kathryn Dance character, but I felt that the circumstances surrounding this cult leader and the killings connected to him were more outlandish and unbelievable more often than in the average Lincoln Rhyme series novel. For that reason, and because of the nearly-600-page length (I'm not a fan of long books as I don't sit down and read a book in one sitting), I gave this book 3 stars vs. 4. That is not to say it is a bad book at all. It is interesting and has some several big surprises that you may not see coming. It just didn't give me the adrenaline rush that many Deaver stories do--i.e., it wasn't usually that hard to stop reading when I was done eating lunch, etc. I was never so compelled by the story that I had to bring the book in the house and keep reading. If you haven't read Deaver before, I heartily recommend him, but I'd suggest you begin with either non-series books like *The Blue Nowhere* or his Lincoln Rhyme series which began, I believe, with *The Bone Collector*.

I really enjoyed this book. I liked the main character Kathryn. She is a body language expert, which I think is really cool, and she was overall a very well rounded character. The concept of the story itself was interesting. I haven't read too many books about cults and this was a big part of this story. I was left constantly wondering what was gonna happen next and the ending seemed to come out of nowhere. My only issue with this book, and it's really more of a pet peeve, was that we were constantly reminded the Kathryn is a kinesics expert. It is an obvious theme of the book and yet we were reminded of her expertise at least a few times. I felt it was unnecessary and repetitive. Overall I really enjoyed this book and I will definitely be continuing with the series.

I am a faithful fan but this novel was a disappointing departure from an old pro like Deaver. Two major problems spring to mind: Deaver uses an "information dump" to inundate the reader with information about Dancer's expertise and specialty. Enough already!! Sprinkle it in, use it judiciously. Also, at the end of the novel (80%) he inserts a plot twist that is patently absurd and decimates the flow of the narrative. Kathryn is rather a dull sort and nothing in this novel made her more likable or interesting. Also, it is a tired writer's trick to insert popular characters from another series in a new book. Lincoln and Saks were gratuitous additions (albeit brief ones) to a tired

narrative. DO BETTER JEFFERY!

My first Jeffery Deaver was "A Maiden's Grave" with 8 girls and their teacher taken from a school bus and held for ransom. It was incredibly suspenseful and got me hooked on Deaver. The Sleeping Doll is another high suspenseful story and the first in the Kathryn Dance series. This one has a cult-like killer in the same vein as the Manson murders - and he (Daniel Pell) is called The Son of Manson due to the way he murdered an entire family except one small child who was hidden in her bed with stuffed animals. Dance, who is an expert in kinesics (study of body language) ends up being in charge of a manhunt Daniel Pell who kills with ease, and makes people do what he wants because he gives them just what they need. I really found the interviews and her understanding of what was really happening to the interviewee through kinesics to be fascinating, and I haven't read anything before where this was a major factor. Combined with Deaver's ability to drag you in and not let you go, this is an education as well as an excursion into true darkness.

If you like Jeffery Deaver you will like the twists and turns of this mystery. If you like psychopaths that are smarter than the detectives this will catch your attention. A fun ride!

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