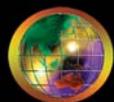


THE MIND KEEPERS
THE MIND KEEPERS

THE MIND KEEPERS

Kenneth Maclean



A Novel **KENNETH
MACLEAN**

Mike Neilly wanted a simple life in a small town. When someone kills his best friend, Neilly is drawn back into the danger of his former life as an FBI Agent to find the murderer. As he quietly stalks the killer's steps, he finds far more than a singular threat. A secret dread is enveloping Morton City with a force fed by international politics and secret government experiments. Those who resist can have their thoughts forcibly altered, hear bodiless voices speaking in the dark, or be killed without a trace. Large populations can be controlled unaware. Running moments beyond certain death, Neilly won't give up until the killer is caught and the power revealed—unless they can stop him.

“Ken MacLean is a talented weaver of suspense in this unique and spellbinding story. Each turn of the page leaves you with the thought that this author may be a Jules Verne for the new millennium. The threads of eminent technology are masterfully spun with the insightful drama of vivid characters.

The reader has a sense of visiting a small town that has become central in the shadow of a menace that could change the future of civilization.

Entertaining, exciting and ponderous, enjoy!”

—Eryn Adams, Editor, Michael S. Andrews Publishing

“Kenneth MacLean’s new novel, *The Mind Keepers*, a distinctly well-crafted thriller by a gifted American poet, delivers a realistic and compelling, cautionary tale with serious political implications...The work is carefully paced with a collection of richly drawn characters, which cleverly reveal colorful themes of a suspenseful plot as they uncover where the hero’s investigation into the secret machinations of the powerful will take them.”

—Robert Bonazzi, Book Columnist, *SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS*;
AUTHOR OF *MAN IN THE MIRROR*; *JOHN HOWARD GRIFFEN* AND *BLACK LIKE ME*

“*The Mind Keepers*, an action-packed novel that evolves around a mysterious, electronic weapon, becomes more frightening page by page. This mind-bending weapon can induce seizures or heart attacks; torment a human target with ominous ‘ghost voices,’ rack victims with pain: ‘like being shaved with a flamethrower during a tsunami.’ Who has developed this weapon and for what purpose?...Kenneth MacLean’s thought-provoking novel makes a good read.

You’ll never look at a microwave tower the same way again!”

—DR. JOHN BEAN, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

“From the first page, *The Mind Keepers* caught and held my attention. The principal characters are well drawn and developed against a backdrop of mysterious forces at work that unfold with subtlety. The protagonist comes to grips with consummate evil. The reader experiences a pleasant excitement as to the outcome. I could not put this book down.”

—CHARLES R. LONERGAN JR., SIDERIUS AND LONERGAN, ATTORNEYS, SEATTLE



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Copyright](#)

[Dedication](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Reviews](#)

[The Novel](#)

[Bibliography](#)

[Biography](#)

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A Novel

KENNETH
MACLEAN

THE MIND KEEPERS

New World Press
Middle Island, New York

THE MIND KEEPERS

A NOVEL

by Kenneth MacLean

This novel is a work of fiction and portrays imaginary characters. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, actual events or places, is entirely coincidental.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my wife, Verna, and to my five children: Moira, Kevin, David, Anne Kristin, and John, without whose self-sacrifice and love both the work and I would have been greatly diminished. I add my editors, Katheryn Freeberg and Lesley Kellas Payne, and my New York publicist, Dr. Andrew Linick, with great appreciation of their labors.

INTRODUCTION

The Mind Keepers is a work of fiction. None of the characters exist, the scene is imaginary, the plot an invention, yet the details of the fiction are frighteningly real. I know them because I have experienced them throughout my life. Most, although not all, of the incidents affecting my “hero,” Michael Neilly, and his wife, Trudy, are incidents too deep in the sensory memory of my own mind and body to be called anything but terribly real.

Electronic or ritual manipulation of the brain, commonly called “brainwashing,” the programming of an individual to act as a robot, even to kill without knowledge or consent, has become part of our fiction and movies since the Korean War era. Richard Condon’s book, *The Manchurian Candidate* (several film versions have been made since 1962) and related works such as Michael Crichton’s *The Terminal Man*, plus innumerable science fiction spin-offs, have developed the theme of robotic/technological control of humans, by humans, as a popular fascination.

Why is this? Is there a secret fear among us, especially among Americans, that such technological “fantasies” of our fiction writers may be, or may be becoming true? Even the word “brainwashing” (invented by whom?) seems to suggest a soothing of such fear. To “wash” something is to make it clean, to remove its threat to our well-being, our sense of self-respect and control. (See Kathleen Taylor’s book in the bibliography at my novel’s end.) Any evil motive associated with mind-altering technology is further soothed by our conviction that, if such evil exists, it is the tool of our enemies, the foreign “bad guys.” Such might have been the instance in Korea. But can we convince ourselves that this is always the case?

I have written *The Mind Keepers* as a fictional restatement of the truth that human invention always invites human abuse. The magnetic resonance study of the human body and brain, for

instance, can become the related curse of control over these profoundly personal materials of selfhood. Those who substitute secrecy and the mantra of “national security” for honest information and democratic debate surely invite this curse. Recently, news reports have revealed the ability of human brain waves to move a computer’s cursor. The development of the reverse process can clearly be assumed—the manipulation of human brains by computerized microwave electronics.

Microwave chip brain implants might one day make the blind see. They could also keep the sighted from seeing what is necessary to preserve their freedom. That’s what *The Mind Keepers* is about. It is a mystery novel meant to entertain. It is also a novel of fictional conspiracy intended to leave the reader in serious thought.

Kenneth MacLean
Seattle, Washington, 2006

Kenneth MacLean's *The Mind Keepers* Draws Praise...

"Kenneth MacLean's new novel, *The Mind Keepers*, a distinctly well-crafted thriller by a gifted American poet, delivers a realistic and compelling, cautionary tale with serious political implications.

The work is carefully paced with a collection of richly drawn characters, which cleverly reveal colorful themes of a suspenseful plot as they uncover where the hero's investigation into the secret machinations of the powerful will take them.

The hero, Michael Neilly, is a convincing 'Everyman' with acute intelligence, as are his devious adversaries. 'What will happen?' we wonder, as the pages turn swiftly, and we become deeply involved in mysteries we recognize as being not unlike our own so-called reality.

But readers will think beyond the margins of this evocative, entertaining story toward making an ethical—dare one say *moral*—judgment about the dubious behavior of dark power, even as it claims to have only our safety and significant interests at heart."

—Robert Bonazzi, Book Columnist, San Antonio Express News; Author of *Man in the Mirror: John Howard Griffen and Black Like Me*

"Ken MacLean is a talented weaver of suspense in this unique and spellbinding story. Each turn of the page leaves you with the thought that this author may be a Jules Verne for the new millennium. The threads of eminent technology are masterfully spun with the insightful drama of vivid characters. The reader has a sense of visiting a small town that has become central in the shadow of a menace that could change the future of civilization. Entertaining, exciting and ponderous, enjoy!"

—Eryn Adams, Editor, Michael S. Andrews Publishing, LLC

Ken MacLean has done a credible job of raising vital questions that bedevil contemporary society, while, at the same time, wrapping all this in an engaging tale of mystery and intrigue. Although the issues are momentous, he sets the action in a rural hamlet in the Pacific Northwest, peopled by ordinary folk concerned with ordinary matters of school, church, work and their personal lives. This is a genuine 'whodunit' with thought and substance."

—Dr. Warren Johnson, Emeritus Professor of History, Seattle University

"The *Mind Keepers* is a contemporary book easily appreciated by a society which has been through 9/11, exposed to the work of conniving and clever business executives, and further, become somewhat knowledgeable with extraordinary, new technology. The recent study reported by neuroscientists at the University of Washington, in which a computer was programmed to respond to the *thoughts* of a human subject, is the sort of thing hinted at in **Dr.** MacLean's fine book. The story is well written with intrigue and excitement; it pulls you through chapter after chapter, rooting for the good guys over the bad. You can't be sure how it is going to end until the last few pages. I liked the book and recommend it."

—Robert Hegstrom, M.D., retired staff physician, Virginia Mason Hospital, Seattle

"Kenneth MacLean's extensive research into the subject of microwave electronics creates this narrative of an engrossing and disquieting tale about the possibility and results of public 'mind control.' The information and the story are certainly worth the read."

—Lillian Britain, retired docent, The Seattle Art Museum

"*The Mind Keepers*, an action-packed novel that evolves around a mysterious, electronic weapon, becomes more frightening page by page. This mind-bending weapon can induce seizures or heart attacks;

torment a human target with ominous 'ghost voices,' or rack victims with pain: 'like being shaved with a flamethrower during a tsunami.' Who has developed this weapon and for what purpose?

Author Kenneth MacLean, so passionately committed to a democratic and free society, understands the dangers of a federal government that is secretly developing pulse wave energy technology for mind control. His hero, former FBI Agent Mike Neilly, is extracted from an early retirement because someone murders his best friend. As he investigates the inner workings of an apparently harmless corporation that is installing a national defense system outside the imaginative village of Morton City, he unleashes the sinister power of this corporation and its weapon. I was spellbound at the implications as I wondered if this book is a novel or science fiction? Or, are dark forces, even now, harnessing electronic pulse energy?

Kenneth MacLean's thought-provoking novel makes a good read. You'll never look at a microwave tower the same way again!"

—Dr. John Bean, Professor of English, Seattle University

"I've seen a lot of reviews saying how this book is perfect for the conspiracy theorists among us. Well, I'm certainly not a conspiracy theorist, but the book is still an excellent read. If you read it like a mystery, it impresses with its characterization and mounting tension. If you think about the mysterious possibilities it raises, it delivers in a whole different way."

—Skyler Roth, High School Senior, Olympia, Washington

"Kenneth MacLean, in his novel *The Mind Keepers*, has skillfully crafted an intriguing and spell-binding tapestry, comprising some of the ever-present elements of our society; subjects (not necessarily disparate) such as race, environmental activism, and paranoid distrust

of government. The book's primary theme revolves around the Federal Government's proposed development and implementation of electronic, radio-controlled technology for national security and intelligence gathering purposes. On the surface, not an alarming proposition, but intimations of general population mind control by power hungry criminals spurs some exciting detective work and action. The background and connective theme of this engrossing story is the investigation into the murder of a close friend of the novel's chief character, former FBI Agent, Mike Neilly.

MacLean has created a cast of well-drawn characters in a rich and exciting narrative, making this novel an eminently satisfying read."

—Joseph Israel, Retired Vice President, Chase Manhattan Bank

"Kenneth MacLean's *The Mind Keepers* is an engrossing novel of intrigue and suspense that involves a timely notion: The abuse of microwave technology by a cadre of the power and money-hungry, with the resulting potential for great harm.

MacLean demonstrates that he understands the technology involved in this believable book. His characters are well developed, especially Michael Neilly, an ex-Army intelligence and FBI Agent, who takes on the bad guys.

Especially effective is the dialogue; I've never read any more crisp or natural.

The Mind Keepers is a good read."

—Sally H. Gray, retired judge and teacher

"For a interesting, challenging and very worthwhile reading experience, I enthusiastically recommend Kenneth MacLean's *The Mind Keepers*. The reader will find the period and setting most plausible, the description crisp. The progression of plot is so compelling that it is hard to put the book down, although the hour is late.

Most importantly, the reader will confront, in many cases for the first time, the inherent danger to our safety and our constitutional rights, and responsibilities of permitting the

unquestioned and unrestricted advance of technology exemplified in the intrusion of microwave electronics on a thoroughly American small town."

—Winfield S. Fountain, retired Professor of Education, Seattle University

"Kenneth MacLean's Michael Neilly is the quintessential American hero, willing to stand against the abuse of authority and power, even when the majority of his peers, friends and neighbors are unable or refuse to see the looming danger. *The Mind Keepers* is a well conceived and well written thriller, not an easy thing to find on bookstore shelves as readers hope. The science that is central to the story is as solid as the author's craft. Artful development makes the relationships and interactions among characters credible and compelling, including those of Michael Neilly's marriage. It is not too hard to write a strong hero or a strong heroine; it is delightful, however, to encounter in fiction a man and a woman together of matched conviction and courage. *The Mind Keepers* is a story of our time: one that reveals the dangers of political and corporate greed and secrecy. It is a story that keeps the reader turning the pages long into the night, proof of the seamless road."

—Lesley Kellas Payne, Freelance Fiction Editor

"From the first page, *The Mind Keepers* caught and held my attention. The principal characters are well drawn and developed against a backdrop of mysterious forces at work that unfold with subtlety. The protagonist comes to grips with consummate evil. The reader experiences a pleasant excitement as to the outcome. I could not put this book down."

—Charles R. Lonergan Jr., Siderius and Lonergan, Attorneys, Seattle

"*The Mind Keepers* is an intriguing tale of scientific mind control that takes place in the quiet outback of Washington State with an unlikely, but intriguing cast of characters, which includes a former FBI Agent and Army Intelligence Officer. Concern with 'how

ruthless the demands on democracy had become,' suggests contemporary issues with which we are all too familiar. Mixed in with an electronic thought-control scheme by a large power monopoly, Eramond Co., are many of the environmental concerns of the Pacific Northwest."

—Dr. James E. Parry, Professor Emeritus, History, Seattle University

"*The Mind Keepers* is a chilling tale of a private/public defense project gone wrong—in fact, it's murderous! Kenneth MacLean's first novel is set in an obscure Washington town, fraught with animosity. This thriller is a well-crafted mix of characters, led by Michael Neilly, former intelligence officer and FBI agent, who tries to sort out the truth. This isn't a whodunit: it's a how-they-almost-got-away-with-it."

—Trina O. McKinstry, volunteer teacher, ESL, North Seattle Community College

"The Mind Keepers' takes the reader into the dark world of new weaponry with frequency technology that can destroy human life. This manner of destruction leaves little evidence to be uncovered without the expertise of a well-trained investigator, such as the main character of Kenneth MacLean's book, Michael Neilly.

Neilly left the FBI when he saw it turning into 'a paramilitary force with the power of a secret police agency.' Fate has another plan that interrupts his new life in a small Washington town. He finds himself surrounded by undercover government agents, corruption, mysterious deaths and a frequency device that can disrupt a brain pattern, heart pattern or bio-stability.

Fiction so ably rides the rail between reality and possible reality. Anyone who has kept up with the direction the Tesla technology or psychotronic instrumentation development will be quick to 'connect the dots' of possibilities and undeclared, secret use and abuse of these instruments. 'The Mind Keepers' is a well-written, easy read that captures your attention and reminds you that if you can imagine it, it is possible!"

—Beverly Coleman, U.S. Psychotronics Association

"A brilliant and extraordinary piece of fiction with memorable characters. This book is compulsively readable. Professor MacLean is an excellent writer and storyteller."

–Edwin L. Winter, Career Pentagon Employee

"A solid, satisfying read. MacLean is a true novelist, a first rate genre writer."

–Irene Jaspersen, Former Congressional Employee

CHAPTER TWENTY

The conversation with Greves was heavy on Neilly's mind as he followed the highway back to Morton City. He struggled with the grim reality it presented. As he dimmed for a passing car, he realized it was only the second one he'd encountered in four or five miles. The road was strangely empty for nine o'clock on a Saturday evening. The sense of isolation didn't add to his comfort.

Resisting his uneasiness, he switched on the car radio, KMCR, where the Mattawan campus station was doing a retrospective on modern jazz. Listening to the notes of Thelonius Monk, Neilly relaxed somewhat, and concentrated on how his involvement affected one small town. If Greves was right, Kornwith was the key, but what about Reiger? The man was a competent physician. Was he really blind to the danger he was getting into? Would it be worthwhile approaching Reiger directly, talking it out?

Neilly's instinct told him no. Reiger was too close to Kornwith, too indebted, and probably tied into the money-dealing at the bank. Whatever Interadom involved, Kornwith was its agent, Yellow Butte was part of its mechanism, and Reiger, its advocate.

The knot that had been dissolving in his stomach tightened as he thought of the danger Glen Sutton could face from Reiger. Glen was a tough and smart young man. Neilly remembered how he had responded with disgust to his description of what had happened to Manny Powick. Neilly warned Glen of how his seemingly innocent job might entangle him in dangerous circumstances. As they'd shared a cold beer the night after Neilly's talk with Powick, Mike hadn't intended to express the suspicion that Reiger and Alden Kornwith might be connected to Glen's father's death. But as they'd talked, Glen sensed it had somehow, drawn it out of him. Smart and tough, yes, but very

young, and now intense about discovering the truth. "I'll help any way I can, Mike," he had said, and Neilly was forced to admit that as strictly limited eyes and ears at the Development Council office, Glen might be helpful. Maintaining the limitations would be the problem.

The Monk album ended, Dave Brubeck's cool-jazz piano came on: music from the late fifties. How well he remembered lying on the rug in his elder brother's bedroom, listening to these men, wondering about their lives. The music seemed voices speaking to him: plaintive, wounded, searching. Jennifer had never understood his love of that music; which was one more thing that they had never held in common.

As the county road intersected with a side road, the broad shape of an older model car lurched into Neilly's vision a couple of hundred feet ahead. It crossed the midline, high beams blinding his eyes as he braked; then it swung back and crossed again.

Foot jammed against the brake pedal, Neilly swerved to the road's edge and managed to stop. The other car stopped facing him, its headlights still flared in his eyes.

"Get out and stand very still by the side of your car. You'll be sorry if you try anything."

As Neilly got out and stepped forward into the lights, his hands and face stung as if he had been scalded. He staggered back against a fender, almost fell, then weakly righted himself. Fury surged, he drove it back, and struggled to keep his voice level. "I get the point. Who are you, what do you want?"

"Never mind who I am. I told you to stand still by the side of your car. That was just a sample of what we can do to you, if you don't cooperate. We're going to come around behind you. Don't move. The car backed quickly into the oncoming lane, made a U turn to stop behind Neilly's car, engine running.

Squinting against the lights, Neilly saw a big frame, head covered by a jacket hood, face hidden in shadow, come forward a step. Barely visible in the man's right hand was a shape like a flat box with a handle and a round shape at the pointed end. He could

THE MIND KEEPERS

see the flesh of the hand and a connected line that came from behind the figure. He focused to see, recognize, remember. Neilly thought there was something familiar in the voice. An oncoming car slowed briefly, then drove on, its occupants disinterested in someone else's car problem. The hooded man spoke again.

"We know you're an intelligent man, Neilly. We told you that before. We still hope you'll be a wise one. We think you know more than most people about the device I've used here. You might even understand it, might guess what I could do to you."

"If you'd wanted to kill me?"

"Shut up and listen. There is important work going forward here, work necessary to the nation. We think you're a person who might be tempted to interfere. We know you understand what might have to be done to people who stand in the way."

"Yes, I understand."

Neilly felt his anger surging more fiercely, the adrenaline firing out messages that couldn't be acted on.

"I'm glad to hear that, Neilly, because tonight you met with a man who often puts his own opinions before his duty as a federal officer. Be warned."

Neilly took a deep breath, held it, let it out slowly, driving the anger back inside. "Look, I've been around a while. I've felt what you can do with that thing. I don't want any trouble. Cal Greves is an old friend, that's all."

Neilly heard contemptuous laughter from someone inside the car. There was a taut motion of the weapon. He braced himself for another fall of the lash. None came, but the voice tightened, became more emphatic: "Such friendships can be dangerous. Remember that and pay attention to your own and the country's best interests." The car door slammed, the heavy car pulled away.

Stolen from some movie house parking lot. They'll dump it within five minutes—Probably just bad kids joyriding, no harm done. No harm done. That was just the problem, Neilly knew. He hadn't been hurt, no bruises or scars, a friendly little chat about a weapon no one would believe, not the way it had to be believed in: a weapon which left no evidence. Belief would have to wait for

demonstrable proof, an indisputable victim, a courtroom, a jury, open publicity. His car radio was broadcasting an NPR news report about relations between the U.S, and North Korea. He switched it off as he sat struggling to analyze what had happened.

They had him identified, surely knew his background, probably believed his experience limited his taking chances. He had to admit that the silence he'd kept about being experimentally abused suggested abuse would work again. But he hadn't known what the early abuse experience was, hadn't known it as an understandable reality. Time, thought, and Greves' input had changed that. Terrible as Neilly's bizarre experiences had been, they were oddly less terrible now. The intimidation attempt missed its mark.

He started the car, pulled his seatbelt into its lock, drove onto the road again. A thought drummed to the pulse of a splitting headache. They had it backward, thought of Mike Neilly as Greves' source, didn't know what information Greves had. If they found out that they were wrong, Greves was in worse danger than he. He'd have to distance Cal, play the game the way they believed he would: careful and self-concerned.

He was near the town limits when a police flasher went on behind him. A brief hoot of its siren pulled him over. What now, for God's sake?

As Neilly watched the side mirror, the cop came forward. "I'm Casey. You're Mike Neilly right?"

"That's right, what's wrong?"

"That's what we're wondering. The chief wants to talk to you, Neilly."

"Now? Tonight?"

"Right now. Follow me."



Ted Wheaton didn't like having to attend to police business at nine thirty on a Saturday evening. He'd left the Seattle Mariners' broadcast in the fifth inning with the score tied and two Seattle