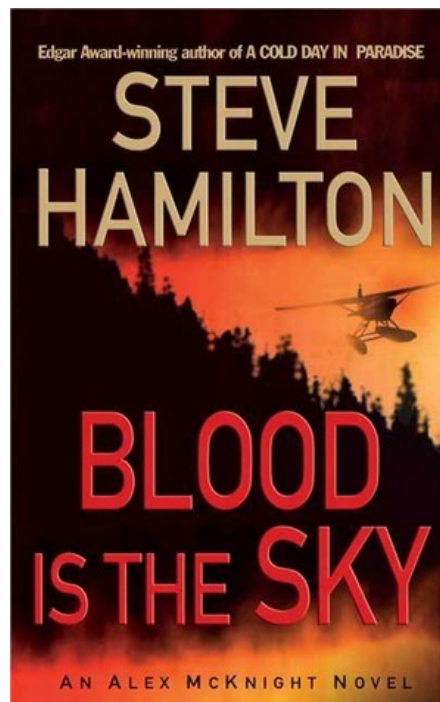




Blood Is The Sky

Steve Hamilton

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"When a fire is done, what's left is only half-destroyed. It is charred and brittle. It is obscene. There is nothing so ugly in all the world as what a fire leaves behind, covered in ashes and smoke and a smell you'll think about every day for the rest of your life."

Steve Hamilton is one of crime fiction's rising stars. His first novel, *A Cold Day in Paradise*, won the Edgar Award, and each successive novel has met with widespread critical acclaim. Now Hamilton raises the stakes dramatically in his most accomplished work to date.

Reluctant investigator Alex McKnight finds himself drawn by friendship into a long drive north. The brother of Alex's longtime Ojibwa friend Vinnie LeBlanc works as a hunting guide, serving the rich clients from downstate. It seems that Vinnie's brother and his most recent group of hunters have vanished in northern Ontario, and Vinnie is scared enough to ask Alex to help him find them.

Their arrival sets in motion a heart-pounding string of events that leaves Alex and his friend miles from civilization, stranded in the heart of the Canadian wilderness with no food, no weapons---and no way out. And there's someone out there who definitely does not want them to make it back alive.

At once elegant and enormously suspenseful, Steve Hamilton's *Blood Is the Sky* heralds his arrival as one of the premier crime writers working today.

Blood Is The Sky Details

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Author : Steve Hamilton

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From Reader Review Blood Is The Sky for online ebook

Gloria Feit says

What are friends for? Well, Alex McKnight demonstrates just that in this novel which takes him and his erstwhile friend, Vinnie Le Blanc, on a stormy adventure way up in the wilds of northern Canada. It starts when Vinnie, with whom Alex has been at odds since an event in the previous novel in the series, asks Alex to help him find his brother, who is days overdue returning home after accompanying a hunting party as their scout at a Canadian lodge.

To complicate matters, Vinnie's brother Tom is on parole and is forbidden to leave the country. So he and Vinnie trade identities. Alex and his friend drive for hours until they reach the lodge, and there is no sign of Tom or the hunting party. But something seems "off," and they begin to scout the area where the group was housed at a lake further north. And thereby hangs a gruesome tale.

The author, known for his vivid descriptions of the Upper Michigan peninsula, shows an equal facility for the vast untamed wilderness of northern Canada. He has written a taut tale filled with danger and violence. And at the end, lays the seeds of Alex's further adventures yet to come. Recommended.

Cindy says

There are several reasons why I like Steve Hamilton's books: 1) Set in the UP in places that I have visited. 2) Simple dialogue and description...one needs a break from James Lee Burke occasionally! 3) Interesting plots and lots of action 4) I just like the way Alex McKnight thinks and talks. Quick, easy, satisfying read. And contrary to what others may say, the books don't have to be read in order. There is enough background to explain who the recurring characters are.

Lynette Barfield says

Light entertaining action. Not as good as some of his others but still Very readable. Good friends, good food and a certain amount of humor as well as interesting locations help to keep up the suspense and action. I like his writing style a lot.

Pamela says

An up-all-night page-turner - Steve Hamilton stepped up the action and fanned the suspense flames with this installment in the Alex McKnight series. A series that continues to evolve in strength, wit, and creative depth. Hamilton fans won't be disappointed.

Glen says

Alex McKnight's best friend has a wastrel brother. To get a job as a hunting guide, said brother impersonates the best friend...then disappears.

McKnight starts looking, and finds some real unpleasantness, and gets his butt kicked constantly, because he doesn't pay attention. I really started to doubt our hero's competence. He's supposed to be an ex-cop from Detroit, but he has less street smarts than a suburban child.

Lots of driving to Canada, and he meets his lady love.

I can't really recommend it, because McKnight is just so stupid.

Anita says

I picked up this paperback and was pleasantly surprised. "An Alex McKnight novel" Vinnie is searching for a brother who went to Canada as a guide for 'businessmen from Detroit'. I loved the combination of hard-core city cop and reservation culture. Good stuff.

Lo9man88 says

As usual Alex rushes straight into Lois problems with no planing and survive barely ... no matter we like him anyway.

Judith says

One of the few mysteries set in the upper peninsula of Michigan, where I grew up. I didn't realize that when I bought it.

Alex McKnight is prevailed upon to find a friend's missing brother, who had taken a group of Detroit businessmen on a hunting trip in the wilds of Canada. The more Alex and his friend, Vinnie LeBlanc, look into this the stranger and more dangerous it appears. Alex and Vinnie find themselves far from any help and sitting ducks as targets.

Complicated, absorbing. And with the bits and pieces that spell the atmosphere of the gray cold upper peninsula.

Jacki (Julia Flyte) says

This is the 5th book in the Alex McKnight series by Steve Hamilton and if you are new to the series, consider yourself lucky (but start at the beginning, with A Cold Day In Paradise). This one picks up shortly after North of Nowher as Alex is rebuilding his cabin. His friend Vinnie asks Alex to travel to Canada with

him to help find his brother, who has not returned from a hunting expedition.

It's a thrilling read, one of those books that keeps your up late, turning the pages. The first two thirds keep building the tension, building the tension, and then when that resolves there are a couple of twists to hold your interest.

I am so in love with the way that Steve Hamilton writes. He has such a wonderful sense of place - I feel like I know Paradise, Michigan now and that I'd find Alex living there if I were only to visit it. (I was girlishly delighted to look in the atlas and discover that it's a real place). All of his characters are so beautifully realized and the conversations that they have all feel so natural. He's a fine writer and this book is as good as or better than the others I've read to date.

Maureen DeLuca says

An over all 5 star read- 4 for the story line and then I added 1 more for a great series , great characters - all around great novel.... Keep them coming Steve Hamilton.... I just cannot get enough of Alex McKnight !! I'm sure so many others feel the same way too !!

Jerry says

This is my third novel by Steve Hamilton, and the second in the Alex McKnight series. Steve Hamilton is a great writer, I really enjoy his style. This one is set deep in the Canadian wilderness, with a focus on the relationship between Alex and his good friend and neighbor Vinnie. They take a break from rebuilding Alex's cabin to go find out what has happened to Vinnie's brother, who has gone missing up in the Canadian wilderness. A convicted felon on parole, Vinnie's brother Tom has assumed Vinnie's identity in order to enter Canada to act as a guide on a moose hunt for some men up from Detroit.

Hamilton is able to capture and show the culture and lifestyle of the Ojibwa Tribe in this series of novels. In a market that has become quite crowded with series private eye characters, the Alex McKnight series stands out.

Harry Roger Williams III says

Another gripping adventure. Another chance for series hero Alex McKnight to test the limits of human recuperation and recovery.

This is a hero who suffers without the assurance of survival. He tells you how badly he is hurt, but never says "It's not supposed to be this way."

Bill Belichick says "It is what it is." Alex McKnight says "Pain is not as important as justice." Justice for him is not revenge but rather setting things right when possible, especially when it comes to his friends.

We should all have a friend like Alex McKnight! Thank you Steve Hamilton for sharing him with us.

Carolyn (in SC) C234D says

It's been too long since I've read a Steve Hamilton book. Alex McKnight is an appealing character, and the plot in this mystery is intriguing. I've read the first in this series and at least one other. I'll have to determine which, and then find some more to tackle.

Matt Allen says

Steve Hamilton writes clean, full-blooded stories. It's impressive how he packs so much of an experience into relatively few words.

I admit it had been a bit since I'd read the last Alex McKnight and I'd forgotten how much I like Hamilton's style. Light prose that packs a great punch. Blood is the Sky is more of the same. I mean this is only a good way--I don't know if I've read a book of this length (barely over three hundred pages for the mass market paperback) that left me feeling as if I'd been on such a long journey through the wringer. So much distance is covered here (and not just in fictional geography), yet it doesn't feel rushed. It's told in a measured enough pace that you can enjoy every bit of it.

McKnight, Hamilton's unconventional on-again, off-again PI, is still an evolving character five books in. His world is small and familiar, but it's interesting to see both his adaptation to it and his resistance to fade away into a tiny corner of the upper peninsula of Michigan. Blood takes place in a broad geographical setting, and Hamilton captures the atmosphere in an impressive way, somehow never bogging the story down with descriptive nonsense.

It's nice to be reminded how much you like a particular thing. Steve Hamilton did that for me with Blood is the Sky. I like these characters, I like this series, and most of all, I like the way he writes.

Recommended for all thriller/mystery fans. Especially those who can appreciate a rich story told with masterful economy.

David Francis Francis says

My granddaughter gave me a remaindered library edition she'd picked up. I really enjoyed it and started reading the series. I am now on book 3 and none have been as interesting to me as this one. Set in the Canadian wilderness for the most part there is action aplenty. A good read.
