

For a number of years now, I have been an avid reader of novels by Dean Koontz. I recently read one of his works entitled Odd Thomas. The novel takes place around a young man's life. His name, as you may have guessed, is Odd Thomas. At first, everything seems normal about this Californian resident that works as a fry cook at a local grill. However, every day he sees Elvis, and he shows up in different outfits every time Odd sees him. Odd has a unique gift; he can see dead people. The people don't talk, and they usually appear after they have died. Some linger for quite a while after their death, while others disappear shortly after Odd determines how they died and gives the justice system a nudge in the right direction in avenging their death. It is surprising as the reader to learn that Odd somehow embraces this gift. He could probably ignore these people, but chooses to help them. At the end of the story, his gift haunts him. A loved one close to him dies, and he places the fault entirely on himself. Because Odd can see dead people, he does not know that his love dies until days after it happens. Even though he endured so many hardships in a short amount of time, Odd would change nothing about the events. If he went back to the beginning, he would still listen to the dead, simply because they need someone to be their voice. He knows this gift is potentially dangerous, but embraces it nonetheless because he is the only one that has it.

The main thing that I extrapolated from this book is to embrace yourself for who you truly are. Simple, complicated, colorful, bland, and everything in between. Instead of trying to be "perfect" and rejecting what makes you you, embrace the little quirks. I believe this is something that more people need to realize in this world. Act on the right reasons, and not only because you may gain profit in any way. Odd lives a simple life, and yet he gets joy from it. There's no need for extravagant houses or millions of dollars. It's O.K. just to be a fry cook in a small town.