



The Clinic

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Building to a white-knuckle climax, *The Clinic* is a brilliantly plotted thriller. For three months the police have found no clues to the murder of Hope Devane, psychology professor and controversial author of a pop-psych bestseller, an angry indictment of men. Now homicide detective Milo Sturgis, turns to his friend, psychologist Dr Alex Delaware, for help. One by one, they unlock the very private compartments of her life: her marriage, her shadowy work for a Beverly Hills clinic, and her baffling link to another murder victim. But when Alex delves into her childhood he begins to understand the formidable woman she was - and the ties that entangled her life until the horrifying act of betrayal that ended it.

The Clinic Details

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Author : Jonathan Kellerman

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From Reader Review The Clinic for online ebook

Laura says

This is the first book in the Dr. Delaware series that I have read. Jumping into the middle of the series, I did not find that I was confused about the characters or any past histories. That was one thing that I really liked about the novel.

I really love crime stories, and thought that this was an easy and quick read with a good plausible plot. There were times when I was confused as to why something was included, and although confusing at the time, everything makes sense by the end.

If you are looking for a good quick read in front of the fire or on the beach, this is it. I would definitely pick up another one of his novels, for sure.

Lynda says

The three-month-old cold case of murdered psychologist professor and writer Hope Devane reunited Detective Milo Sturgis and Dr. Alex Delaware to solve the baffling controversial case. Delving into the recess areas of Hope's life uncovered a woman with an altered sense of justice and a deceptive outer appearance sent the investigative duo shuffling through several societal classes only to be left with more intriguing and confusing possibilities.

"The Clinic" introduced a variety of characters with flaws and secretive livelihoods, a great opportunity to shield the true killer's identity and motive. Revealing irony in the unsettling elements of the characters added further interest to the story. Discussions of the case between Milo and Alex dissecting gathered information for possible angles to explore further were believable. An insight to the way their minds work differently with the same information added to their personalities and showed their knowledge and experiences complemented both their friendship and work relationship. Alex's characteristic need to step into dangerous situations to collaborate his suspicions and his curiosity to know the truth unfolded clues methodically. Once again Kellerman's writing of a psychological thriller twisting through the pages held my interest to the end.

Emily says

I'm really not sure why, but this was not one of my favorite Kellermans. I love a good psychological suspense story, but this one was just so outlandish, with organ harvesting, kinky sex, rape, a few too many characters, and an abrupt ending for me to give it more than three stars. Perhaps I'm just getting burned out on murder mysteries!

Alisha says

Notes for me:

Probably if ranked in order of enjoyment this would be toward the bottom. Not sure why, the usual enjoyable

complicated mystery where different threads seem totally incompatible and then wind together seamlessly, but our victim was ethically way over the line and it makes it hard to pant over getting her justice. Murder is never excused obviously but in a book with no supporting character heroes I just felt sad about all the vileness and cruelty. The last chapter was a full run down of the actor psychopath murderous deeds and it was useless exposition. I am not interested in the fine details of murder and it gave no depth to the story. Guess I'm down on this one partly because the last chapter was such a throwaway. Have had such better climaxes.

John says

Sometimes mysteries have a problem. Jonathan Kellerman's book about a college professor who is murdered falls into that trap. Kellerman builds up suspense through a twisty plot. Psychologist Alex Delaware and Detective Milo Sturgis investigate the professor and her shadowy student conduct committee. Although the work of the committee leaves the professor with many enemies, the investigation also produces leads that relate to the professor's relationship with her husband, her childhood, and her professional life. The problem is the payoff can never live up to the setup. The setup has so many turns and blind alleys that the reader's imagination cannot help but create complex scenarios. In the end, the actual solution seems anticlimactic. Verdict: Kellerman write mysteries with a breakneck pace and page-turning suspense. It is a testament to his ability to create plot and characters that the reader's imagination runs wild with possibility.

Jackie Ullerich says

Without a doubt, I am a huge fan of the Alex Delaware series. The concept of this book was truly brilliant and Kellerman's descriptive writing gave me chills. The characters, the scenes popped off the page!

For those of you who love mysteries/thrillers, do not miss this series!

Kathleen says

A too tidy ending made me lower the number of stars to three. There was so much explanation in the rest of the story that the rushed ending left me feeling dissatisfied.

Margie says

Good fluff.

I noted that Kellerman has an almost pathological need to give a physical description of various characters; exactly how tall they are, the length of their sideburns, etc.

quinnster says

I like the how the puzzle pieces in Kellerman's books fit together even though sometimes it kind of feels like

things happen out of nowhere. The other thing I never care for in these books is the number of paragraphs he uses to describe the routes Delaware takes to get anywhere. He's in and around LA for the most part, but he has to describe what streets Alex turns on, what freeways he takes, where he parks. It's not really setting the scene if you aren't really familiar with the freeways and even if you are it doesn't add anything.

But it didn't take anything away, really (except some time) and the story was interesting and was an easy read. I don't get as invested in Alex and the other characters as much as I have with other series, but they're good enough to keep reading.

Alan says

I've read many of the Alex Delaware novels, and have enjoyed them all - some more than others. This was actually a very interesting book in which very little was predictable. Really the only thing I didn't like about it was the ending. I felt I was left hanging wondering how did Alex feel about what he discovered and what was he going to do with that information.

Judy says

Still catching up reading the Kellerman books I missed when they came out. As always, a good plot. I enjoy both Alex Delaware and Milo Sturgis. Didn't see much of Robin in this installment.

Cynthia says

I haven't picked up a Kellerman book for ages. I forgot how much I like the characters in the Alex Delaware series. Good story. Solid characters. Enjoyable to the very end.

David Highton says

A bit slow-moving in the first half, this book speeds up towards the end, with a rush to the final conclusion as the last piece in the jigsaw falls into place. Alex Delaware plays the key support role after Detective Milo Sturgis is given a murder case of a psychology professor that has made no progress for 3 months.

Michael says

I'm a great fan of Alex Delaware and his crime fighting partner, Lt. Milo Sturgis of LAPD Homicide. Somehow I missed reading this book when it originally came out. This one was released as an audio book which I usually like for this series because the reader of most of these has been John Rubinstein, who has a real feel for the way I envision these characters. I was a little disappointed that the reader turned out to be someone else in this case but he did a pretty good job nonetheless.

In some circles of thought it may seem that it's similarity to the later books in this series that I've enjoyed would be a bad thing. In this case, it's a good thing, like a comfortable pair of slippers. I'm never

disappointed with Kellerman's writing. The stories change but the smart plotting and dialogue remain the same. As I've said in all my other reviews of this series, the plot is secondary to the writing anyway. It is amazing that Kellerman keeps this series fresh and entertaining.

This story concerns the discovery of a brutally murdered clinical psychologist, College professor Hope Devane, who had been a militant leader on female abuse and had written a controversial book on the subject. She has been stabbed in the heart, the vagina, and her lower back. Delaware is brought in to assist Sturgis because of the psychologist connection. Sturgis had been assigned this as a cold case. They quickly work their way through a cast of suspects including a dispassionate husband, members of a college panel on date rape and the student victims/supposed abuser's, a shady OB/GYN, who Devane worked with at a woman's clinic, and so on. As is the formula for this series, Sturgis and Delaware work their way through each of these suspects outlining their logic on their guilt/innocence along the way to finally nabbing the right one. This plot has a few more twists and turns than normal including an organ harvesting connection. Fans of the Alex Delaware series won't be disappointed.

aPriL does feral sometimes says

I don't know why, but this reminded me somewhat of Miami Vice. Everyone is a player. Except for one young woman, a rape victim. Everyone else not playing is excusing the player's behavior, twisted as it is, because the players also do some good, as if it made it all balance out. As if. Reading these books in the Delaware series gives the reader real insight, if you have the experience of knowing a lot of people, and if you want to really understand what makes people tick. From my own experience, though, nice people usually want to think the best of others, not the worst. However, I find the story of the scorpion that needed a ride on a human's shoulder over a shallow stream instructive. The nice human asked if the scorpion would sting him if he helped him cross the stream. The human was kind, wanting to help the poor animal, but was leery enough to worry about being poisoned by the scorpion's tail. The scorpion promised, so the human carried it across the shallow stream. As soon as the crossing was done, the scorpion stings the human. As the human falls, dying, he cries, "you promised!" The scorpion shrugs, saying, "you knew I was a scorpion."

Admittedly, humans dealing with humans is more complicated, and so is this story. While you can look at a real scorpion and identify it, in the world of cops, criminals and psychologists, it isn't so easy to identify the scorpion-minded among us. Bad behavior is a big clue, as well as selfishness and unusual cruelty. Nice people often discount such scenes, or disbelieve their own senses, and cover up for the scorpion people. Other folks admire the scorpions, and help them, thinking being near the 'power' will spill over by the proximity, blinding themselves to the fact they are close to a scorpion person. Delaware and Milo never do, but unraveling disguises to reveal the scorpions is a lot of leg work, particularly in this story.

Respectable scorpions are still scorpions, even when the human ones hide their stings in gifts of education and money and sympathy. The problem with 'The Clinic' is almost everybody is a scorpion. I could not care about any of them, even the nicer victims, because they were still scorpions. I'm talking about their dark sides, not their childhoods. They chose scorpion adulthoods after surviving evil, and I can't care about scorpions, no matter how much I 'understand' them.
