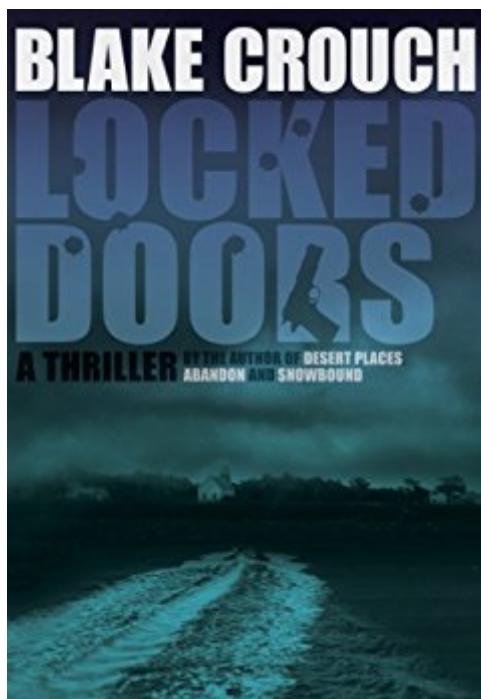


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Locked Doors (Andrew Z. Thomas/Luther Kite Series Book 2)



Synopsis

Sequel to *Desert Places* and prequel to Crouch's and Konrath's *STIRRED*...Seven years ago, suspense novelist Andrew Thomas's life was shattered when he was framed for a series of murders. The killer's victims were unearthed on Andrew's lakefront property, and since he was wanted by the FBI, Andrew had no choice but to flee and to create a new identity. Andrew does just that in a cabin tucked away in the remote wilderness near Haines Junction, Yukon. His only link to society is by e-mail, through which he learns that all the people he ever loved are being stalked and murdered. Culminating in the spooky and secluded Outer Banks of North Carolina, the paths of Andrew Thomas, a psychotic named Luther Kite, and a young female detective collide. *LOCKED DOORS* is a novel of blistering suspense that will scare you to death. This 70,000-word eBook also contains a bonus interview with Blake, excerpts from his other novels, and excerpts from two new horror novels, *ENDURANCE* and *TRAPPED*, by J.A. Konrath.

About the Author: BLAKE CROUCH was born near the piedmont town of Statesville, North Carolina in 1978. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and graduated in 2000 with degrees in English and Creative Writing. Blake is the author of four novels and numerous short stories. He lives with his family in southwest Colorado, where he is at work on a new book. His website is www.blakecrouch.com.

PRAISE FOR *LOCKED DOORS*: Crouch quite simply is a marvel. *LOCKED DOORS* is as good as anything I've read all year, a stay-up-all-night thriller that will have you chewing your fingers down to the nub even as you're reading its last paragraph. Highest possible recommendation.

BOOKREPORTER The story grips and propels the reader, while Crouch makes the ride hypnotic with beautiful Carolina moons over tide-smoothed beaches. One wonders if a poet turned to horror, would this be the result.

CHARLESTON POST AND COURIER Crouch writes a nicely turned character, puts them front-and-center and then rains holy hell upon them until you think your head is going to explode.

THE AGONY COLUMN *LOCKED DOORS*, then, is on a big level a novel of redemptionâ |great stuff, wonderfully written.

THE NEW LONDON DAY Blake Crouch is a young thriller writer with a talent for creating really spooky characters and plots that take terror to a new level.

TORONTO SUN Gut wrenching...the writing is tight, the plots exciting, the suspense unending...What Crouch does about as well as anyone is give the reader that sinking feeling in their gut. In *LOCKED DOORS*, I actually shuddered when certain events unfolded. Crouch tops my list.

OTTAWA SUN Chilling...clever and lightning-paced...Blake Crouch has penned a sequel that will keep you reading long past your bedtime.

BOOKPAGE Crouch's world will appeal to James Patterson fans...there's blood spattered from Manteo to Murphy by the time Crouch is finished.

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER Expertly paced and viscerally effective, with many surprises and

genuine chills.KIRKUS REVIEWSPalpable suspense. Non-stop action. Relentless and riveting. Blake Crouch is the most exciting new thriller writer I've read in years.DAVID MORRELLThis tautly written, very scary thriller quickly grabs the reader by the throat. Leave the lights on; Luther may be out there.BOOKLISTWhen the story moves to the foggy, desolate Outer Banks, Crouch is at his terrifying best. You can feel the cold mist on your skin and see the creepy shadows barely illuminated by a distant cabin's flickering light. A great horror novel takes you to a place so scary and vivid as to make you thankful you are not actually there, and Crouch does this well.DENVER POSTThis is a new millennium, and Anthony Perkins as Norman Bates and Anthony Hopkins as Hannibal Lecter have to be outdone. Crouch comes close.ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS[LOCKED DOORS] is as suspenseful, chilling and macabre a novel as I've ever read.WINSTON-SA

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Customer Reviews

LOCKED DOORS is Blake Crouch's second novel; his first, DESERT PLACES, somehow got by me, an error that I will begin correcting later this afternoon. In doing my homework for this review, I noticed that the reviews of his debut novel were mixed. Don't let that keep you from reading this sophomore effort.I began reading LOCKED DOORS at 10:00 p.m. on a Monday evening, and kept

reading until I was too tired to hold the book properly. Crouch quite simply is a marvel. He changes perspective, points of view, and tense at whim, challenging you to hang on and ride with him. And it's easy to do. He's so good you'll want to hug him because you love him or smack him because you're jealous; sometimes you want to do both, simultaneously. I'll give you an example. LOCKED DOORS involves, among other things, a gentleman named Luther Kite who is as dangerous and fearsome as anyone you could meet. One of the best passages in the book concerns a visit Kite pays to a Waffle House, where he orders pancakes. You know that either it'll turn out okay or he'll be painting the walls, but you're not sure which. I guarantee you though that if you read LOCKED DOORS you'll visit a Waffle House, just once, to see if Luther Kite is there. You won't be able to resist; Crouch's descriptive powers are that finely honed. Then there's another scene, darn near perfect, where Kite goes into a Wal-Mart...But I'm getting ahead of myself here. LOCKED DOORS nicely summarizes DESERT PLACES, telling the story of bestselling thriller writer Andrew Thomas. Thomas's idyllic existence, consisting of money, a modicum of fame, and a comfortable residence in Davidson, North Carolina, is shattered when he's framed for multiple murders by his fraternal twin brother Orson and the aforementioned Mr.

In Blake Crouch's riveting debut novel *Desert Places* his protagonist, suspense novelist Andrew Thomas, is framed for a series of gruesome murders committed by a pair of psychopaths, one of them Andrew's twin brother Orson. The physical evidence against Andrew is too strong for him to come forward and explain himself to the authorities. Thus Crouch's sequel to *Desert Places*, the equally compelling *Locked Doors*, finds Andrew hiding from civilization seven years after the murders in a remote cabin in the Yukon. He's come to appreciate his solitary life in the wilderness, and he has some small hope of one day clearing his name: he is at least working on an autobiographical manuscript, an account of his brother's killing spree, which turns out to be the text of Crouch's first book. But Andrew's calm is interrupted by a second spate of killings, similar in style to the first, which the press is blaming on Andrew himself: the victims are people he was close to in his past. He is thus lured from his safe haven to reenter the nightmarish world of serial killer Luther Kite, his brother's accomplice, whom Andrew had left for dead at the conclusion of *Desert Places*. It takes all of six and a half pages for readers to experience their first jolt of electric fear while reading Crouch's second Andrew Thomas novel. After that the scares come thick and fast. This is a book that will fly by if you let it, its seductively short chapters flashing past in an adrenaline rush of reading. But it's worth slowing down, if you can, to enjoy some of Crouch's prose and the lovely, subtle way he sometimes has of getting information across: "She peered out the window and saw

the fog dissolving, the microscopic crawl of traffic now materializing on Broadway through the cloud below.

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