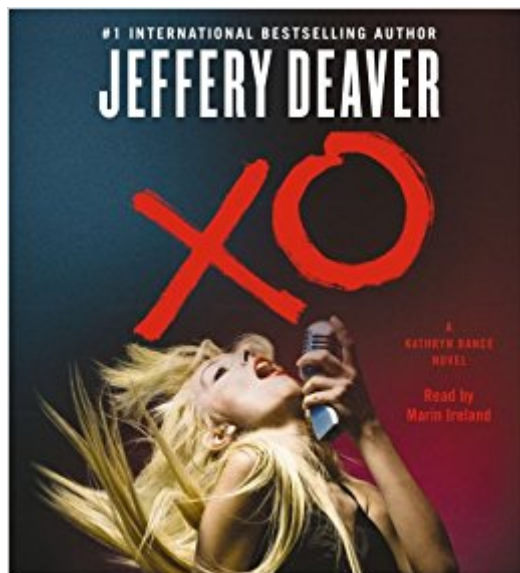


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XO (Kathryn Dance Novels)



Synopsis

Internationally bestselling author Jeffery Deaver delivers the latest sensational thriller in his wildly popular Kathryn Dance series. Newsweek calls Jeffery Deaver a “suspense superstar” and in his new novel, he lives up to the accolades once again as he sets his heroine Kathryn Dance on a quest to stop an obsessive stalker from destroying a beautiful young country singer. Kayleigh Towne is gorgeous with a voice that is taking her to the heights of the country pop charts. Her hit single “Your Shadow” puts her happily in the spotlight, until an innocent exchange with one of her fans leads Kayleigh into a dark and terrifying realm. The fan warns, “I’m coming for you,” and soon accidents happen and people close to Kayleigh die. Special Agent Kathryn Dance must use her considerable skills at investigation and body language analysis to stop the stalker—but before long she learns that, like many celebrities, Kayleigh has more than just one fan with a mission. A former folksinger, Deaver has written the actual song, “Your Shadow.” Listeners will be able to download it from his website, JefferyDeaver.com.

Book Information

Series: Kathryn Dance Novels

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Customer Reviews

“Deaver’s infernal puzzle mysteries invariably inspire words like devious, diabolical, and devilish, all of which apply to XO. It’s Dance’s toughest case, and one of Deaver’s best books.” —New York Times Book Review
“Deaver is a master of manipulation. XO delivers more twists than a bag of pretzels,

and just when readers believe they have everything figured out, another surprise awaits them. [Associated Press](#) “Just in time for poolside season, Jeffery Deaver gives us XO. . . . Deaver’s talent will keep you plugging away. [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) “In his new thriller, XO, Jeffery Deaver gives his readers triple or quadruple their money, with more twists, turns, and doglegs than an East Tennessee back road. . . . Just when you think you’ve finally hit the straightaway in XO, there’s another series of hairpins in your path. [Knoxville News-Sentinel](#) “In XO, Deaver challenges the reader, entertains the reader, and satisfies the reader. If every successful book is a notch on his computer he has just added one more mark. [HuffingtonPost.com](#) “Sharply drawn characters, fully realized protagonists, and unexpected plot twists will keep readers guessing until the very last page. Deaver is one of this country’s most popular writers and he proves with his latest book that he is at the top of his game. [TucsonCitizen.com](#) “Thriller Award-winner Deaver’s excellent third novel featuring Kathryn Dance (after 2009’s *Roadside Crosses*) takes the California Bureau of Investigation agent on a vacation . . . plenty of surprises and red herrings complement developments in Dance’s problematic relations with boyfriend Jon Boling and Det. Michael O’Neil . . . Lincoln Rhyme and Amelia Sachs, the leads of Deaver’s other series, make cameo appearances in a novel sure to please fans of both. [Publishers Weekly](#) (starred review) “Fans of Deaver’s celebrated sleuthing marathons will wait with bated breath as this onion is peeled to disclose multiple layers of deception, betrayal and triple crosses. [Kirkus Reviews](#) “Written with Deaver’s usual keen eye for dialogue and character and featuring his customary right-angle plot twists, the novel will be a sure-fire hit with not only his legion of fans but also with readers who have yet to sample a Deaver novel. And Deaver fans who have felt that the Dance novels aren’t quite as sharp as his Lincoln Rhyme series might have to think again. This may be the most compelling of the Dance books. [Booklist](#) --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.

To say that Jeffrey Deaver wrote another GOOD book is a let-down. He usually writes amazingly

GREAT books! This Kathryn Dance murder mystery is a very good murder mystery because, as usual, you NEVER know who did it until the very end...even if you think you do...even if you don't think it's the obvious suspect! In that way, it DOES keep you on the edge of your seat. However, Kathryn Dance is a "Body Language (kinesics) expert" yet we don't get to learn very much at all about body language. In Deaver's *The Vanished Man*, we learned SO MUCH about the tricks used by quick-change artists and some magic tricks...and as ALWAYS with Lincoln Rhyme murder mysteries, we learn a lot about forensics, plus the fun of trying to guess who did it and how all the way through the book! XO had plenty of surprises and plot twists, it was just such a disappointment to have a detective from whom you don't get to learn the secrets of their "specialty" (such as kinesics). The story is basically about a young and very successful country music star who is being stalked...people around her are being murdered. Before each murder, there is a warning using lyrics from one of her songs. I do recommend this book.

XO is the new Kathryn Dance novel. Except that, in some ways, it's not. The focal character is Kayleigh Towne, a country singer who is being stalked by an obsessive fan. Or is she? Is the real murderer (or are the real murderers) setting up the putative stalker to draw attention away from his/her/their machinations in order to create the perfect fall guy? Or is the stalker using them to make Kayleigh believe that he is her hero, the knight seeking only to protect her from a set of people who wish to do her harm? The story takes us into the world of country music in a changing distribution/production environment and, as always, Jeffery Deaver is filled with interesting information to flesh out the background. He knows this world and he knows music and the technical details of instrumentation and public performance. The problem (for me, at least) is that this is primarily a Kayleigh Towne novel rather than a Kathryn Dance novel. Kathryn is on the fringes of the case and the putative stalker is so skilled that she can make little use of the kinesics which are at the heart of her skills as an investigator. There are some complications with her personal life which add interest to the story and there is a cameo appearance by Lincoln Rhyme, Amelia Sachs and Lincoln's caregiver, Thom. These help sustain our attention. There is also the standard triple-reverse, 90-degree turn-filled ending. There is no such thing as a bad Jeffery Deaver novel, but this one begins a bit slowly and belabors the country music dimension. (The perp is repeating lyrics from Kayleigh's songs and shaping his actions by them; the novel includes the lyrics from all of the songs on her new album, including the cover art.) The success of the novel turns, in part, on the reader's interest in Kayleigh, her experience, her music and the ways in which her personal life has become intertwined with her art. That story is told well. I simply wanted more Kathryn. For country

music fans, however: check out[...] for information on the XO album and the free download.

Jeffery Deaver has been one of my top three favorite authors ever since I became a reader. This is my 30th book from him and it tops my list for any author. While I am a Lincoln Rhyme fan, I will say that the Kathryn Dance series is my preferred series from him at this point in time. As for XO, it was a typical Deaver book with twist after twist which is the thing that I like most about his novels. Some of his past ones have been too difficult to figure out but this one was more on a level playing field. I am not a fan of country music which was a big part of this book but it didn't stop me from enjoying it. Along with the perp mystery, I do like how he has created a side story that ties to Kathryn's personal life. I see that the reviews for the book are not so good. This wasn't his best from a 'gotcha' standpoint but if there wasn't an author's name on the cover then I would immediately say this is a Jeffery Deaver novel. I recommend this book for anybody who has enjoyed his twist-filled books of the past.

I've always thought Deaver was the best of the multiple, "didn't see THAT one coming" plot twisters. Much better than Harlan Coben, for example. But "XO" isn't up to Deaver's usual standards. Its plot seemed more convoluted than usual. Cliches abound. But the biggest sin of all is that "XO" never really GRABBED me. The story just isn't particularly riveting. Deaver never ratchets up the tension. Disclaimer: I've read pretty much everything Deaver's written. So it's quite possible I may just be growing tired of his shtick. Regardless, if you've never read Deaver and want to give him a try, I urge you to go back and grab any of the early Lincoln Rhyme novels. DON'T start with this one.

I've read many of Jeffery Deaver's books, and this one was very disappointing. Not much of a plot, and there was none of the suspense of his earlier books and the ending felt like an afterthought. I liked the other Dance books but this was very disjointed, needed better editing. It was unexpected to see the politics in this Dance book,....stay away from politics.....I read for entertainment and to get away from it all!!!!

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