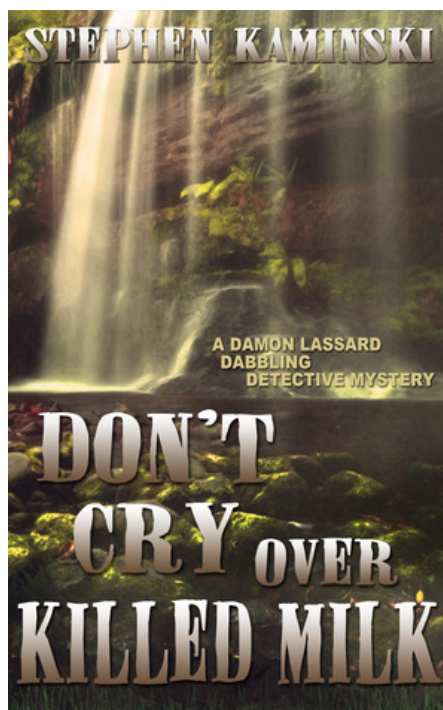




Don't Cry Over Killed Milk

Stephen Kaminski

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The latest offering in the Damon Lassard Dabbling Detective Mystery series from the winner of the 2012 Reader Views Literary Award (Mid-Atlantic region).

Jeremiah Milk lived a life filled with emotional extremes. Amniotic band syndrome—a congenital condition—left his fingers and toes malformed. Ridiculed as a child, he became an adolescent hermit. As an adult, Jeremiah's wounds healed when he landed a position as a park ranger and married a woman who loved him despite his physical appearance. But fate ripped his life to shreds when his wife and infant son died on the same night in separate calamities. Shortly thereafter, the tides turned once more as an act of Jeremiah's ostensible benevolence translates into a financial boon. The book on Jeremiah's life closes without mercy when he's found murdered at Tripping Falls State Park.

Damon Lassard—Hollydale's loveable civic leader, amateur sleuth, and Jeremiah's neighbor—springs into action. He's obstructed by a prickly lieutenant, but wriggles information unknown to the police from a colorful bevy of suspects. Aided by his best friend Rebecca and his reluctant ally Detective Gerry Sloman, Damon engineers a deep dive into Jeremiah's past to solve the crime. Along the way, Damon strengthens his relationship with the breathtaking Bethany Krims, cracks a local horticultural mystery, and tries in vain to tame his wickedly sarcastic mother.

Join Damon Lassard in his latest adventure, Don't Cry Over Killed Milk.

Don't Cry Over Killed Milk Details

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Author : Stephen Kaminski

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From Reader Review Don't Cry Over Killed Milk for online ebook

Annie says

Don't Cry over Killed Milk is Steve Kaminski's second in the Damon Lassard mystery series. The organized, very tidy plot, appropriate clue arrangements and clever misdirection smoothly take the reader from moment to moment and, again as in the first book, I was impressed by the smart progression of events laced with deeper issues, such as bullying and revenge in this second release.

I particularly enjoyed the attention to blocking, or character movement, to either give us a hint at motivation or deviously take us in the opposite direction. Two characters can say the same line yet mean two different things. Either looking a person in the eyes, or saying the line while averting your gaze, can give us the subtext of ulterior motives or subconscious goals. Kaminski uses this technique well.

Next time I would like to see more of what makes Damon tick. In one scene, Damon "closed his eyes and let the smell of freshly ground Columbian beans fill his nostrils." This was a nice sensory moment and could have evolved into a glance inside Damon's mind to learn how he thinks, what makes him feel the way he does, or what troubles him.

This is a good cozy read and especially so in a world of female cozy authors. Steve Kaminski has earned his place and the central character is believable, approachable, and worthy of the reader's investment.

Laura Thomas says

There's not one mystery to be solved in this book, there's two.

Something is killing the crepe myrtles. People are treating their trees to get rid of bug infestations, but within a few days, the bugs re-infest the trees.

And someone killed Jeremiah Milk.

The author does a superb job of leading you through these two mysteries, keeping you following the clues, but not confusing you. And I was just as eager to find out who was killing the crepe myrtles as I was about who killed Jeremiah Milk.

There are lots of clues, false trails, and some bumbling by Damon Lassard.

Damon kind of made me think of Columbo but not as shabbily dressed. He appeared amateurish, but had a keen mind and lots of curiosity.

This isn't the first time he's dabbled in a mystery and he's got an enemy in Lieutenant Margaret Hobbes, but an inside source in Detective Gerry Sloman.

Damon helped Gerry solve a previous case but Hobbes wants him to keep out of police matters. These two bump into each other now and then and Hobbes makes no bones about how she feels. I could just see her glaring, face all red, as she bellows at Damon. Good for a few laughs.

I was so engrossed in solving these mysteries, I never stopped reading until I had to. I had reached the end.

The writing is excellent, going from one mystery to the other with no awkwardness, flowing easily. You follow the bread crumbs from one false trail to the next, finally reaching each pot of gold.

You don't need to have read the first Damon Lassard mystery to enjoy this one. The author does a quick recap a little ways into this one, giving you a bit of background without spilling the beans from the first mystery.

Once you've read Don't Cry Over Killed Milk, you'll want to read It Takes Two To Strangle .

I look forward to going back to the beginning.

I received a copy of this book for my honest and unbiased review.

Kathy says

I liked this book. The mystery unfolded at a good pace throughout the book. I did not have any problem figuring out the characters despite not having read the first book in the series. I do want to slap Damon any time he thinks about his love life, but that is his only annoying personality quirk. I would love to read more books in the series, especially after that cliffhanger.

Cleo Bannister says

Jeremiah Milk hasn't had the easiest of lives. Born with a congenital deformity his time at school was beset by teasing, staring and bullying until he withdrew into his shell. As an adult he became a park ranger at Tripping Halls State Park. Despite his fears that his deformities would mean that romance wouldn't feature in his life he marries Kathryn and they have a son so when both die separately on one night Jeremiah is devastated.

Our `dabbling detective' Damon Lassard is a thirty-one year old with time to spare to investigate diverse local mysteries including why the myrtle crepe trees keep getting infected with bugs. Having met Jeremiah and heard his story he can't help but get involved when Jeremiah is found dead.

What follows is a cosy mystery with a sprinkling of puns (including the one in the title) and some lively characters. Damon Lassard is a likeable and enthusiastic character who is able provide the police with the information they need to solve the crime. I enjoyed this story, it is about 240 pages long which makes it great for a quick, easy and entertaining read. Even better it is tightly plotted using a compelling motive and some great original twists. This is the second book featuring Damon Lassard and I'm now keen to read the first one, It Takes Two to Strangle: A Damon Lassard Dabbling Detective Mystery.

I was given a copy of this book by the author in return for my objective review.

See more details at Cleopatra Loves Books <http://cleopatralovesbooks.wordpress....>

Julie says

I liked this book. I did not guess the ending and it was a surprise. The characters were interesting and real. I also liked the plot. The author also left a teaser at the end and I like it when an author does that. I will read more books by this author. I did not read the first one in this series yet but I will because of the follow through in this book. I also look forward to the next book in this series.

Susan says

This is a cozy mystery about Damon Lassard, an amateur sleuth who helps the police solve crimes--even if the police don't want his help. The book starts with Jeremiah Milk being murdered. Jeremiah is a neighbor of Damon's, so he feels obligated to help the police. There is also another mystery to be solved--who is infesting the crepe myrtles with bugs. It's fast moving, the characters are well formed, it's not confusing, and is a clean novel. I kept expecting Damon to go to bed with someone, but there never were any sex scenes. Now I have to go back and read the first one in this series.

Mary E. Hastings says

I received this through Goodreads First Reads.

I'm not rating it with stars because I don't want to bring the overall rating down, and after seeing all of the other five star reviews, I feel like maybe I should give it a second chance before I give it a real review.

I tried to read this book, but I just couldn't get into it. I made it about 30 pages in, and I just stopped because I wasn't the LEAST TINY BIT INTERESTED in it. :-/

But, again, I looked at all the other reviews, and I don't see a single bad one. So before I rate it with stars, I'm going to give it one more try.

Update: I'm sorry. I tried again, and I just couldn't get into it. I'm going to have to rate it. :-/ There was just nothing about it that I enjoyed or could relate to.

Rhonda says

4 STARS

This plot keeps you guessing to who is the bad guys and who is innocent. Has some good plot twists and turns that kept you reading to find out the truth. I had never heard of Amniotic band syndrome. It is sad how people are treated because they are different.

Jeremiah Milk is killed before we get to know who he was and what his life was like we learn about little by little. It is hard to like Jeremiah because we only have facts about him. I wish we knew him a little bit better before he was murdered. I just felt pity and anger for his tough life.

Damon Lassard is our hero. He does not need to work so he volunteers around his town. He cares and likes to be involved and figures out problems. He is single but likes Bethany. Damon makes friends but he also gets into trouble with some for his snooping.

I liked the story and would read more from Stephen in the future but I could not really connect with the characters emotionally.

So not connected to my heart just the brain wanting to know what really happened to Jeremiah Milk.

There are plenty of suspects for us to meet and try and figure out what happened.

This is a clean smart story.

I was given this book by its author for purpose of reviewing and being part of its book tour.

Barbara Jean Coast says

Now yours truly has a double the reason to love Damon Lassard! In this the second of author Stephen Kaminski's brilliant series our amateur sleuth is hard at work on not just one but two mysteries in the charming community of Hollydale and the surrounding area. This well written and complicated twist of events made clear by the end of the book is intriguing, delightful and down-right entertaining. I also found that the author handles sensitive issues with a deft, yet gentle hand. There is of course the on-going mystery as to whether Damon will choose his best friend Rebecca or that darn weather-girl Bethany! With detective Gerry Sloman and Damon on the case along with all the other people who in-habit their little corner of the world, you are sure to be in for a real treat! Can't wait to read more in this swell series!

Lori says

The author, Stephen Kaminski, offered this book to me, even though I didn't win the giveaway, and I promised an honest review. This was a great mystery! No matter how I tried, I couldn't figure out who the killer was and I was completely surprised and impressed by the ending. The cast of characters came alive and I can still see them in my mind. I love a great mystery. I enjoyed it very much and the only reason it took me longer than I wanted to finish it was because my copper water pipes were stolen and it caused a lot of trouble. The whole time I was working with my husband to get the water going again, I kept thinking about the book and was upset that I was being kept from enjoying the climax! Thanks Stephen. :)

Ruth Hill says

Just when I don't think there could be another unbelievable cozy mystery, I am proven wrong. I had never heard of Amniotic Band Syndrome before I read this book, and I love the fact that this is a mystery with a message. I honestly don't believe I have ever read a mystery that dealt with such serious issues of depression, bullying, and retribution. Again, I was so drawn into this story that I nearly read it all in one sitting.

There is no sex in the book (so glad that is becoming a trend), and the profanity was minimal but sometimes what I would describe as "hardcore." I didn't find myself overly offended since the profanity was not overly

used. I found the characters delightful, and even though this was the second book in the series, I had no problem connecting with the characters.

The web of intrigue that the author spun was immensely crafted, and even though I somewhat had it figured out, I continued to be surprised right along with Damon. He was either diabolically clever, immeasurably stupid, or a splendid combination of the two. I do believe that all loose ends were tied up satisfactorily, and I believe that the author accomplished his dual purpose of storytelling and education. I was horrified to discover that school children can still be so cruel and completely devastate one for life. And when retribution turns the victim into a bully, I truly felt a sense of hopelessness. I doubt that bullying will ever come to an end in this world, but I do hope and pray that we are more aware of it. I will never look at a person with missing digits (or something else) quite the same way now that I know this is a genuine birth defect.

I was sent a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. I was not financially compensated, and all opinions are 100 percent mine.

Yvonne says

Damon Lassard wants to know why his neighbor, Jeremiah Milk, has been killed. Like most amateur sleuths, he can't keep from snooping even after the police warn him against it. As far as Damon is concerned, he helped them crack a murder case a few months ago, so he's more than willing to help them again. His close friend, Detective Gerry Sloman, wouldn't mind the assistance but his boss has made it clear that Damon is to be kept out of it.

Against police warnings, Damon teams up with his good friend Rebecca. Together, they look for the truth behind Jeremiah's murder. Their search leads them in a direction they never expected.

This is the first book I've read by this author and what a treat! It's fast-paced with likeable characters that work very well together. There's a wonderful blend of mystery and romance. If you are a fan of good old fashioned mysteries that keep you guessing until the last couple of chapters, this is the perfect book for you.

It's the second book in the "A Damon Lassard Dabbling Mystery" series. I have not read the first one, yet, but I don't think it mattered. I didn't feel as if I was lost, I immediately became engrossed in this story and couldn't put my Kindle down. I already have the first book, "It Takes Two to Strangle" and will definitely read it. I will, also, be looking forward to Damon's next adventure.

Great job, Mr. Kaminski!

FTC Disclosure: The author provided me with a copy of this book to review for this blog tour. This did not influence my thoughts and opinions in any way. All opinions expressed are my own.

Randee Baty says

I love finding new authors and new cozy mystery series to read and this one is a fun one!

Damon Lassard is a young man with enough money that he doesn't have to have a job so he spends his days doing volunteer work at the library and acting as the president of the citizen's group in his neighborhood.

When one of his neighbors comes to him with a complaint about his crepe myrtle dying, Lassard gets involved in the life of Jeremiah Milk. Jeremiah was born with a birth defect that led to some bullying in his younger days. Those days left their effect. When he's found dead at the park where he works as a ranger, Damon wants to know why.

He's worked with his friend and cop Gerry to solve a murder before but this time the higher-ups at the police department tell him in no uncertain terms to stay away from the case. Which, of course, is the last thing he does and with his best friend Rebecca, he pursues leads wherever he can find them.

The book has a cast of characters that are interesting to meet and the plot is well thought out. The twists and turns are unexpected and fun. The subplot about the crepe myrtle is intriguing because I was wondering the whole time why anyone would want to go around killing crepe myrtle! and yes, we do find out the answer to that.

I feel like the dialogue is a little stiff at times but I believe this author has the ability to mature and deepen with each new book and I'll be reading them!

The author gave me a copy of this book in return for an honest review and that's what I've given.

Krissi Bryant says

love,love,love!!

This is my second book in the Damon Lassard Mystery collection(unsure if it is a series)

Basically the book is about Damon Lassard, a man who does community help. He is solving a mystery of the myrtle crepe tree being ruined by bugs which a man named Jeremiah Milk has brought to his attention. Suddenly Mr. Milk is found murdered in the Tripping Falls park.

Damon(although he is not a detective) begins snooping around to figure out what exactly happened to Mr. Milk. His adventure continues on by driving around to see different people, and putting the pieces together of Jeremiah's mysterious and sudden death. His findings come to a hold when Margaret Hobbes tells Damon to stop snooping around and let the police do their own work!

Once the mystery comes to an end Damon is left with a decision to pursue a career with the police, OR with someone very unexpected!

The book is well written, not extremely long and it goes very smoothly so there is never a dull moment. There are even times in this book where I did not see certain things coming! I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves mysteries, and books that they cant stop reading!

Thank you Stephen Kaminski for giving me the opportunity to read, and review your book. It was awesome! I look forward to the next on.

Kate Eileen Shannon says

I decided to read a few pages last evening to see if the book was worth reading. I didn't put it down until I finished it at 4 a.m. It is well written. The characters are well drawn. The plot is... well put it this way, as

Damon starts to unravel the why of the murder, it is positively diabolical. Damon is described in the story as having a rampant curiosity and at 31 has no obligations such as a job or family to keep him from pursuing that which he is curious about. And he goes about it in such a slow easy going way. Picking up a fact here, making a supposition there, how might it fit together? And he has a way about him that makes people willing to talk to him. There is also a hint of romance. And there is humor – while solving the murder, Damon also solves the mystery of the insect infestation affecting the local homeowners' crepe myrtle shrubs. In other words, a perfect cozy. I am going to get the first book in the series, IT TAKES TWO TO STRANGLE, and I will be sure to read the next and all the future books in the Damon Lassard Dabbling Detective series. You DO want to read this book!
