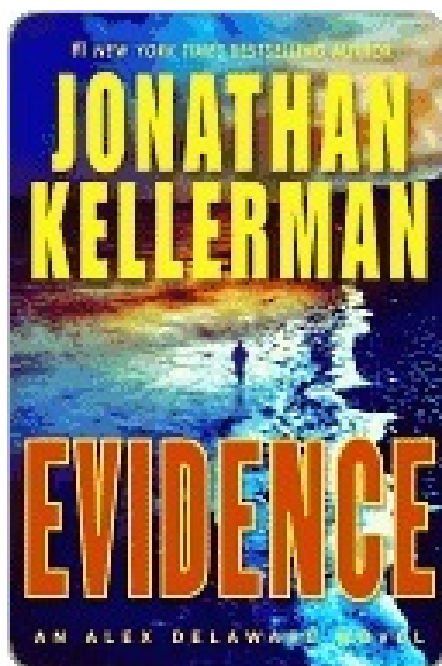




Evidence

Jonathan Kellerman

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BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Jonathan Kellerman's *Victims*.

In a half-built mansion in Los Angeles, a watchman stumbles onto the bodies of a young couple—murdered and left in a gruesome postmortem embrace. Veteran homicide cop Milo Sturgis is shocked at the sight: a twisted crime that only Milo and psychologist Alex Delaware can hope to solve. While the female victim's identity remains in question, her companion is ID'd as eco-friendly architect Desmond Backer, notorious for his power to seduce women. The deeper Milo and Alex dig for clues, the longer the list of suspects grows. But when the investigation veers suddenly in a startling direction, it's the investigators who may wind up on the wrong end of a cornered predator's final fury.

Evidence Details

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Author : Jonathan Kellerman

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Randall Krebs says

Meh. Milo and Alex banter like an old married couple -- a very, very boring old married couple. They hypothesize various scenarios to explain the clues found at the murder scene, but their explanations seem to be tin-foil-hat quality. Ultimately, the murderer turns out to be the person that everybody hoped would be to blame, but the justification for the murders is bizarre and simply not believable. Fictional murder mysteries had better turn out to be easier to believe than real life or what is the point of writing them?

Perhaps Jonathan Kellerman is simply out of good stories worth telling. I have not read any of the previous 23 members of the Alex Delaware series.

Susan says

This is the 24th Alex Delaware novel, and I'm sorry to say Kellerman seems to be running out of steam on the series. In this novel, Alex helps police detective Milo Sturgis solve the mystery of a double murder in a half-built mansion. The plot involves an eco terrorism plot along with a prince from a small Asian country. I think Kellerman is really reaching here for new material. I couldn't get into this book until about the half way point. It is always nice to spend time with Alex and Milo but unless Alex gets kidnapped in the next book, I think the thrill is gone.

wally says

just finished this one, 7 aug 15, monday evening...right around 8:30. 3.5 stars. i liked it and then some. been some time since i read a story from kellerman. may have noticed before and not that it matters much, but the story is told through dialogue. almost all of it is told that way. nothing wrong with that...for the most, it works. but then...say like the double murder up in the turret of the house that went flop...why not present that as all action...reader looking over the shoulder of the the murderer(s)...and then some? we'd still get alex and milo running theory past each other, maybe this, maybe that, this, that, the other.

i'm beat...put on a lot of siding today...six seven square. almost time to hit the hey? hey.

Marcia says

I was pretty disappointed in this Alex Delaware novel, as I have been, to be perfectly honest, with the last several. I still love Alex, Milo, and Robin, but the plotting is just not as interesting, the descriptions are too bare, and it feels like Kellerman is pounding the new books out without really putting his heart into it. I also thought the plot was a little bizarre (not in a good way) and far fetched. I will probably keep reading the series, just because they are easy and comfortable reads for me, and I still maintain a glimmer of hope that they will once again obtain their former glory. Not really recommended, unless you're already a fan. If you're not, I recommend Kellerman's earlier Alex Delaware books instead, like The Clinic, When the Bough Breaks, or Bad Love, for example.

Vannessa Anderson says

Milo Sturgis, veteran homicide cop, and his friend and partner psychologist Alex Delaware are investigating the deaths of a man and a woman whose bodies are found in an old mansion. The case starts out as a simple one but ends involving foreign diplomats and a princess.

What I like about the Sturgis and Delaware series is how author Jonathan Kellerman keeps us in the minds of all the characters by letting us know what they're thinking and how they come to conclusions. The stories are never boring and are filled with the right amount of psychological thrills.

John Rubinstein was great at drawing readers into the story and making us feel like we're on location.

Grey853 says

I'm a huge fan of Kellerman, so I was super excited to see he had a new one so close to the holidays. Unfortunately, I was either expecting too much or Kellerman produced too little in EVIDENCE. Normally, I finish an Alex Delaware book in one sitting, this one took two and I had to force myself. I didn't really care about the story. To be honest it was just boring.

Another thing that annoyed me was the shifting point of view. Most Delaware books are written in first person from Alex's point of view. Well, we had that in some chapters, but we also had Milo's third person point of view as well as some other third person point of views scattered here and there. I mentioned before that I'm a stickler for consistent points of view and it annoys me when it's not, especially when there doesn't seem to be a reason for it.

The whole plot was disjointed and all over the place. The tight connection between Alex and Milo seemed missing. There was very little of a personal storyline here, which is one of the things that makes the Delaware stories interesting to me. This was just a little too much of a police procedural style to suit me.

Kristen says

In the 24th installment of the Alex Delaware series, in Jonathan Kellerman's Evidence, Alex and Milo gotten themselves caught up in another difficult case. When a watchman came across a brutally slain couple in a compromising embrace, they were both caught up in the grisly crime scene at an unfinished mega-home owned by an Islamic prince. While they were able to identify the eco-inclined architect who had the power to seduce woman, while his female companion remained a mystery and unidentified. They believed this murder was personal with political charged scandals and a cold case of an European woman's disappearance from years ago. The digger they dug themselves into the truth, the more in peril they find themselves with a growing list of suspects and the direction spiraling towards them in the killer's path.

James Thane says

A rent-a-cop watchman stumbles over a double homicide at an obscenely large L.A. mansion where construction has inexplicably stopped. Detective Milo Sturgis is assigned the case and asks his pal, psychologist Alex Delaware, to tag along because the case looks "interesting."

The male victim is quickly identified as the employee of a rather peculiar architectural firm. but it takes quite some time to identify the female victim who had been posed with him in a sexually suggestive manner. From that point on, things simply get stranger and stranger until Milo doggedly works out the solution to this and a number of other crimes.

But the strangest thing about this book is that it's billed as "An Alex Delaware Novel," when Alex is simply along for the ride, playing Dr. Watson while Milo does all the heavy lifting. There is no plausible reason whatsoever for Delaware to be anywhere near this case, and this is a very strange departure from the early books in this series in which Delaware's role as a consulting child psychologist was critical to each of the plots and in which Delaware was the central character.

In this case, he's so thoroughly unessential that the reader can go for long periods of time without even realizing that he's involved with the case. As a practical matter, Delaware serves only to narrate Milo's investigation; he makes no contribution of any significance at all.

As a police procedural, this is a pretty good read, even though by the end, the plot begins to strain credulity beyond usually acceptable limits. But as an Alex Delaware novel, it leaves a lot to be desired. Maybe it's time for Jonathan Kellerman to cut Alex loose and give Milo Sturgis his own series.

Traci Haley says

Jonathan Kellerman and Faye Kellerman seem to always have books that come out close to each other these days. The downside to that is that they're always fresh in the memory to do some comparisons...and when it comes to writing good suspense, Jonathan Kellerman wins, hands-down. Yes, he also does a bit of the procedurals that Faye does, but keeps it humorous, interesting, and develops his characters so you actually care what they're doing. I feel like Milo Sturges is not just Alex's best friend, but mine, as well. A good entry to the series, tackling a timely subject. Will keep reading future endeavors...but I can't necessarily say the same for Faye's Rina/Peter series.

Caitlin says

The Alex Delaware/Milo Sturgis series written by Jonathan Kellerman have always been reliably enjoyable. The oddball partnership between psychologist and homicide detective made for an unusual focus on most of the books. Kellerman usually tells a good story and I like Alex and Milo so I always grab these off the shelf when they become available, but this one was pretty disappointing.

Honestly, I'm really not sure why Alex was even a part of this case - there wasn't a strong psychological element to the crime nor did it deal with children in any way (both hallmarks of past Alex/Milo pairings). The case was pretty run of the mill with eco-terrorists and a revengeful woman burning up fancy L.A. houses. Even though he was the narrator, Alex's presence felt forced and he came off as a kind of tag-along.

This has been a strong series in the past, but I'm wondering if Kellerman is running out of steam. I've seen that happen in so many other series like this (Patricia Cornwell, I'm looking at you) and it's kind of sad and disappointing. I wish he'd wrap the series up if he's stopped caring about these characters. He has other characters he's written a little about (Petra, the Hollywood homicide detective and Daniel Sharavi, the Israeli homicide detective) and he could expand on their stories. Mostly I think Alex and Milo deserve a whole lot better than this and so do Kellerman's readers.

Sketchycat8 says

The first half of this book was all over the map. the last 150 pages were a little less disjointed. some areas of the dialogue were a little confusing. I don't know exactly why these are called the "alex delaware" series, because the main character seemed to be Milo Sturgis. For someone who had never read another in this series, there isn't much "back fill" information like other novelist do. (James Patterson/D. Balducci do a better job of giving you a little history on the characters) Since I had never read another in this series, I really didn't get connected to the characters or care about them. they just seemed like a detective and a psychologist riding around following up clues that someone else discovered/put together. It wasn't the worst I read, and not the best. 3 stars.

Sandra Vilka says

9/10.

Kendra says

YAAAAWWWWWN. Ok, to be fair, it was more interesting in the second half, but the early parts were making my eyes glaze over. Plus, although Alex continues to be the narrator and main character, he now seems to serve no purpose, other than to tag along after Milo, quietly observe everything, and play wannabe cop. What happened to his private practice? Does he just sit around and wait for Milo to invite him to look at dead bodies now? There wasn't even a reason for him to be involved as a "psychological consultant" on this case! Given that I partially blame Jonathan Kellerman for making me think it was a great idea to major in psychology, I kind of wish he'd been writing stinkers like this one back when I was 18. Maybe I'd be a marine biologist or something right now...

Kelly ... says

Mr Rubinstein does such an excellent job narrating the Delaware books. His voice for Milo is especially good! I love the gruff, gritty texture he gives to Milo's voice.

This book was more interesting than the previous two or three, however I still wish Kellerman would return to the original premise -- allowing Delaware to actually use his psychology.

Carla Johnson-Hicks says

I have really gotten behind on reading the Alex Delaware series, but I was really looking forward to getting back into it. I have enjoyed the partnership of Alex and Milo as well as looking at a crime from both the detective and psychologist angle. Well, this book disappointed me. It should have just been a Milo Sturgis story. Alex was there with Milo, almost like his partner, but there really was no psychological aspect to this story. I also did not like the flipping points of view. I have several more of this series on my bookshelf and the local librarian told me his books were not very good for a while, but that he got back on track. I will see how many it takes to get back on track. It was still a decent read, but not what I was expecting at all.
