



Killer

Jonathan Kellerman

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Well used to elevated emotions, psychologist Alex Delaware shrugs off a joking death threat from beautiful Beverly Hills physician Constance Sykes, whose attempt to secure legal custody of her baby niece is thwarted by Alex's forthright report to the court. Alex plays down the threat until LAPD's Milo Sturgis rushes to his side with the shocking word on the street that a hit's been taken out on him.

But while Alex may be in grave danger, it won't be from the Beverley Hills doctor, for Connie is soon discovered brutally slain. When her sister Cherie and the baby disappear, apparently on the run, Alex's search for answers leads him to aged rockers, charming homeboys and even Machiavellian judges.

As the darkest of secrets are peel away, and a cruel system churns through family lives, Alex seeks to stop a vicious killer and save a child from a life of nightmares . . . or worse.

Killer Details

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From Reader Review Killer for online ebook

Alex is The Romance Fox says

Jeez, what's happening to this series???

I have been reading Alex Delaware & Milos Sturgis LA adventures since the first book came out years ago and really liked them until the last two or three books.....which have so not done it for me.

Okay, so this is the 29th novel in the series and maybe the author is getting a bit tired of writing or finding new ideas or plots but really!!!!!!

The magic between the two protagonists is just not there!!!! It's beyond missing!!!!

There are very few pages where the two actually together!!!

The plot was flat and the secondary characters just beyond any redemption!!!

The only thing that got me to finish the book was the LA setting, which is very well written.

I am not sure if I am going to continue with this series!!!

Maybe it's time Alex & Milo retire and go and live in a nice quite seaside retirement village!!!!

Brenda says

Psychologist and part time police consultant, Dr Alex Delaware had been requested by the courts to handle some “difficult” cases, so after initially saying he didn’t want the extra work, he was persuaded by a hard working judge to agree. The cases were not too difficult, and his paperwork generally had both parties agreeable within a short time – but then he was given a child custody case, *Sykes v Sykes*, which was the strangest and most bizarre he had ever handled.

Connie Sykes was a successful physician – she didn’t see patients, instead she ran tests on human “subjects” for various diseases. She was a cold, emotionless woman, who always got her own way. Her sister, Cherie (Ree) Sykes was a completely different person – an original flower child, happy, full of light heartedness and a strong love and devotion to her eighteen month old daughter, Rambla. Connie had decided Ree was not a good mother; she had cared for Rambla for some time while Ree toured with the band, Lonesome Moan; she’d been friends with the members since her school days – Winky even babysat Rambla when she needed to pop out to the shops.

But the custody case set a chain of events going which had catastrophic results for a lot of people. Interviewing first Ree, then Connie made Alex’s decision an easy one – Ree was Rambla’s mother, Connie was only her aunt; the results were a foregone conclusion in his and the courts’ minds...

Suddenly murder entered their lives, danger was very close, and Alex found himself teamed up with Detective Milo Sturgis once again. When little Rambla disappeared in the midst of all the carnage, the race was on. Digging into the depths of Hollywood’s depraved underworld found them in much more danger – would Alex survive? Would the investigative team find the missing girl before it was too late?

I found this one to be another fabulous thriller by Jonathan Kellerman. Kellerman and Alex Delaware make an amazing team, and the suspense and mystery in this one was brilliant. The twists and turns throughout the book kept me spellbound, and the conclusion was completely unexpected! I have no hesitation in highly recommending this novel.

With thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for my copy to read and review.

Mark says

Beware Spoilers

I thought that this book was garbage, the premise of the story is just ridiculous.

A woman who is involved in a child custody battle loses and just decides she is going to kill him. A former patient that he treated who is now one of LA top gang banger murderers alerts him to the contract on his life. Milo stops by her house to have a talk with her and finds her body on the floor.

My idea of a good mystery book is something that is believable and keeps me thinking and interested.

How do people review books like this and give it five stars ? They probably got it for free and work for the publisher.

My advice is don't waste your money.

Irene says

When you like a writer and have been reading his books forever, it is hard to admit he has lost his luster.

Nothing is really wrong about Killer but nothing is really right either. His stern righteousness is a new trait in Alex Delaware which doesn't fit with the psychiatrist we have grown to love and respect. It is well written, the plot is ok but the characters are flat, they do their usual routine, i.e. Milo binges on food, and the workaholic Robin stays nicely out of the way. Each one of them does what they usually do but they all seem 'dead'. Flat characters at their best, no heart, no irony, no that incredible character facing and compassion Mr Kellerman has grown us accustomed to over the years.

If he were a brand new author I'd give him a one star review, being Kellerman I'm giving him the benefit of the doubt out of affection!

Paul Juniper says

I've not read an Alex Delaware for a while as I found them to be all of a sameness. In the end that's what attracted me to this book. I like the main characters, Alex and Milo. The book has enough twists and turns to be very interesting. I think if you have children it would be very upsetting to read.

Erin says

ARC for review.

Kellerman has largely escaped the malady that has overcome once good, now horrendous series as they reach 20+ books (the Alex Cross and Kay Scarpetta novels have become nearly unendurable). Though Kellerman's

Alex Delaware (the psychologist who spends most of his time working with the police) was never as compelling as Cross and Scarpetta at their respective bests, neither does reading even the latest installments of Dr. Delaware's adventure make me want to pour bleach in my eyes. Bonus points in that there is so little character development or change that it really doesn't matter if you read these books out of order or skip a few....I think the biggest event that has occurred in Delaware's life is that his dog died. Of course, he immediately got a new one of the very same type, so you can be forgiven for not noticing. Anyway, his personal life is largely irrelevant to the stories so not much matters....unlike, oh, I don't know CHARACTERS RETURNING FROM THE DEAD. Sigh.)

In this, the twenty-ninth outing Delaware is continuing his work in child custody cases (did he do this before? Do we care?). He's presented with a case where a bad sister wants to take a child from a generally good, but ne'er do well sister. Naturally it gets more complicated and the rules of ethics and professionalism are shoved to the side (as often happens, but you agree to this when you pick up these books, right?). Characters are presented so that you know you'll see them again and so on. There is a delicious potential development at the end, but it's left hanging, so perhaps we'll see it again in number thirty?

Anyway, if you like this sort of thing (if you are considering this it probably isn't your first time around with Kellerman) and you are looking for a decent airplane read you'll read this one in a few hours and will likely enjoy. Also, please note that this review may be longer than about half of the chapters in this book.

Ray Palen says

Author Jonathan Kellerman has been pumping out thrillers for nearly thirty years and the center-piece of his opus has been the Dr. Alex Delaware series. Beginning in 1985 with the release of **WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS** the Delaware series now enjoys its 29th installment with release of his latest effort entitled **KILLER**.

Dr. Alex Delaware is a brilliant psychologist who has often assisted law enforcement with his unique insight into the deadly and disturbed minds that exist out there. The novels in this series have ranged from truly terrifying to disappointing. As Alex Delaware has matured so has this series --- moving away from more horrific and thriller oriented stories into more character driven efforts.

KILLER falls well short of Kellerman's classic thrillers of the past but still provides enough of the reliable Dr. Delaware to keep faithful readers of this series engaged. Delaware has taken on some additional work to compliment his regular patient lineup. He is assisting as a subject matter expert on various court cases that do not involve direct testimony on his part.

One particular case proves to be much more trouble than it initially seemed. The case in question is a child custody battle between two sisters. Dr. Constance 'Connie' Sykes wants her sister, Cherie 'Ree' Sykes to turn over custody of her daughter, Rambla Pacifico Sykes, to her. Delaware is impressed upon by the presiding judge, Judge Maestro, to help in having this case thrown out. This will require his expert discrediting of Connie.

Dr. Delaware meets with both sisters and eventually sees the child in its home environment with Ree. He sees no reason that the current arrangement should not remain intact. He also has some concerns about Connie and makes his recommendation to the court without reservation. As expected, the court holds in favor of Ree Sykes keeping her child.

This decision does not please Connie Sykes and she confronts Dr. Delaware and threatens him. The threat is

so overt that there is inference that Delaware's life may be in danger. He takes appropriate precautions and notifies the local LAPD in the form of his long-term colleague and friend, Detective Milo Sturgis. As the LAPD begins to investigate Connie Sykes an alarming discovery is made --- that of Connie's dead body found brutally murdered. Simultaneously to this, Ree Sykes and little Rambla have disappeared without a trace. In the wake of this, Dr. Delaware now is forced to second guess his recommendation in the Sykes custody case and recognizes that his career and life may be in jeopardy.

KILLER has a great premise and story, just not a lot of action or suspense. The case unfolds methodically and we find a Dr. Alex Delaware who is far more introspective than he has appeared in past novels. The evolution of this character and series continue and I am sure loyal fans will enjoy this effort.

Reviewed by Ray Palen for New Mystery Reader

Monnie says

In a day when quite a few big-time authors who shall remain nameless are becoming known for quantity rather than quality, it's refreshing to find one who's steady as he goes. Yes, folks, Jonathan Kellerman, who's written more than 30 psychological thrillers including the popular Alex Delaware series, has done it again, keeping him right at the top of my list of favorite authors.

This one begins as Delaware, a psychologist who specializes in children and is a frequent police consultant, is called in to provide evaluation when an overly aggressive wealthy female doctor and her flower-child sister go head-to-head in a child custody battle. The good doctor can find no reason to remove the child from her hippy-dippy mother, and the judge concurs.

But just as he thinks he's out from under the nasty fighting, the case takes a turn of a different sort when Delaware's life is threatened and a major player turns up dead. Enter Delaware's long-time friend Detective Milo Sturgis, who's now looking for the killer. Then, as other key players bite the dust and the free-spirited sister disappears with her baby, things really start to heat up.

Nette says

This is certainly the last Kellerman I'll ever buy, and maybe the last one I'll read. His dialogue has gone beyond bad to ridiculous. It's like he's writing normal dialogue in English, sending it through a really cheap translation app, turning it into, I dunno, Korean, and then translating it back. For example, no modern American woman in 2014 would use the word "daren't." Nobody has used that word since 1922. I don't care how compelling his plots are, if he doesn't understand how people talk, his books are worthless to me. Do you hear me? WORTHLESS! OK, I feel better.

Skip says

Alex Delaware is asked by a judge to help assess a custody situation for a sixteen-month old girl between an unwed mother Ree and her successful sister Connie. Ree left the child with her sister for 88 days while touring with some high school friends and her elder sister Connie is a dominating, cold hearted, emotionless and successful owner of a pathology laboratory. When Connie is found dead, suspicion falls on Ree, who has mysteriously disappeared. Book #29 in the series kept me guessing all the way.

Cindy Knoke says

Kellerman's more recent books have been disappointing, but his current effort lives up to the very best of his impressive earlier novels. An engrossing, fun, read.

Yes I am a fan, and yes I have read all of his books.

The early chapter where Kellerman introduces his recurring character, and alter ego, Alex Delaware to potentially new readers, does embody what I dislike in Kellerman's writing though, which is a rather grandiose egocentrism.

The character Delaware is a psychologist who worked early in his career in pediatric oncology, as did Kellerman the author. Delaware the character is a brilliant psychologist, smarter than the judges and physicians he works with. He makes lots of money, and you'll hear how much, by the hour. He, unlike so many of his colleagues is a super ethical, a super in demand, always call him Doctor, super-shrink! We know this of course is equally true about Kellerman, the author/psychologist.

Blah. Blah. Boring. Yawn.

Can't someone help him edit this out?

But then again, why should they? He is a massively successful, best selling author.

It would irritate me less if he cut out this super-shrink stuff. But Kellerman clings to it, appears to need it, almost as if he is insecure about his profession's status and needs to establish it. Unnecessary. Tons of us obviously like and respect Alex Delaware, and Kellerman, the author/psychologist by proxy, too.

But what Kellerman always does, which makes his books interesting, is promptly dismantle this whole farce as soon as he establishes it. Only after he has established his status, and your barf your way through the descriptors, does he then, make Alex Delaware, the rather anxious, vulnerable, somewhat dependent, self righteous, prone to insomnia, feet of clay, shrink we all know and love.

So despite my irritation with certain aspects of Kellerman's writing, I still think this is a enjoyable read.

Some of Kellerman's later books have been kind of tired and dull, but not this one. His characterizations of clients, killers and sociopaths (doesn't that sound like a good book title?) is always very good. In this book they are in top form. The suspense level is quite engrossing.

This is a fun, entertaining, and interesting read.

Recommend.

Holly says

I've read quite a few Kellerman novels and have loved every one. Alex Delaware is one of my favorite fictional characters; most of the Kellerman novels I've read have had him in them.

I don't review many books, but this one hit a nerve and I'm still reeling from it. Kellerman writes great novels; no doubt in my mind that he's one of the best. I've often thought about how he comes up with all of these amazing ideas. His characters are another accomplishment. Even the walk-ons seem to have depth.

This novel is no exception. What starts as a lawsuit between sisters turns into a who done it that no one

would ever think of. Filled with twists, turns, vivid emotions, and an equally pleasing subplot, this is a must read for any Jonathan Kellerman/Alex Delaware fan.

Steven Belanger says

Another step in the right direction from Kellerman, whose last book, *Guilt*, was also very good. Both novels are more readable and much less judgmental than were his previous 8 to 10 works, perhaps more. The last two books are also much less vicious and violent.

By now, if you've read Kellerman's twenty-nine Alex Delaware novels as I have, you've figured out his formula: The first 10%-20% of the work sets up the very large cast of characters, their backgrounds, and any of the many conflicts that may--but often, not--have anything to do with the book's major crime.

Then the vast majority of the book is Q & A between Delaware and Milo and the large population of characters in the victim's lives. There's a ton of supposition, a lot of maybe this and perhaps that, by Delaware and Milo and many of the supporting cast. The vast majority of the time, none of it pans out.

About 80% to 85% of the way through, we meet a seemingly-minor character who rings Delaware's alarms. That starts the unraveling. The rest of the book is a slippery slide to the ending, which neatly wraps things up.

This has always been Kellerman's M.O., though a few times in the past, the seemingly-irrelevant character would come completely out of left field. As a consequence, the reader (well, at least this reader) would feel cheated and more than a little aggravated. In this genre, you have to give the reader at least a chance--however small--to be able to figure it out (or at least to suspect) who the killer might be, and what might have happened.

That's what happens here, with *Killer*. (A ridiculous title, as it could have been the name of any of his novels, and there's more than one killer here, anyway.)

The unraveling happened when and how I figured, and I honed in on the seemingly-irrelevant character right away. The character appears when I suspected, as per the blueprint above. This was aided because I wasn't buying all of the suppositions Delaware and Kellerman were selling.

Ultimately, this was a very quick and satisfying read, done just right.

Barbara says

In this 29th book in the series, child psychologist - and LAPD consultant - Alex Delaware can't anticipate the trouble that will ensue when he consults on a child custody case.

Constance Sykes - a pathologist, claims her sister Cherie Sykes - a band groupie, is an unfit parent. So Constance tries to get custody of Cherie's toddler. When Alex comes down on Cherie's side Constance becomes enraged and hires a hit man to get rid of him. (These child custody cases can get really ugly!)

Unfortunately for Constance the hit man is Alex's former patient and spills the beans. Soon afterward

Constance is killed, Cherie and the baby disappear, and several other people in Cherie's orbit turn up dead. Is Cherie the killer? Or is it the baby's unknown dad? Alex is on the case with his detective friend Lt. Milo Sturgis.

This turns out to be a rather thin story without much going on. The new characters are not terribly interesting and even the series regulars aren't particularly compelling. They don't engage in their typical humorous banter and Blanche the pet French bulldog - who usually provides a few smiles - is hardly there.

A disappointing addition to the series. I fear Jonathan Kellerman is running out of good ideas for the Alex Delaware books. ?

You can follow my reviews at <https://reviewsbybarbsaffer.blogspot....>

Sue says

Kellerman is back to form in this edition of his Alex Delaware novels. As usual, the psychologist is involved in a situation that eventually teams him with homicide detective Milo Sturgis. The change involves his return to a court involved custody case where he is instrumental in determining the future guardianship of a very young child. A simple case, seemingly simple solution. But nothing is ever simple or easy in Delaware's world. I read this quickly, caught up in the action and wanting to know what happened to the characters. Have to admit I had a slight intuitive hint about a bad guy but that might have been from reading mysteries for so long. I didn't see the end coming.

Not to miss if you like Kellerman.
