

To my Swedish Readers,

I'm delighted that Odd Thomas has struck a chord with you as he has with readers here and, in fact, all over the world. The first book in the series came to me as a gift, the character fully formed in my mind from the first page. There was something almost eerie about how his first story wrote itself, with me looking on. And each time I return to him, I hear him as he tells his story, as if he is in the room with me. I hesitate to say this, for fear I will be put in an institution for addled writers!

Recently I finished the fourth Odd book, ODD HOURS, and he took it into such startling new territory that I stopped after two chapters to ask myself whether I could still trust Odd, whether in fact he knew what he was doing. It seemed to me that the foundations I had put down in the first three books would not support the grand architecture of the story that Odd was now beginning to tell. But when I went back to look at those first three books, I discovered to my surprise that where books four, five and six were going had in fact been prepared for from the first chapter of the first book. I just hadn't consciously realized the ultimate destination.

I now know that this is a six-book series, and I am more excited than I have ever been about a project. I have no idea what happens within books five and six, but I know where Odd ends up at the end of the sixth, and I trust him implicitly to show me how he gets there. I hope my Swedish readers will be as enthusiastic about following him as readers have proved to be here.

Thank you for your faithful support over the years. It has always meant a lot to me.

Dean Koontz