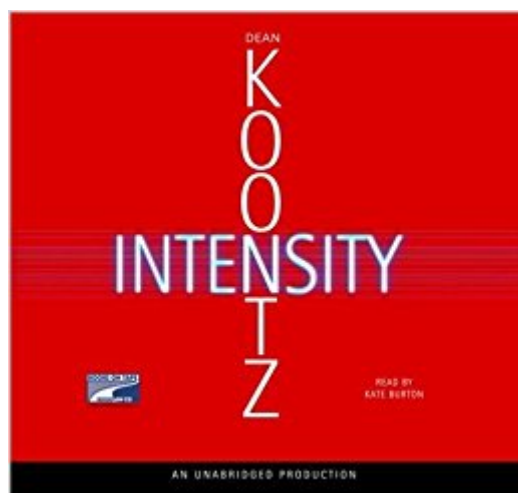


The book was found

# Intensity



## Synopsis

Chyna Shepherd is a twenty-six-year-old woman whose deeply troubled childhood taught her the hard rules of survival, and whose adult life has been an unrelenting struggle for self-respect and safety. Now rare trust has blossomed for Chyna into friendship with the woman whose family home she is visiting for the weekend: a farm in the Napa Valley surrounded by vineyards and hills, which Chyna can see from the guest-room window where she sits at one o'clock in the morning, fully dressed, unable to sleep. Suspicions she learned in childhood still make her uneasy in unfamiliar houses--even this one, where her closest friend is sound asleep down the hall. And in this case her most disturbing instincts prove reliable. A man has entered the house, a man who lives for one purpose: to satisfy all appetites as they arise, to immerse himself in sensation, to live without fear, remorse, or limits--to live with intensity. His name is Edgler Foreman Vess. He likes to make words with the letters from his name--GOD, DEMON, SAVE, RAGE, ANGER, FEAR, FOREVER, are just a few of them--and then makes sentences with the words. One of his favorites, GOD FEARS ME, is sometimes the last thing he whispers to his victims. Edgler Vess is a self-proclaimed "homicidal adventurer": On this night, his adventure--murdering everyone in the house--becomes Chyna's long nightmare. Trapped in Vess's deadly orbit, Chyna thinks only of getting out alive. But when she inadvertently learns the identity of Vess's intended next victim, waiting for him far from Napa Valley, Chyna is gripped with concern for this other person, who is as innocent as Chyna, and as endangered. Driven now by a sense of responsibility for another, by a purpose and meaning beyond mere self-preservation, Chyna rises to unexpected heights of courage and daring--her only hope as the threat of Edgler Foreman Vess closes in and grows more horrifying moment by moment. Intensity unfolds over the course of just twenty-four hours, but within that brief time frame, Dean Koontz gives us what is perhaps his most inventive, emotionally intricate, and terrifyingly suspenseful novel yet. From the Hardcover edition.

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## Customer Reviews

A young woman staying as a guest in a Napa Valley farmhouse becomes trapped in a fight for survival with a self-proclaimed "homicidal adventurer", and races to warn his next intended victim. Unrelentingly terrifying, this book lives up to its name. --This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

Koontz's career has mirrored Stephen King's to a remarkable degree?the early pseudonymous novels, the bloated blockbusters, the increased use of horror as social commentary?albeit at a lag. Keeping step, this uncommonly sleek work is nothing less than Koontz's *Gerald's Game*: a distillation of what's come before and a slick play to regain the top by a writer whose popularity seemed to have peaked. Koontz even makes the centerpiece of Chyna Shepherd's battle against a serial killer her attempt to free herself from the restraints that bind her to a piece of furniture?the very same challenge faced by King's heroine. And just as *Gerald's Game* reinvigorated King's career and writing, this masterful, if ultimately predictable, exercise in high tension should do the same for Koontz's. This is basically a two-character novel, and both principals are compelling: the spirited Chyna, a youngish psychology student, and her nemesis, homicidal maniac Edgler Vess, who revels in sensation, be it pain or pleasure?in the intensity of experience. The two link when Vess kills Chyna's best friend as Chyna hides under a bed. Chyna pursues Vess but is eventually captured by him, after which she must combat not only those cuffs but also Vess's killer dogs, Vess himself and, of course, her own terror. For once, Koontz tamps down on his usual libertarian soapboxing to let the story race?which it does fast enough to give readers whiplash as they hold on to what may end up being the most viscerally exciting thriller of the year. 600,000 first printing; Literary Guild main selection. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

Chyna Shepard and Laura Templeton are college schoolmates and friends. They're both going to Laura's parents house to visit with them for the weekend. It's supposed to be a nice relaxing

weekend, but when Chyna hears an intruder in the night, plans soon turn array. Chyna quickly turns into survival mode when she suspects an intruder. Having been sheperded around most of her young life with a neglectful mother and her mother's abusive boyfriends, Chyna knows how to run and hide to survive. Her instincts tell her when to hide and when to move and serve her pretty well. The intruder, Edglar Vess, appears to be a very efficient killing machine. When Chyna is able to get to the other rooms in the house, she discover the Templetons dead and posed for gruesome effect. Chyna is determined to find out who the killer is and ensure he pays for the destruction he's caused. It will take all her courage, strength, and determination to make it through and come out alive. The book delivered on its promise, it really was an intense ride. Edglar Vess is definitely a messed up guy. He likes to live with intensity and doesn't value pleasure over pain. They are all sensations that should be taken in. He loves to inflict psychological and physical pain on his victims and appears to be very good at it. Very disturbing. There were many times during the book I couldn't believe that Chyna was pressing on. It was like a horror movie where you scream at the girl to run out of the house, but instead she runs up the stairs. Chyna kept perpetually putting herself back in danger to get to the truth. I thought it would really get on my nerves, but ended up not being too bad. Over the top a bit, but definitely a suspenseful ride.

One of the things I usually love about Koontz is that he tells a story with such profound spiritual depth. I've read many of his books. But this one tipped over the edge for me. It was too harsh, too cruel. With little of his spiritual depth included.

This is one of the most intense books I have ever read! It keeps you on the edge of your seat until the very end. The writing is terrific, the characters are well developed and the action leaves you breathless. The author does a wonderful job providing an amazing amount of imaging giving the reader a detailed and often terrifying picture of events. Well done!

Very well written. Heavy--loaded with suspense. I would give it a 10 if I could. Beautiful main character--you will not be able to put it down even when your stomach is so clenched you have to get away from the book to breathe. Great!

Mr Koontz is a true master of his craft and I can hardly ever stop any story of his until the glorious conclusion!! Well done!!

This is the first novel I have read by this author. I was glued to my Kindle. I thought the end was cheesy though. But overall really good. I'd recommend it.

This is one of my favorite Koontz books. It begins with suspense and builds and builds throughout the book...right up to the ending. The heroine is a young woman who lived through a terrifying and violent childhood. She survived that and managed to get away and make a life for herself waitressing and going to college. Her childhood left many marks on her, trusting no one until she makes one friend Laura. A weekend visit to Laura's family turns to horror as a psychopathic killer enters the house and murders everyone but our heroine, Chyna. Her childhood survival skills kick in and she survives. And here the suspense begins and never lets up. It is well named -- INTENSITY. She is also a high-minded person with the wish to save others in trouble...her friend Laura, random men and of course the more than withdrawn captive, Ariel. I won't say much about the evil Vess...that is for you to learn. Dean Koontz is a master of suspense, the king of characters, the prince of detail and has no shame in letting the bodies pile up. For me, the writing style in this book is one of my favorites and I loved it even on the reread and maybe re-re-read. Thank you, Mr. Koontz.

I don't read much Koontz because they're expensive on Kindle, but I found this on Bookbub one day for \$1.99 so I snagged it. I'm soooo glad I was able to. This has to be one of the most alarming, horrifying, sinister books I've ever read. I'd give it 10 stars if I could! The story grabbed me from the very beginning and I was in Koontz's grip until the harrowing ending! My only objection was Chyna's inability to stay away. I wanted to take her by the shoulders and shake her! Some of her decisions were just ridiculous. But without them, I guess we would had had such an intense story, would we?

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