

Thrilling Encounters in Social Settings: A Retelling of The Eyes of Darkness by Dean Koontz

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Abstract

This study analyzes the social situations depicted in the novel "The Eyes of Darkness" by Dean Koontz, focusing on themes such as abuse, thriller elements, tragedy, mental health, and the virus. Using a descriptive-qualitative approach, we delve into the novel's narrative to uncover how these themes are portrayed and their implications on the characters and broader societal reflections. The analysis reveals that the novel intricately weaves these social situations to create a compelling story that resonates with real-world issues. Abuse is depicted through the misuse of power and its devastating consequences, while thriller elements introduce suspense and supernatural occurrences that challenge characters' perceptions of reality. Tragedies highlight the unpredictability of life and the resilience needed to overcome adversity. The exploration of mental health, particularly through the character of Tina, emphasizes the impact of grief and trauma and the journey towards healing. Lastly, the portrayal of the virus, notably the Wuhan-400, offers a chillingly prescient reflection of global pandemics, underscoring the ethical considerations in scientific research. This study highlights the novel's relevance in addressing complex human experiences and societal issues, offering valuable insights into the interplay between fiction and reality.

Keywords: Thriller incidents, social conditions, sociological approach, the eyes of darkness.

INTRODUCTION

Our awareness of the pandemic and COVID-19 dates back to 2020, even though the onset of COVID-19 occurred towards the end of 2019. A pandemic refers to the global dissemination of a novel illness, as defined by the World Health Organization in 2020. The coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, has been classified as a pandemic due to its widespread transmission across over 100 nations globally. A virus's presence can profoundly impact individuals' lives and drastically alter the overall health of a community. For instance, COVID-19, which was prevalent from 2020 to

early 2022, had a substantial influence on the mortality rate, resulting in approximately 150,000 fatalities.

Several novels depict narratives centered around viral outbreaks or virus dissemination inside society. One of the novels depicting a viral epidemic is purported to be a prophetic portrayal of COVID-19 despite its publication in 1981. This work is purported to be a prophetic portrayal of the COVID-19 pandemic, as it features a viral outbreak called "Wuhan-400". The novel "The Eyes of Darkness" by American author Dean Koontz explores several societal dynamics in addition to its focus on viruses. It falls within the thriller genre. (Koontz, 2011). The story primarily revolves around social events characterized by suspense and excitement. The overarching theme of the novel is centered on thrillers. Consequently, we were inclined to study the social aspects shown in the novel, specifically focusing on the thriller genre. A thriller is a novel, film, or play that tells an exciting fictional story about criminal activities or spying (Collins Dictionary).

Thriller is a literary genre and plot-driven story that is dark, engaging, and suspenseful (Argyle & Graham, 1981). Very rarely is there an element of comedy. Most novels can generate suspense, interest, and excitement. However, because this is the primary goal of the thriller genre, thriller writers have a laser-focused craft to keep readers interested. Thriller novel is a genre that prioritizes suspenseful, frightening, and even horrific elements. Each scene is filled with events and surprises for readers. However, this makes the thriller genre popular, both in the form of writing and drama series.

After reading this novel, we found that there are five social situations in this novel, and with that among the five social situations, we are interested in researching the social situation of thriller situation, which has more data than other social situations; we also include quotations and interpretations to clarify this research.

METHOD

Type of the Research

This research uses descriptive-qualitative methods. Based on John W. Creswell, where there are three methods in methodology research, namely qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods, we used a qualitative method to analyze the thriller storyline of the novel *The Eyes of Darkness* by Dean Koontz.

Objectives of the Research

The novel *The Eyes of Darkness* by Dean Koontz contains mystery and thriller stories. This novel is about Tina, who does not believe in the death of her son Danny, and she starts to find out the truth. Then comes help from a man named Elliot, and they begin to solve the mystery behind the Pandora project. This research only focuses on the story in the novel *The Eyes of the Darkness*.

Methods of Collecting Data

The existence of plots that began to appear in the novel by showing the relationship between social situations made, we started collecting data in two ways, namely by collecting primary and secondary data. In primary data collection, we read the novel directly and carefully and summarize the quotations related to the social situation in *The Eyes of Darkness*. In secondary data collection, the authors search for and sort out one journal and articles related to the novel on the internet site with help from references to make it easier for us to analyze the data.

Data Analysis Technique

After collecting the data, we also used a sociological approach in this research. Based on the theory of Emile Durkheim, we used this sociological approach and begins to analyze the data that has been collected before through a summary of quotes from the novel, relating it to the social situation in the story and connecting it with the social reality that occurred in society during the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition to the quotes associated with social situations, the author links quotes related to thrillers to strengthen data analysis.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

This article focuses on discussing the social situations in the novel *The Eyes of the Darkness* by Dean Koontz, including the subject of interpretation, namely the novel *The Eyes of the Darkness*. After reading the story *The Eyes of Darkness* by Dean Koontz, we found five social situations in this novel: Abuse, Thriller, Tragedy, Mental Health, and Virus. For that, below, the author provides excerpts of social situations taken from the novel *The Eyes of Darkness*.

Abusive

Abuse is an act that crosses the line of power and, of course, harms several parties who are victims of it. The novel "*The Eyes of Darkness*" explains and targets the abuse of several parties or characters, resulting in losses for some parties who feel disadvantaged. Murder, property damage, and conspiracy have been briefly described in this novel.

The abuse that occurs in the novel *The Eyes of Darkness* has such a significant impact because it stems from a murder plan and the falsification of an accident that happened to the victims, which turns out to be a process in the Pandora project, according to this quote, "Well, they'd have had to be pretty stupid to think murder was the safest way to handle it. Killing all those people and trying to fake an accident was much riskier than letting the kids come back with their half-baked stories about seeing something peculiar in the mountains." "Remember, there were two adults with those kids. People might have discounted most of what the boys said about it, but they'd have believed Jaborski and Lincoln. Maybe there was so much at stake that the security men at the installation decided Jaborski and Lincoln had to die. Then it became necessary to kill the kids to eliminate witnesses to the first two murders." Of course, this does not necessarily make those who have a close relationship with the murder victims feel compelled to give up and let their family members down; instead, they start to suspect and get clues that something is not right behind the accident that happened to their family. Tina feels this, which makes her determined to find the truth behind it all.

With the emergence of suspicions like this, the perpetrators began to do everything they could to eliminate those who tried to reveal the secrets of the Pandora project. This abuse is getting worse and continues to cause so many victims to fall just because of acts of abuse to cover up the secrets of the Sierra Laboratory.

"Instinctively, he whipped the pistol in front of him and squeezed off four rounds. The silencer was so effective that the shots could not be heard above the brittle, papery rustle of the wind" Dean. K.
Page 234: 10 (line)

"He decided he would kill her himself when the time came, and that thought gave him an instant erection." Dean. K. Page 247: 23 (line)

George's grudge is to kill Tina as soon as possible, the moment they meet later. According to George, Tina is a pest that will interfere with their mission at Sierra Lab, so Tina must be stopped.

"When the young guard discovered his revolver wouldn't work, he threw it. Elliot ducked, but not fast enough. The gun struck him alongside the head, and he stumbled backward against the steel door." Dean. K. Page 288: 23 (line)

In an attempt to enter the Siera Lab, Elliot accidentally awakens the guard and engages in a shootout. Still, when the guard's gun is about to be fired, it turns out that the bullet is empty, so he chooses to throw the weapon and hit Elliot's head.

"Through sudden tears of pain, Elliot saw the young guard rushing him, and he squeezed off one whisper-quiet shot." Dean. K. Page 288: 27 (line)

Due to the resistance that was attempted by the guard, who seemed to be making a threatening move once again to protect himself, Elliot pulled the trigger and immediately knocked over the guard at the lab gate.

"Listen, Tina, they wanted to kill me just because I was going to help you get Danny's body exhumed." She gaped at him. "What are you talking about?" "Murder. Conspiracy. Something damn strange. They probably intend to kill you, too." Dean. K. Page 152: 1 (line)

This quote explains the existence of abuse of power in the form of premeditated murder committed by a group of people who have certain powers. This abuse is done to cover up their immoral actions, and these actions are detrimental to the parties concerned. We can see this aspect of abuse in the conversation between the characters Tina and Elliot, where they both become the targets of an organization and are killed for trying to save Tina's child named Dani. With the threat of use like this carried out by several organizations, it is an action that can impact one's social condition and mentality.

"They're keeping him somewhere. I don't know why they didn't kill him. I don't know how long they think they can keep him bottled up like this. But that's what they're doing. That's what's going on. Those might not be the precise circumstances, but they're close to the truth." "Tina—" She wouldn't let him interrupt. "This secret police force, these people behind Kennebeck . . . they think someone involved with Project Pandora has turned on them and told me what happened to Danny. They're wrong, of course. It wasn't one of them. It's Danny. Somehow . . . I don't know how . . . but he's reaching out to me." She struggled to explain the understanding that had come to her in the diner. "Somehow . . . some way . . . he's reaching out . . . with his mind, I guess. Danny was the one who wrote those words on the chalkboard. With his mind." Dean. K. Page 197: 5 (line)

The following excerpt shows that there was an act of confinement or kidnapping by several parties who had power far below society to do something. In a community situation, of course, we have encountered many things like this in real terms, whether from closest or distant relatives, and of course, this has caused much harm to certain parties where they are manipulated so they do not know the whereabouts of the nearest person who disappeared suddenly. No. This abuse was also strengthened by the existence of a Pandora project, which was not known by the general public as

hiding the child from Tina to be used as a trial in the Pandora project. Irresponsible people hiding behind Kennebeck after making some facts that should be the truth become the most hidden news.

Thriller (Occultism, Possession and Hypnotism, Telepathic Powers)

Thriller is a mystical and unreasonable event, and incidents like this are sometimes complex for people who always prioritize logical thinking (Ali, 2024). The novel "The Eyes of Darkness" also provides several scenes, such as terror, mystical events, possession, and irregularities, that make it difficult for some people to accept this fact.

The thriller in *The Eyes of Darkness* has a significant impact because it disrupts every activity of the characters in this novel. Before mystical things like this happen in the character's social situation, the character's life goes on as usual. This thriller incident began when Tina felt something odd in every activity she was doing, starting with feeling terrorized, objects moving, and shadows resembling Danny's son. We can see this mystical thing in the quote, "This was just a silly comic book, an absurd horror story. Yet . . . strange parallels existed between this gruesome tale and the recent horror in her own life. She put the magazine aside, cover-down, so she wouldn't have to meet Death's wormy, red-eyed gaze. The Boy Who Was Not Dead. It was weird. She had dreamed that Danny was buried alive. In her dream, she incorporated a horrible character from an old issue of a horror-comics magazine that was in Danny's collection. The lead story in this issue was about a boy, approximately Danny's age, mistakenly pronounced dead, then buried alive, and then exhumed." As the mystical events continue in this novel, Tina's social situation changes significantly over time, disturbing and making them feel curious about the absolute truth and feel they have to uncover all the truth about the Pandora project.

*"Danny's going to tell us where he is?" "He's going to try, I think. I sensed that in the dream."
Dean. K. Page 251: 4 (line)*

In the uncertainty that Tina and Elliot are experiencing, Tina tries to convince Elliot that Danny will help them; even at first, this was thought to be mere intuition between mother and child, but it turns out to be much more than that.

*"She said, "People who believe in the occult have a thing they call 'automatic writing.' Ever hear of it?" "Sure. Spirit writing. A ghost supposedly guides your hand to deliver a message from beyond."
Dean. K. Page 253: 13 (line)*

Tina believes in occultism, in which there is a practice of writing something with directions from spirits. So, she thinks, in a scary way, this can be a means to connect him with Danny.

"She felt a peculiar pulling sensation that seemed to come from within her hand, and she stiffened in surprise" Dean. K. Page 254: 13 (line)

Attempts to write with the help of spirits; Tina tried to do so, but she also felt a sensation where her hands could move by themselves. Tina held a pen and paper to write on as a medium to find out what the spirit wanted to convey to them.

"Her right hand, in which she held the pen, proliferated colder than any other part of her. She felt the unpleasant, inner pulling again. Her fingers ached with the cold." Dean. K. Page 255: 3 (line)

Tina felt a sensation on Tina's hand that was almost uncontrollable; Tina's hand felt frozen with cold. This happened because it was the first time she had done this, so she still couldn't control the situation; so, she made her body respond by rejecting the presence of the spirit they were trying to summon.

"The map flew into the air as if someone had tossed it in anger or frustration." Dean. K. Page 255: 9 (line)

It can also be seen that in the attempt to summon the spirit that they carried out, there was resistance by the spirit, which made the map float in the air.

"What—you think the boy might be responsible for the changes in air temperature?" "Could he?" "How?" "I don't know." Dean. K. Page 274: 21 (line)

Dr. Dombey felt something strange in the lab because cold air was not supposed to appear in their lab, so he suspected it was coming from Danny. Because the temperature in the room shouldn't have decreased by itself, according to him, strange things only happened when Danny was already in that place.

This was just a silly comic book, an absurd horror story. Yet . . . strange parallels existed between this gruesome tale and the recent horror in her own life. She put the magazine aside, cover-down, so she wouldn't have to meet Death's wormy, red-eyed gaze. The Boy Who Was Not Dead. It was weird. She had dreamed that Danny was buried alive. In her dream, she incorporated a horrible character from an old issue of a horror-comics magazine that was in Danny's collection. The lead story in this issue was about a boy approximately Danny's age, mistakenly pronounced dead, then buried alive, and then exhumed. Dean. K. Page 148: 5 (line)

The quote above gives the impression of horror, in which the woman experiences dreams that seem to come from her child. This quote also provides pictures and details where this woman finds horror comics that can send chills down your spine. As for the situation in society, we often experience supernatural events that, if we assume, are sometimes beyond our logic, and we usually have dreams that are so frightening. Still, we think about where these dreams can come from and are directed at each of us.

The horror situation described in this quote is where Tina gets dreams that are deliberately given to her by her child, who is locked up in Sierra's laboratory. Tina begins to feel odd about the existence of a bunch of horror comics, where one of the comics seems to describe the reality happening to Tina. This horror incident also made Tina feel strange because, previously, she had never found her child carrying a comic that almost 100% described the reality that was happening to her.

"No." They stared at the shadows. At length, she said, "Do you feel it?" "Feel what?" "I've got this . . . prickly feeling." He said nothing. "You do feel it, don't you?" she asked. "Yes." Dean. K. Page 175: 8 (line)

On top of that quote, Tina and Elliot felt some terror that made them feel like they were being followed, making them both uncomfortable. They both ask each other if they have the same feelings of fear or if only certain parties feel it, and this causes them both to start having mystical thoughts. In a social situation, of course, we often experience or may have experienced mystical

things, such as feeling watched about our movements or something else, and this causes horror for each of us and can cause us to be afraid to interact or do something. Matter.

The horror incidents faced by Tina and Elliot in the quotation above are incidents that, of course, have often occurred in social situations in society and other people. Tina and Elliot asked each other about the strange feelings and horror they experienced when they felt that they were being watched by each other, but no one was there.

"As if we aren't alone." "It's crazy," he said, "but I feel eyes on me." She shivered. "But no one's there." "No. I don't think anyone is." Dean. K. Page 176: 1 (line)

This quote explains how they both feel they are being watched and that their eyes are always looking at them, but they find nothing. As in the previous quote, in social situations, we often feel that someone is watching us by looking at us, but we cannot prove or find that out. Sometimes, if we try to say this, we are usually considered crazy people in society. Therefore, before we try to say this, we should find evidence to reinforce our opinion before conveying it to someone or specific persons. The quote above shows that Tina and Elliot experience mystical madness. When they are alone, they feel like there are eyes that continue to overwhelm them, and they feel like this is crazy because they do not fully believe in horror things.

"The emaciated boy stirred. He turned his head toward them and stared at them through the railed sides of the hospital bed in which he lay. Zachariah said, "Those damn eyes." "Penetrating, aren't they?" "The way he stares . . . he gives me the creeps sometimes. Something is haunting about his eyes." "You're just feeling guilty," Dombey said. "No. It's more than that. His eyes are strange. They aren't the same as when he first came here a year ago." "There's a pain in them now," Dombey said sadly. "A lot of pain and loneliness." "More than that," Zachariah said. "There's something in those eyes . . . something there isn't any word for." Dean. K. Page 229: 4 (line)

The above quote refers to a horror where the doctor and the doctor's assistant have a strange, mystical feeling when they see the eyes of a child they have locked up for testing on his body. In a social situation, sometimes there are certain things that when we see someone, we feel the emotions brought by that person, whether negative or positive. We often have the assumption that that person wants to show his supernatural condition to other people, which makes us believe that there are forces from other dimensions that our human logic cannot accept. The quote above shows Dr. Lambay and his assistant Zakaria getting scared when the boy starts looking at them with a look that is difficult to decipher. They both felt a strange emotion when they stared at the boy because they felt that, apart from the pain in the gaze, the child's eyes also seemed to convey something that could not be transferred directly, making horror happen to the two people.

Tragedy

Social events in the form of tragedies often occur in our reading novels (Ali & Husain, 2023). This is also encouraged because this novel talks about uncovering cases and the pursuit of missing children, resulting in several tragedies involving several people in the process; what we mean here are tragedies such as vehicle accidents, chasing each other, and until every process of uncovering the mysteries that occur in this novel. We consider these tragedies a form of social incident experienced by the characters in this novel.

Not much tragedy happened before the virus spread, mainly focusing on Tina's life story of making a living by deciding to get married, have children, and leave her job. But after the virus hit

her child, she had to go through various journeys and tragedies to uncover the truth about her son's senseless death. His son, who turned out to be detained at Sierra Lab to have his antibodies tested, was made immune to the virus, making Danny his son, a valuable treasure of the Pandora Project. This was, of course, Tina's most formidable obstacle to meeting her child. Through all of these obstacles, various tragedies prevented Tina from uncovering the whereabouts of her child.

"A dead man. Naked. He was sitting in a bathtub full of bloody water, staring at something fearsome beyond the veil between this world and the next. One arm trailed out of the tub; a razor blade was on the floor as if it had dropped out of his fingers." Dean. K. Page 233: 23 (line)

What surprised Elliot when he was about to sneak into Bellicosti's funeral home, instead, he found a naked corpse lying in a bathtub. Although it is not known for sure why the corpse was left there and why he could die, it makes them afraid that they are thought to have killed the corpse.

"At least one killer would be in the house with Bellicosti's corpse. Probably more than one. At least one man had been waiting out here in the snow." Dean. K. Page 234: 20 (line)

Elliot is also aware and suspects that there are several killers in the funeral home. Especially if they know of the existence of Bellicosti's body, they will be more and more alert in all areas inside and outside the funeral home.

"The Ford had rounded the corner too fast. Jolted by the blowout, the car careened out of control. It spun across the street, jumped the curb, crashed through a hedge, destroyed a plaster birdbath, and came to rest in the middle of a snow-blanketed lawn," Dean. K. Page 238: 18 (line)

After they managed to escape from the funeral home, they were followed by the killers there, so they were involved in a chase with cars on the road; the chase between Elliot and the killers resulted in the Ford car they were using losing control and crashing into the pavement.

"Elliot rammed his foot hard on the accelerator, and the Explorer shot forward. The guard swung the submachine gun into firing position as they swept past him." Dean. K. Page 279: 28 (line)

Elliot, who managed to knock out the guard at the outer gate of the lab, turned out that the guard quickly realized, and Elliot tried to run away from the guard as fast as he could, but when the guard was about to fire his submachine, there weren't any bullets in it.

"Use your head, Kurt. Their lines are underground. And they have a cellular backup. No storm can knock out all communications." Dean. K. Page 283: 24 (line)

There was an argument in the helicopter, mainly because the weather was worsening, preventing them from flying low.

"Elliot pointed the gun at him. "Don't move." But the young guard was the heroic type. He was wearing a sidearm—a monstrous revolver—and he was fast with it. He drew, aimed from the hip, and squeezed the trigger" Dean. K. Page 288: 15 (line)

After successfully passing through the security of the outer gate, they were now inside the lab, but there was still a layer of guard they had to get through. Elliot tried not to shoot the guard in

the lab, but the guard showed a sudden threatening movement, forcing Elliot to pull the trigger and shoot him.

"Blinking away tears, Elliot pointed the pistol at the older guard, who had drawn his revolver by now and had found that it didn't work either. "Put the gun aside, sit down, and don't make any trouble." Dean. K. Page 289: 4 (line)

Elliot felt remorse for shooting people again, so he screamed and threatened the other guards to keep quiet so they wouldn't be hit.

"The man cried out, pushed his wheeled chair away from the keyboard, and thrust to his feet. "Who the hell are you?" "I'm the one who has the gun," Elliot said sharply. "If that's not good enough for you, I can shut you down the same way I did that damn machine. Now Park your ass in that chair before I blow your fuckin' head off." Dean. K. Page 296: 3 (line)

The other lab workers were scared and confused when they saw that Elliot could get in there, and Elliot again threatened him to keep following his orders to be safe.

"Worse," Dombey said. "Someone got careless and stupid. Almost thirteen months ago, when Danny and the other boys in his troop were on their winter survival outing, one of our scientists, a quirky son of a bitch named Larry Bellinger, accidentally contaminated himself while he was working alone one morning in this lab." Dean. K. Page 308: 30 (line)

There was a tragedy in the lab that resulted in the virus being leaking. This was experienced by Belininger, who was on shift alone in the morning. He accidentally dropped a sample of the virus, and this caused the virus to spread rapidly and contaminate the entire room.

"He ran into Mr. Jaborski and the scouts," Elliot said. "And by then, he was able to pass the disease on to them," Dean said. K. Page 310: 10 (line)

Bellinger, who was contaminated with the virus, instead tried to escape from the lab and met Mr. Jaborski and the scouts, so they were also contaminated.

"As they drove off the plateau, around the burning wreckage of the helicopter, Danny said, "They were bad people. It's all right, Mom. They were real bad people." Dean. K. Page 318: 13 (line)

In an attempt to catch up to Tina, who managed to take Danny away, the helicopter driven by Kurt and the other bad guys explodes and falls apart because of the bad weather.

"The garage had gone up first, the big door ripping from its hinges and splintering into the driveway, the roof dissolving in a confetti shower of shake shingles and flaming debris. But even as Tina looked from Elliot to the fire, before all of the shingles had fallen back to earth, a second explosion slammed through the house, and a billowing cloud of flame roared from one end of the structure to the other, bursting those few windows that had miraculously survived the first blast. Tina watched, stunned, as flames leaped from a window of the house and ignited dry palm fronds on a nearby tree. Elliot pushed her away from the Mercedes so he could open the door on the passenger side. "Get in. Quick!" "But my house is on fire!" "You can't save it now." "We have to wait for the fire company." Dean. K. Page 156: 10 (line)

The quote above provides an overview of the house fire that was experienced. This fire was carried out by certain persons who wanted to plan the murder of Tina. Of course, we have encountered a lot of social situations in the form of tragedy, both directly and through the news or by word of mouth, where there are so many losses that occur when someone attempts to burn down a house. The incident regarding this house fire could have caused considerable losses to the people who occupied it, and the most frightening thing was that the tragedy of this fire could have spread to other houses, causing the fire to become bigger and suffer more significant losses so that it could affect the economic factors of these people. The tragedy of this fire described in the quotation above started with the garage, which caught fire first because, as is well known, the garage was the primary purpose of the burning.

This tragedy forced Tina and Elliot to leave the house because it was possible that other tragedies would befall them if they didn't leave immediately. The quote above also shows that Tina is unwilling that the house her team has lived in all this time is now burnt to the ground and leaves nothing from the house.

“Tina looked out the side window, watching in disbelief as the flames spread from the shattered garage roof to the main roof of the house, long tongues of lambent fire, licking, licking, hungry, bloodred in the last orange light of the afternoon.” Dean. K. Page 157: 8 (line)

It's the same as the quote from before where Tina saw her house on fire, and in this quote, it refers more to the pressure where she sees the condition of her house starting from the garage door window starting to burn to the ground. Of course, this can cause mental pressure, and she may start thinking of a loss- losses that must be repaired later. When this tragedy occurs in society, it causes social factors to increase and where. Usually, as we know, when someone experiences a house fire, whether intentional or not, they ask for help from the government to rebuild their house. This tragedy is very influential when a fire occurs. This is not accidental; it was planned as an attempt to kill or erase traces, so it is an unfortunate tragedy when several people do this. The fire tragedy in the quote above illustrates that Tina felt sad because she kept staring at her burning house, where the fire was constantly devouring as if she were starving and leaving nothing out of the house.

Bruckster held his hand eighteen inches below Michael Evans's eyes, so the dealer was forced to glance down to see what was being shown to him. The fine spray, propelled with tremendous pressure, caught him squarely in the face, across the nose and lips, penetrating swiftly and deeply into the nostrils. Perfect. Evans reacted as anyone would. He gasped in surprise as he realized he was being squirted. The gasp drew the deadly mist up his nose, where the active poison—a particularly fast-acting neurotoxin—was instantaneously absorbed through the sinus membranes. In two seconds, it was in his bloodstream, and the first seizure hit his heart.

Evans's surprised expression turned to shock. Then, a wild, twisted expression of agony wrenched his face as brutal pain slammed through him. He gagged, and a ribbon of foamy saliva unraveled from the corner of his mouth down his chin. His eyes rolled back in his head, and he fell.” Dean. K. Page 206: 6 (line)

The quote shows a very sadistic tragedy in which the killing scene was carried out without the knowledge of the people around it. Of course, this murder was carried out in a structured manner so that it could lead to manipulation or ignorance of the people around who were at the scene. This tragedy has caused much harm. In the social conditions of society that we know, there were so many types of murders that it is not revealed why the person was killed or who was

responsible for the murder. This is detrimental to people because they are manipulated by events that have been neatly arranged. The tragedy of the murder experienced by Evan in the quote above is an act of murder that was carried out quickly in a public place where the murder was not noticed by anyone who was near where the killer began to carry out his actions on Evan.

"I'm no doctor," Bruckster said, "but it sure looks like a heart attack to me, the way he dropped like a stone, the same way my uncle Ned went down last Fourth of July right in the middle of the fireworks display." The guard tried to find a pulse but couldn't do so. He began CPR but then relented. "I think it's hopeless." "How could it be a heart attack, him being so young?" Bruckster wondered. "Jesus, you just never know, do you?" "You never know," the guard agreed. The hotel doctor would call it a heart attack after he had examined the body. So would the coroner. So would the death certificate. A perfect murder. Willis Bruckster suppressed a smile." Dean. K. Page 207: 12 (line)

The quote above is a form of murder that has occurred where the killer commits a tragedy directly in a quick way and manipulates the circumstances so that the killer also doesn't feel guilty but instead convinces many people that it was an accident. Of course, in social situations, we have seen examples like this where the killer, who felt no guilt after committing the tragedy of the murder, celebrated the dishonorable thing he had done by reveling in the perfect murder. Of course, we need to follow up on this because this has taken on the form of a heartless psychopath and has harmed many parties, making it difficult to disclose and causing much fear in the surrounding community about the planned murder that will come next. This quote provides an overview of Evan's murder, which is considered an accident, similar to what happened to the children who were murdered in the Sierra tragedy, where the murder was manipulated into an accident. This also happened to Evan, who was said to have had a heart attack. Even though he had experienced a murder, the killer turned around and smiled happily, saying that this murder was perfect.

Mental Health

Mental health is emotional and psychological well-being. The mental health that is meant in this novel is about the main female character, Tina" who was mentally destroyed because she lost her only child. Here, mental health is where Tina cannot accept the death of her child, and she is traumatized. Even after her child is declared dead, Tina always has nightmares every night and cries almost every day.

At the beginning of the novel "The Eyes of Darkness," it is evident that the mentality of the main character, "Tina," has been very destroyed because she lost her child tragically. "After the initial shock, after the funeral, she had begun to cope with the trauma." since losing her child, Tina cries very often every day and even gets very heavy trauma to the point that she can't even enter her child's room. She even has very heavy hallucinations; she sees her child in every place she visits. Everything that happens makes her very unaccepting of the death of her child, but after finding facts and clues that prove that her child is not dead, Tina's mentality is tough to accept. Tina also had to face nightmares every night and couldn't fall asleep. Everything that happened made her very unaccepting of the death of her child, but after finding facts and clues that proved that her child was not dead, Tina's mentality began to improve, and she tried to find her child. After Tina finally found her child, her mentality was back to good.

"She still had not adjusted to the loss of her only child because she'd never wanted—or tried—to adjust to it." Dean. K. Page 12: 20 (line)

From the quote above, it is explained that after losing her child, Tina still could not accept and did not even want to try to take the situation where her son Danny had gone forever; Tina did not want to receive the reality.

“After the initial shock, after the funeral, she had begun to cope with the trauma.” Dean. K. Page 13: 23 (line)

This quote explains that after the funeral of her son Danny, Tina has been trying to start overcoming her trauma from losing her only child. Because when she lost Danny, she experienced pretty severe trauma and often had hallucinations.

“In recent weeks, she had seen her lost son in other cars, in school yards past which she had been driving, on public streets, in a movie theater.” Dean. K. Page 14:1 (line)

After she lost Danny, Tina started having hallucinations that were rather severe because, in almost every place she visited, she began to see her son there even though it was just an illusion that she had created in her mind.

“Her inability to clean out his room suddenly frightened her; for the first time, it seemed like more than just a weakness of spirit but an indication of serious mental illness.” Dean. K. Page 24: 3 (line)

Her mentality was destroyed after losing Danny; Tina didn't even want to enter or set foot into Danny's room again after she lost Danny. To clean the room alone, he still does not have the strength to step into the room.

“Tina Evans sat straight up in bed, certain that she had heard a noise in the house. It hadn't been merely the thunder from the dream. The sound she'd heard had come as she was waking, a real noise, not an imagined one.” Dean. K. Page 16: 14 (line)

After that incident, he could no longer sleep peacefully every night because he always woke up with bad dreams.

Virus

This novel does not delve much into viruses, let alone viruses that become epidemics and pandemics, because according to this novel, the virus was planned to be created as a biological weapon called Wuhan-400. Still, an unfortunate incident happened to one of the researchers who accidentally contracted the virus in the lab. When he tried to run out of the lab, he instead met a group of scouts, so they were all immediately isolated. Still, unluckily, the next day, they were all killed by this virus, except for Danny; because of the antibodies he had, he managed to survive. Unfortunately, they have turned him into a 'lab rat' who is injected with the virus repeatedly to test how potent his antibodies are

It is at this point that causes various other social events in this novel because, before the virus that lab workers accidentally transmitted to a group of scouts who were carrying out activities on the hill near the lab, Tina Evans and her child's life were running normally, even though Tina had to lose her beloved husband in a divorce. However, after the virus was contracted, although it did not have time to spread because the victims were immediately quarantined, it still caused grief for some parties, one of whom was Tina, who had to add pain to her life by losing her child and had

to reveal the truth about the mysterious death of her child who reportedly died of bus accident, but turns out to be infected with the deadly virus Wuhan-400 and becomes a guinea pig because of the antibodies it has.

"He's the only person who's ever survived it. He has a natural antibody in his blood that helps him fight this virus, even though it's an artificial bug. That's what fascinated Dr. Tamaguchi. He's the head of this installation." Dean. K. Page 301: 23 (line)

Danny, who was one of the scout members who was exposed to the virus at that time, managed to survive until then, compared to his friends, who died immediately the next day after being exposed. From this, they first knew that Danny was a unique child because he had the immunity to survive this virus.

"For almost two months, they've been reinfecting his body over and over again, letting the virus wear him down, trying to discover how many times he can lick it before it finally licks him." Dean. K. Page 301: 30 (line)

Danny, who was still alive 24 hours after being exposed to the virus, made them curious about the virus immunity that Danny's body had, so scientists locked Danny there and carried out a series of tests on him, including injecting the virus repeatedly into his body, to see how far he could survive.

"Biological and chemical. Recombinant DNA experiments. At any one time, we have thirty to forty projects underway." "I thought the U.S. got out of the chemical and biological weapons race a long time ago." Dean. K. Page 306: 10 (line)

Sierra Lab was built to be a place for testing American biological weapons, which combine biological substances, chemicals, and human DNA.

"They call the stuff 'Wuhan-400' because it was developed at their RDNA labs outside of the city of Wuhan, and it was the four-hundredth viable strain of artificial microorganisms created at that research center." Dean. K. Page 307: 21 (line)

The virus developed at Sierra Lab originated from a research center in Wuhan, China. Therefore, this virus is called Wuhan-400.

"Wuhan-400 is a perfect weapon. It afflicts only human beings. No other living creature can carry it. And like syphilis, Wuhan-400 can't survive outside a living human body for longer than a minute, which means it can't permanently contaminate objects or entire places the way anthrax and other virulent microorganisms can." Dean. K. Page 307: 25 (line)

The virus is believed to be a perfect biological because it only attacks humans and does not attack other living things.

"And Wuhan-400 has other, equally important advantages over most biological agents," Dean said. K. Page 308: 123 (line)

The virus is believed to be a perfect biological because it only attacks humans and does not attack other living things. So that makes it considered safe to be used as a biological weapon because it will only kill specific targets and will not affect animals or plants or will not pollute the surrounding environment.

"Once infected, no one lives more than twenty-four hours. Most die in twelve. It's worse than the Ebola virus in Africa —infinitely worse. Wuhan-400's kill rate is one hundred percent. No one is supposed to survive." Dean. K. Page 308: 6 (line)

How strong the killer cells are in the Wuhan virus-400, where you can be sure that an infected person cannot survive for more than 24 hours. That is what makes this virus far more dangerous than the Ebola virus in Africa because, since exposure, sufferers usually die immediately after 12 hours, especially since this virus does not have a vaccine.

Discussion

The findings from "The Eyes of Darkness" by Dean Koontz illustrate several significant social situations, each contributing to the overall narrative and providing a complex depiction of human experiences in the face of extraordinary circumstances. This discussion explores these social situations, drawing connections to real-world scenarios and broader literary themes.

The depiction of abuse in the novel serves as a critical commentary on power dynamics and the lengths to which individuals or organizations will go to maintain control. The abuse of power, as seen through murder, conspiracy, and property damage, highlights the destructive impact of unchecked authority. This theme resonates with real-world instances where power is misused, leading to significant harm and loss. The narrative compels readers to reflect on the moral implications of such actions and the necessity for accountability and justice.

The thriller elements in the novel, including occultism, possession, and telepathic powers, create an atmosphere of suspense and intrigue. These mystical and supernatural occurrences challenge the characters' perceptions of reality and force them to confront their deepest fears. By incorporating these elements, Koontz taps into the universal human fascination with the unknown and the unexplainable. The unsettling nature of these events mirrors societal fears of losing control and the unpredictability of life. The thriller genre's ability to captivate and terrify is effectively utilized to explore deeper psychological and emotional themes.

Tragedies in "The Eyes of Darkness" serve as pivotal moments that drive the plot forward and deepen the emotional impact of the story. The accidents, chases, and other tragic events experienced by the characters reflect the harsh realities of life, where unexpected and often devastating occurrences can alter one's trajectory. These tragedies underscore the fragility of life and the resilience required to navigate through loss and adversity. The novel's portrayal of tragedy aligns with the real-world experience of coping with sudden, life-altering events, emphasizing the need for perseverance and hope.

The exploration of mental health, particularly through the character of Tina, provides a poignant examination of grief and trauma. Tina's journey from despair to determination illustrates the profound impact of losing a loved one and the psychological toll it takes. Her hallucinations and nightmares are manifestations of her unresolved grief, highlighting the importance of mental health awareness and support. The novel underscores the significance of addressing mental health issues and the potential for recovery and resilience when individuals confront their trauma and seek the truth.

The theme of the virus in the novel, depicted as the Wuhan-400, introduces a chillingly prescient narrative element. The portrayal of the virus as a biological weapon and its catastrophic effects draws parallels to the real-world COVID-19 pandemic. This narrative foresight underscores the potential for fiction to reflect and anticipate real-world events, providing a space for readers to explore their fears and anxieties. The novel's depiction of the virus and its impact on society serves as a reminder of the importance of scientific vigilance, ethical considerations in research, and the global implications of viral outbreaks.

CONCLUSION

The *Eyes of Darkness* is one of the many novels that tell stories about viruses but also has something unique in that, apart from telling stories about viruses by giving views on the arrival of a virus, this novel also gives the impression of horror, mysticism, and terror. Terror can make the reader more curious about each page that will come because it gives the impression that it is challenging to complete. The number of particular terrors in this novel thus provides a depiction of a social situation that is thick with thriller through the characters concerned in the novel, which in the excerpts that have been summarized previously have given a clear description of where social situations are often found or occur in people who have experienced similar events. Through the characters Elliot and Tina in search of Danny, who is Tina's child, and after giving exciting events in the novel that begin with the tragedy of murder, apparitions, visions that are beyond reason, the Sierra tragedy, and the laboratory in the process of the Pandora project which finally revealed that Danny accidentally became a guinea pig at Sierra Lab because he was the only one immune to the Wuhan-400 virus, and all attempts to find Danny can be concluded as a thriller incident that can be witnessed directly through all the quotes we have present in this article. In the future, for research that will take a similar topic, this article can develop an in-depth analysis of the similarities between the natural pandemic phenomenon and the concept of the story in the novel *The Eyes of the Darkness*.

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