



# Unsolicited

*Julie Kaewert*

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From bestseller to death-dealer

London's Plumtree Press has a world-class bestseller of a novel. And the sequel is earmarked to get this old family firm out of the red. But its anonymous author, known to Plumtree only as "Arthur," has apparently vanished, leaving the crucial last five chapters undelivered. Alex already knows they reveal the identity of the characters who smuggled British children to America during World War II. But, of course, this is fiction. So when a lead critic previews the book as a nonfiction expose, Alex is shocked. Even more so when the critic is murdered...and Alex finds himself the target of a ruthless hunt for the manuscript and bizarre attempts on his life. Ducking newshounds, government officials, and the sniping of jealous publishers, Alex knows only one thing: If he can't find Arthur and untangle the truth, his next season's list may be a posthumous one.

## Unsolicited Details

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Author : Julie Kaewert

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## From Reader Review Unsolicited for online ebook

### Elaine Bidstrup says

Alex Plumtree has taken over his family's business, Plumbtree Publishing, after the death of his parents and his older brother's inability to run the business at a profit. He knew from his father's experience that the publishing business was cut-throat, but had no idea it might almost lead to his death, the death of his beloved Sarah, and the ruin of his father's memory.

His first brush with death came two years after he took over the business and seemed merely like an unfortunate accident. At a party given by a rival publisher one of the "decorations" a six foot long, 500 pound roll of printing paper falls from the ceiling and nearly kills him and two other guests at the party. Alex doesn't think anything is suspicious until one of the other guests, a newspaperman who writes book reviews is killed. At first it seems like an accident, but the widow isn't so sure.

Alex decides he must investigate as the last review the newspaperman had written was of the second fiction book published by Plumbtree Publishing. This, and the first fiction book they had published, were written by an author known only as Arthur. He conducted all business with Alex by fax and sections of the book were hand delivered by a delivery service.

In the second book there are hints that this might not be fiction, but rather a true and terrible event during World War II in which three boatloads of children were sent from war-torn England to stay in the states for the duration. Upon arrival in the US the children were told that their parents had died in bombings, while the unharmed parents were told that the children's boat had been sunk by u-boats. In actuality the children were then adopted and exorbitant fees had been paid by the adoptive parents.

Alex becomes aware of this gradually and his life is in danger as he has the only manuscript of the book.. Those following him do not know that Alex has yet to receive the last five chapters of the book in which the villain's name would be revealed. Alex is literally chased from his flat (it's burnt), then from London, to Boston and finally to Nantucket, before the killers are caught.

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### Rebecca says

This is the first and only book available as an ebook (Kindle). I just hope they intend to convert the remaining books in the series and soon!

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### Marcia says

#### Good read

But during most of the plot is bogged down with details that get a little redundant and boring. Still, it is a good clean book with a few surprises.

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### Carolyn (in SC) C234D says

Don't really remember this story. Noted it was a first novel about a publishing house owner who decides to solve a crime by himself. Rather far-fetched in some ways.

## **Sandy Skinner says**

### **Unbounded Joyful Read**

When I first began reading Unsolicited, I had no idea what a pleasure was in store for me. I have always enjoyed reading mysteries; however, I had no idea what this book had in store for me! I couldn't put it down. It was very well written and obviously well researched by the author. I highly recommend this book if you want a spellbinding read.

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## **Elizabeth says**

Loved this book so much that I ordered two more of her titles! If you love mysteries, books, and London this book is for you. It probably is cataloged as a "Cozy" but has a super mystery in it.

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## **A.J. says**

I love all the books in this series by Julie Kaewert! Bought the first four books many years ago, in a local bookstore, and searched out the rest of the series. Then I bought several of them a second time, after they were lost in a fire. The narrator reminds me of the best Dick Francis heroes ... he is polite, unassuming, honest, and stronger than he knows, with a great sense of humor. Alex has inherited a small publishing business in London, and he finds that the book business is more dangerous than he ever suspected. If you love books, and enjoy a good old-fashioned hero, this book is for you. I just wish there were more books in the series!

(This is a copy of my review posted on Amazon.com on March 9, 2017. I'm going to copy it into all the books of this series -- they are that good!)

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## **Patricia Provot says**

Good read. This is my first time reading Kaewert, but will not be my last. At first I thought the book dragged a little by being too wordy, but that cleared itself up. The action starts fairly soon into the book and doesn't let up. Alex returns to England to head up the family publishing business. Soon it becomes apparent that a slew of "accidents" aren't so accidental. From stoner brother Max, to a string of fellow publishers, to old family "friends"...who can you trust?

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## **Patricia says**

A bit grittier than a cozy mystery, the characters are engaging, the plot is intriguing and the story moves at a good pace.

### **Athena says**

I enjoyed this book, thought some of the actions were super cool, near the end I lost some interest but it returned by the end. Lots of action and mystery for sure.

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### **Linda Griffin says**

Well crafted mystery with a likable main character. I liked the insights into the publishing industry. I'm assuming it's classified as a cozy but I found it to be more serious than average. Not as light and fluffy as most cozies. Perhaps because of the male protagonist?

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### **Cath AY says**

The plot behind the book is great. A young man who has taken over his parents publishing business has found success through a mysterious author named Arthur. Arthurs first book is a huge success and proves quite profitable. Arthur disappears during the middle of writing of the sequel. A book reviewer reveals Arthurs book about British children that were sent over to America to escape the bombings during the war was actually a money making scam. The book reviewer was killed and thugs are trying to determine who Arthur is.

The plot was great, the character development and writing was ok.

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### **Jenny says**

Registered on Bookcrossing - <http://www.bookcrossing.com/journal/1...>

This was a great book. I haven't read anything by this author before, but I will be looking for more in this series. The main character Alex Plumtree is interesting, the story reads like an old Dashiell Hammett book, except this is in modern times and not quite as noir.

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### **Kristen says**

This was an interesting book. Definitely a different "flavour" of mystery than I am used to, but I enjoyed it.

I think the difference in feel and tone and pacing that I experienced with this book is likely a result of the author being British [or at least having lived there for some time] and that's not a bad thing per se, but it did make for a very different experience. Different enough that I feel compelled to at least mention it.

What is the difference you may ask? For one thing the feel and tone is understated compared to many of the US mysteries I've read. I presume it's the "Keep calm and carry on" thing the British are so famous for, because even when very dramatic things were happening there was a calm and organized feel to the pace and

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the plot. The best way I can describe it, is that in an American story everything feels like it has an exclamation mark, whereas here the action felt punctuated with semi-colons and commas instead.

That's not to say this story lacked drama or excitement - that is definitely not the case. It just felt more organized and I guess controlled. I was definitely turning pages quickly at certain points, but the tone of the whole book just felt very quintessentially "British" which to me is under control and calm.

I mostly liked the main character Alex, although his obsession with Sarah kind of got on my nerves at times. I liked how he went about the investigating and mostly his choices made sense and didn't irritate me, as some amateur sleuths have a tendency to do.

I definitely liked all the supporting characters. Some were comic relief - like Lisette, whom I loved! Others, like Sarah, and the other book publisher friends of Alex's helped move the story along. They all worked and I enjoyed the characters in this book.

The plot itself was just so-so for me, but then the second world war isn't a period I'm very interested in to start with so that connection would never have been "my thing" and I can't fault the author or the book for that - that's more about me. If you DO like that era, then you will likely really enjoy that side plot line.

Overall, I enjoyed this, although I don't know if I would go out of my way to read others in this series, especially as my library does not have them in its catalogue. But it was an entertaining read.

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## **E.J. Stevens says**

Read my mini quickie review, part of the Bibliomystery Mania: For the Love of Books About Books blog post at From the Shadows.

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