



Title: *Relentless*

Author: Dean Koontz

Publisher: Harper Collins

Reviewer: Vanessa Finaughty

Expect Dean Koontz's usual fast pace in this thriller, which includes a good dose of humour, making *Relentless* a definite must-buy.

This one will be of particular interest to writers and reviewers, as the protagonist, writer Cubby Greenwich, is stalked by a brutal, sociopathic book reviewer who seems to be intent on proving that sticks and stones can indeed break bones, although it all starts with a single word: *doom*.

When Cubby reads Shearman Waxx's review of his latest novel, he obsesses about the critic's comments, largely because Waxx clearly didn't actually *read* his book. Everyone tells Cubby to let it go, and even his son's strange dog, Lassie, seems to echo this sentiment, but this proves difficult to do.

A not-so-chance meeting with Waxx leads to a frightening chain of events that forces Cubby and his family to flee their home, leaving them with no idea how to save themselves. Waxx relentlessly pursues, and his ability to find them anywhere is almost supernatural. It soon becomes clear that Waxx is not working alone.

If you think one sociopath hell-bent on destroying you is terrifying, try a group that wants your loved ones' suffering and death, your suffering, and your death, in that order.

Relentless has Koontz's well-known voice, along with his humour, but it's still not quite the same as his other novels. I'm always a little disappointed when everything is wrapped up nicely at the end of a novel, which is precisely what Koontz does here. There are no important unanswered questions at the end of this one, which will please some fans and disappoint others.

However, I cannot claim overall disappointment after all the smiles, chuckles and entertainment I gained from reading this book, and its message is clear to this reader: if a mysterious someone speaks out against you – let it go! Too many words induce action, which isn't necessarily good for one's health.

Relentless is certainly worth the read, and, due to the addition of Milo, Cubby's prodigy son, older teenagers may enjoy it, too.