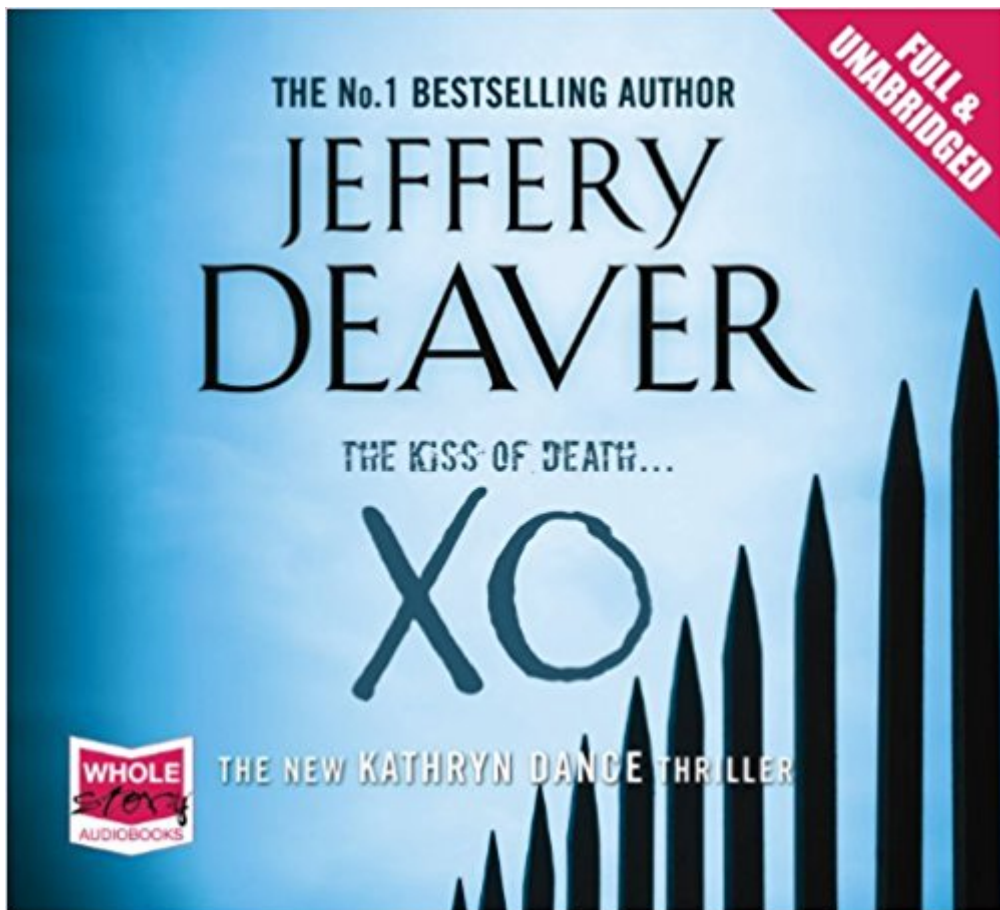




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XO



## Synopsis

Kayleigh Towne is a beautiful and successful singer-songwriter, and Edwin Sharp is her biggest fan. When she replies to one of his fan letters with 'XO', Edwin is convinced she loves him, and that her latest hit song 'Your Shadow' was written for him. Nothing Kayleigh or her lawyers can say persuades him otherwise. Then the singer gets an anonymous phone call; it's the first verse of 'Your Shadow' playing. Soon after, one of the crew is horribly murdered. Kayleigh's friend Kathryn Dance, a special agent with the California Bureau of Investigation, knows that stalking crimes are not one-off occurrences, and, sure enough, more verses of the song are played as warnings of death to follow. With a little help from forensic criminalist Lincoln Rhyme, Dance must use her kinesic and investigative skills in an attempt to find the killer before more people die. This recording is unabridged. Typically abridged audiobooks are not more than 60% of the author's work and as low as 30% with characters and plotlines removed.

## Book Information

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> General #124544 in [Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Suspense](#)

## Customer Reviews

'Excellent... plenty of surprises and red herrings' (Publishers Weekly, starred review) '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... This may be the most compelling of the Dance books.'  
(Booklist) 'The most creative, skilled and intriguing thriller writer in the world... [Deaver] has

produced a stunning series of bestsellers with unique characterisation, intelligent characters, beguiling plots and double-barrelled and sometimes triple-barrelled solutions.' (Daily Telegraph) 'The pace is terrific, the suspense inexorable, and there is an excellent climax... If you want thrills, Deaver is your man.' (Guardian) 'Jeffery Deaver is grand master of the ticking-clock thriller.' (Kathy Reichs)

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. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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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