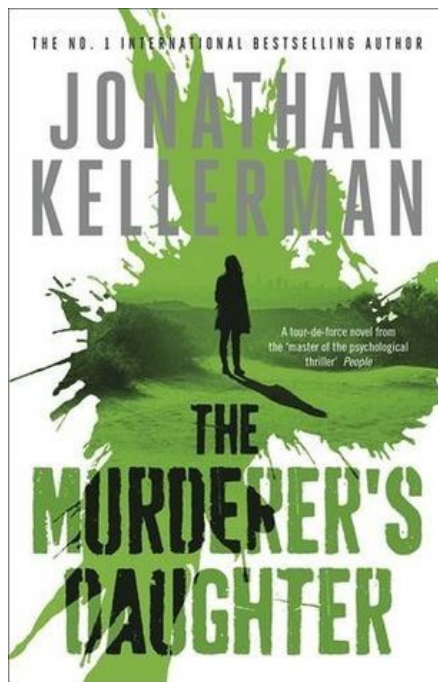




The Murderer's Daughter

Jonathan Kellerman

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The new masterfully plotted, stand-alone psychological thriller from No. 1 bestseller Jonathan Kellerman, featuring tough, brilliant young psychologist Grace Blades, a former student of Alex Delaware.

A brilliant and dedicated psychologist, Grace Blades has a gift for treating troubled souls and tormented psyches - because she bears her own invisible scars. Only five years old when she watched her parents die in a bloody murder-suicide, Grace took refuge in her fierce intellect and found comfort in the loving couple who adopted her. But her now-accomplished life has a secret side, ruled by an insatiable desire; by night she pursues the addictive thrills of sexual trysts with strangers. And when her two worlds unexpectedly converge, Grace's past returns with a vengeance, threatening to destroy everything she's fought for - including her life.

Shaken by the murder of her newest patient and fearful that an investigation will expose her double life, Grace sets out to probe the crime herself. But when she stumbles on the dead man's true identity, a horrifying chapter from her childhood is violently reawakened, forcing Grace to confront a decades-old act of evil crying out to be avenged. Suddenly stalked by dangerous men, Grace must turn to the talent for survival she's depended on all her life in order to face down the darkest personal demon she's ever battled: her own.

The Murderer's Daughter Details

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From Reader Review The Murderer's Daughter for online ebook

Gary says

Thank you to Net Galley and Random House publishing group for supplying this book in return for a honest review. This is my first read of a Jonathan Kellerman novel although he has been on my list for quite a while now. A solid 4 star rating and for me an excellent introduction to this author. A stand alone thriller featuring Psychologist Dr Grace Blades who has a dark past and makes a fascinating character. Grace Blades uses her troubled past to help others. The novel switches from past to present day and shares a mix of emotions that make excellent reading. My first Kellerman book but on finishing it I was quickly looking at his other work for more books to read.

The Murderer's Daughter is a very good psychological thriller, the plot is fast paced and the suspense is gripping in places. Dr Grace Blades is a strong and determined woman with a dark past and is determined to stay in control, bring on the next novel.

Brenda says

She called her parents "the strangers" because that's what they were. At five years of age, Grace Blades had learned how to take care of herself, and to stay out of their way. The violence that had surrounded her short life in the small van park would live with Grace forever – the night she watched first her father, then her mother die meant Grace's life would be different to most; but she was determined to survive and with an intellect bordering on genius, she would eventually find a way...

After a variety of foster homes, most of them on the "not good" scale, Grace had discovered keeping to herself and learning was what kept her safe. She had an insatiable desire to know everything she could and when a professor of psychology happened into her life, Grace slowly but surely found a measure of contentment. Malcolm and Sophie took Grace into their home when she was just eleven years of age – the years that followed were fulfilling ones and defined Grace's future as a clinical psychologist in a satisfactory way.

Brilliant at her job, Dr Grace Blades was in great demand - her deep empathy and knowledge of how to treat her patients (because of her own experiences) found her with outstanding results. But when her past, after twenty five years of being buried, suddenly reappeared on the too-near horizon, Grace found herself in danger. The life she had made for herself; the safety she had become accustomed to – all was under threat from the most insidious sources of evil. Grace knew that she had to uncover the past for her to have a future; she must do it on her own to be sure of success. Would Grace be able to overcome her personal demons? Or would her fight for the truth be the end?

The Murderer's Daughter by author Jonathan Kellerman is a brilliant psychological thriller – a standalone but with some small references to Dr Alex Delaware. Twisted and gritty, the plot is fast paced and heart stopping in places; main character Grace is a strong and determined woman with a damaged past who is determined to remain in control – she demonstrates that with remarkable ease! I have no hesitation in highly recommending *The Murderer's Daughter* which I thoroughly enjoyed.

With thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for my copy to read and review.

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

Back a hundred years ago I ate up the Alex Delaware/Milo books like candy. The writing was always good and even when Kellerman would get to rambling on I still enjoyed the series. He took a gay male detective and made him a main character way before many other books that I saw at the time. There may have been more but this was my first intro to a gay man as a main character. Kellerman didn't fall into that troupe with the gay man stereotype either. He made Milo's character a bad-ass and I looked up to him. Milo was who he was and anybody that didn't like it could kiss his ass.

Jonathan Kellerman may strike gold with me again. In Grace Blade.
My friend Ed posted a status update about who he saw as Grace's character and I totally agree.

(Grace is far from broken-she should be but totally not broken)

This book is hopefully setting the stage for a series with Grace's character. *begs Jonathan Kellerman* So there is a bunch of Grace's life that comes into it. Don't think for one minute that it's boring though. Those are the best parts of this book.

Grace was birthed by two people who were really too stupid to have children. They should have been featured in a movie.

somewhat spoilery-but it happens early in the book

Grace is five years old when her birth mother (I'm not calling this woman a mother) kills the "baby daddy" and then kills herself. Thus the title of this book, The Murderer's Daughter. This book is better than that title.

Grace then ends up as a foster child, in a system that gives two shits less. The thing about Grace though, as a child she is obedient and never makes herself stand out. She does not want to be around other people, preferring reading and being by herself over anything or anyone else. I won't spoil any of her story because I thought it was fascinating.

Grace is now a successful psychologist that helps people put traumatic events behind them. There is another side to Grace though. At night Grace goes for what she calls "leaps"..she dresses up and goes and picks out a guy and bangs the hell out of him...and walks away.

Kellerman makes no apologies in her character for her behavior. FUCK YES!!

Grace is a character that will piss off some old school readers. A woman that acts like a man in regards to sex?

Grace manages to stay classy, intelligent and I LOVED her character. Flaws and all. Grace doesn't form attachments to people though. She still as an adult prefers her own company. She is successful in her career as a caregiver in spite/because? of it. She is able to separate herself from it in a way that had me glued to these pages.

Then Grace gets involved in a murder case. She isn't one of those characters that is tagging along with the police and "helping" with the case.

Booksource: Netgalley in exchange for review.

I'm spotlighting my friend Ed's review on this one. He brought it to my attention when he was reading it and I'm so glad.

Ed Lorn is an author on this site. If you follow or read his reviews you will see that the guy has chops and why I grab up any book he puts out. But better than that, Ed is my true friend. He is someone that has come to be a person that I can always go to. Even if it is to whine about something. He always makes time for me. Not because he cares if I read his books..he is just that kind of guy. I'm very honored to call him my friend. Go and friend/follow him. He will keep you entertained.

Alex is The Romance Fox says

1,5 stars

This was me...as I turned the pages of Jonathan Kellerman's latest standalone (though there are one or two very quick mentions of Alex Delaware from his Alex Delaware Series) novel, *The Murderer's Daughter...*

The story started off beyond slowly....I asked myself....do I want to carry on or not???...but I persevered...perhaps it will gain some momentum soon!!! It didn't much!!!

Grace Blades is a dedicated psychologist, who has a huge success dealing with troubled minds...how she did this was a bit not believable...hell, she has some serious shit of her own.....her personal life was a real mystery to me.....a lone woman, no friends who has sexual encounters that are pretty bizarre!!

Then one of her clients is found murdered and before you know it....never mind the cops doing the investigation....she decides to go on the hunt for the killers!!!! And then we go on a totally unbelievable....beyond unbelievable trip with this super sleuth,...

The backstory chapters were the only parts I liked and the only reason that I didn't totally dislike Grace...because the present day one was just too much for me....

The secondary characters were not memorable apart from Malcolm, the psychologist who adopted her and the woman she lived with as a child, Mrs Stage.

And how she finally discovers who the killer is, after working out all those clues.....really!!!! Wow, this is one hell of a Lara Croft!!!

And the ending.....jeez....I couldn't understand it at all!!!

I didn't like the writing either....I have read so much better books by this author.

I am sure that there are a lot of other readers who will like this book, but it just didn't do it for me.

Brandi says

The Murderer's Daughter is a crime/suspense, psychological thriller, kind of... Dr. Grace Blades is a psychologist, she who has a special gift for treating troubled souls, people who have experienced certain traumatic events. Her own childhood was far from ordinary, violence, murder, suicide - she was exposed to it all early on, and after the loss of her parents she is placed into foster care - some good, some bad, but all of her experiences contribute to the person she becomes.

Grace is an intelligent and successful, but she also has a secret, she enjoys one-night stands with complete strangers. When a new patient turns up dead, Grace begins to investigate, because this man isn't who he claimed to be. With her professional life and her past colliding, Grace is determined to uncover what happened. Written in 3rd person, this story alternates between the Grace's childhood past and present. This novel has tons of character development, which makes it seem likely this will eventually become a series with Dr. Grace as the protagonist. Overall this was an interesting read, I especially found Grace's past compelling where as the pacing of the murder mystery in the present was a little slow.

ARC kindly provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Cynthia says

I've read and enjoyed most of the Alex Delaware series but this new character is fresh and has a lot of potential. Though she's also a therapist that's about all she has in common with the Delaware characters. She's young and beautiful and independent...maybe too independent. Her clinical specialty is working with client's who have been victims of trauma such as being associated with a murderer or a loved one who's died in a traumatic manner.

Kellerman keeps us close to the narrator because, like her, we can see the clues and anticipate what could happen next. I suppose it's possible Kellerman didn't mean this to be the case but in my opinion he's too skilled a writer for this not to be the case. The giveaways in no way take away from the suspense. The only reason I'm giving this book four rather than five stars is that I was disappointed with the ending.

Thank you to the publisher for providing an e-copy.

Wendy's Thoughts says

4 Mending the Haunted Stars * * * *

Jonathan Kellerman and his books are old friends of mine. For years I gobbled up everything I could find of his. It has been a while since reading his genre but the thrill is still the same. He weaves a tale which pulls you in from the start... with all systems go.

It was easy falling back into the right mindset and being an active reader; paying attention for clues or making up my own theories of what was going to be revealed towards the end. I had a lot of it figured out but didn't care one bit. I was hanging out with my old friend Jonathan Kellerman and the reading was fine.

Briefly, we are introduced to Dr. Grace Blades, psychologist. She has developed a reputation and private practice which focuses on those touched by specific traumas; loved ones lost due to brutal killings, accidents or the death of children by their own hand... It could be any type of situation but her way of helping comes from a very deep and personal understanding. These people have not succeeded with the standard care of listening and hand holding... they are in need of something else. It seems Dr. Grace Blades is the answer.

She was a woman who survived and became an amazing person out of circumstances too horrific to think about. Gifted with a mind and capacity to learn, observe and develop, she innately did whatever she needed to grasp at life and the result was amazing. She got too few good breaks while caught in the foster system but

when she did, she flourished.

Did she come out a whole person, perfectly normal... well, that is to be debated ... because what she became was so much better than anything labeled normal.

This is a tale which has you ask yourself what would you have done in her life...and which way would you have gone...for she meets another who had a horrific beginning as well...and we see the path he took.

We are with Grace through all her times during her life... from the beginning but it is doled out in a way which links the present. We are fed all of this and I was greedy for every bite.

The lesson taught is.... there are no excuses...Excellent.

A gifted copy was provided by Random House Publishing Group-Ballantine via NetGalley for an honest review.

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Cameron Wiggins says

First, I would like to express my appreciation to NetGalley and Random House for an ARC of Jonathan Kellerman's newest novel, *The Murderer's Daughter*.

Kellerman has written yet another first-rate psychological novel. I hesitate to call *The Murderer's Daughter* a psychological thriller as it is a stand-alone novel with a new character that reads much more like a novel than a thriller. This is not a bad thing. *The Murderer's Daughter* is a very good novel with a strong protagonist in Ms. Grace Blades, but the book is a definite departure from Kellerman's Alex Delaware character.

Nonetheless, I liked the book very much. Note: Very limited spoilers are coming up in the next two paragraphs, but nothing that will distract the potential reader from reading the book. I try to stay away from spoilers of any kind.

Grace Blades has a very rough childhood until she lands in the foster care of a Jewish couple, Malcolm and Sophie Bluestone, whom also work in the academia field of psychology at USC. This sets the course for Grace's future. Grace is off-the chart intelligent and is accepted by Harvard at the tender age of 16. She graduates and decides to come back to do her masters degree work at USC. Grace completes her degree and sets up practice and teaches a clinical-level course at USC one day a week. Life is going very well for Dr. Grace Blades. Until, ... there's always an until, isn't there?

One day a new male patient strolls into Dr. Blades office for his appointment. Both of them become immediately aware that they know one another. However, the appointment proceeds, but just barely, but not because they have already met. Something is weighing very heavy on this new patient. He cannot get it out. He starts, he stops. Grace quickly realizes that whatever is bothering the patient is very significant. Finally, the patient just gives up and leaves. Grace cannot let this go. She tries to gain more information about his background and then the unthinkable happens. The new patient is murdered.

This sends Dr. Grace Blades on a mission to determine exactly what happened and all of the details that lie behind it. The novel is written in the third person and bounces back and forth from childhood and growing up to the present. I do not believe that I have ever read a novel with so much detail given to character development, certainly not in the few Kellerman novels that I have read. This is what lends the book more to being a novel than a thriller. So, the immediate question I ask myself is why is there so much devotion to character development in this book?

This is where I get into speculation, but I think that I may be correct. I believe that Kellerman is testing the waters, so to speak. Maybe he thinks that he has taken the Alex Delaware character about as far as he can go. Maybe, he is speculating with how *The Murderer's Daughter* goes over on whether Dr. Grace Blades will be his next unlikely protagonist. Maybe the next book that we see Dr. Blades in will definitely be a psychological thriller. At any rate, I'm in. I anxiously await to see. I hope that she makes the cut. I would recommend *The Murderer's Daughter* to friends who enjoy psychological thrillers with a warning that this is not the typical Kellerman novel. I believe that people that rate this book lower are really disappointed that they are not getting that Alex Delaware-like thriller/procedural. The tree has to be planted first. 4 stars, Jonathan.

Cam

Edward Lorn says

For those of you looking for a thriller, don't look here. I know, I know, it's being marketed as a thriller and a known thriller author wrote it, but it's not a thriller. If you're planning on reading this and expecting a taut read full of suspense and grisly shenanigans, you will be sorely disappointed. Still, the book's damn good. Let me tell you why.

The Murderer's Daughter is a character-driven piece of literature that focuses on the past and present of psychologist Dr. Grace Blades. She's a broken individual who uses her own issues to help others. She's also hyper sexual and totally comfortable in her own skin. No slut shaming in this book. Lady gets down to *bidness*, lemme tell you, and never apologizes. I appreciate Kellerman writing a woman such as Grace without once giving the reader the feeling that she should be judged for digging a bit of the three Fs: find em, fuck em, and forget em. Well done.

But where this novel truly shines is the backstory. Kellerman effortlessly hops from present day to Grace's childhood and upbringing. These flashbacks were my favorite parts. Smiles were had. Tears were shed. As Yoda would say, a very engaging structure this book has. (Be honest, you read that in Yoda's voice, didn't you?) Every time you begin to grow bored with Grace's present-day duties, Kellerman pops you into the past. Without these travels through time, *The Murderer's Daughter* wouldn't have been nearly half as entertaining.

My only complaints are very minor. In fact, one complaint I have holds no bearing on the content of the book. The title of the novel is crap and the cover is garbage. That's my biggest complaint. If I saw that title with that cover showcased at Books-a-Million or in a thumbnail on Amazon I'd navigate right past it without a second glance. It doesn't fit the content. My second complaint is that some of Grace's internet scouring and conversations get a bit long winded. I found myself checking the progress bar on my Kindle app during most of these scenes. The driving directions were equally boring. Other than that, the book is rad.

Finally, the ending is pretty brutal, and the final chapter is brilliant. Hell of a way to close out a damn fine story.

In summation: I'm a newbie to the world of Kellerman but this novel has me wanting to tackle his back catalogue. *The Murderer's Daughter* was so much more than what I was expecting. This guy can write, and that's such a rare thing in a genre polluted with Patterson clones.

Final Judgement: *No such thing as deserve*

Ellen Kirschman says

Just finished THE MURDERER'S DAUGHTER, a stand-alone by famed mystery writer, Jonathan Kellerman. I'm a psychologist and mystery writer. I was drawn to the book by the premise; a deeply damaged, yet dedicated trauma psychologist with a secret life is pursued by a psychopathic killer from her past. There are plenty of reasons to feel compassion for Dr. Grace Blades' suffering, but I never did. She and most of the other characters in the book felt flat, like cardboard cut-outs of trauma victims. Kellerman's writing was nearly all "tell" and very little "show." Too much description, too little character development. I was surprised and disappointed.

Holly says

I was very much looking forward to this novel. I've never read anything by Kellerman, and when I read the synopsis I just knew this was going to be good. Well.....it wasn't. First: I don't really understand the title. It suggests something more than what it actually was. Yes, (spoilers!!!), her parents were a murder/suicide but I felt the title suggested a little more than that. Perhaps, I was assuming that one of her parents was a multiple murderer. (Guess that teaches me not to assume!) Second: The character of Grace annoyed me. She was cold, kind of a slut, and she could do EVERYTHING!!!! I liked her backstory more than I did the adult version. Didn't like her at all at the beginning, by the middle--she was ok, and then I didn't like her again at the end. Third: there were a lot of boring parts. Too many directions--like I really cared what streets & highways Grace took. Other parts dragged as well. Fourth: The ending was horrible. When she finally gets to the bad guy, there was really nothing to it. Wham, bam, thank you ma'am!!! We went through this whole book of Grace searching for the guy and then you give us nothing?! The bad guy didn't even really have a chance to talk. I just wasn't impressed. I see that some people think Kellerman might make a series out of this character....I can honestly say I won't be one to continue with it. It wasn't bad writing, obviously Kellerman can write well. I just didn't think this story was fleshed out well enough.

**Thank you to Netgalley and the publisher for providing an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Jan says

2.5 stars

Not quite sure what exactly it was that I just read, but it certainly wasn't a thriller. I'd say it was a cross between a mystery and a 'biography' of the books main character. In reverse order...

70% of the story turned out to be complete backstory of the protagonist Grace Blades. I'm not exaggerating. The early years really held my interest, but once she was in her teens the story line covered anything from the purchasing of her first bra to multiple chapters dedicated to her educational and financial future. I feel like I know the life story of Grace Blades better than I do that of my best friend. ZZZZZZZZZZ.....

The other 30% involved what could have been a really dynamic mystery but got lost in all the backstory, as well as the ending provided no closure or understanding of what the antagonist's main objectives were. It was this part of the story that kept the book from becoming a DNF. Wish I knew then what I know now!

While this book is described as a standalone, I can't help but think with the extensive backstory that the author is planning on making Grace into another series. For fans of his work with the fantastic Alex Delaware character, there are references to him periodically throughout the story, but that is where the

similarity ends. For those not familiar with Alex, do yourself a favor and start there before reading this book. Jonathan Kellerman is a solid writer and storyteller...but this book is not the best representation of this in MHO.

My thanks to Netgalley for the ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Carole (Carole's Random Life in Books) says

This review can also be found at Carole's Random Life in Books.

I enjoyed this book! I have always wanted to try Jonathan Kellerman's work so I decided to give this book a try. Unfortunately, life got a little busy when I had originally planned to read this book and my review is about two and a half years late. I really wish that I had read this book when I first got my hands on it because it was really good.

This really is Grace's story. Grace was a wonderful character and incredibly complex. She had a less than ideal childhood but as adult, she is a highly respected psychologist. I loved the fact that we get to know Grace both as a child and as an adult. I thought the contrast between the two periods was really well done. I wouldn't really say that I ever liked Grace but I really did enjoy trying to figure her out and was very curious about her past.

Grace does have a bit of a secret life and that life intersects with her professional life early in this book. As she tries to figure out what really happened, she finds that things may be connected to her past. I thought that the mystery side of this book was really just okay. It was rather complex and I never had everything quite figured out but it wasn't the most enjoyable part of the book for me.

I thought that the first parts of the book were the strongest. I really enjoyed all of the book that focused on Grace as a child. Adult Grace was really more interesting to me during the first part of the book as well. The book continued to bounce back and forth from past to present but as the story progressed the two timelines grew much closer to each other. As the focus of the book moved towards bringing the mystery to a conclusion, it seemed to fizzle out just a bit.

I would recommend this book to others. I really enjoyed the writing style and found this to be the kind of book that was easy to keep reading. I do hope to read from this author in the future.

I received a digital review copy of this book from Random House Publishing Group - Ballantine via NetGalley.

Initial Thoughts

I enjoyed this book and am kind of mad at myself for leaving it unread for as long as I did. The book did lose some momentum for me during the last third of the book. I really liked learning about Grace both in current life and in the past. The contrast between Grace as a child and as a mature adult was very well done and eye opening. The book did seem to focus more on the mystery aspect as it moved towards the finale which was somewhat less interesting for me. This was my first time reading Jonathan Kellerman and I really enjoyed his writing style.

Linda Strong says

Grace Blades is a psychologist, but that is only one very small part of who she is.

I found the book compelling, but the most interesting part is where the reader is treated to Grace's upbringing. Her father murders her mother and then kills himself. So begins her journey through multiple foster homes and what she learns from all the people she meets along the way.

At one of her last foster homes, her foster mother takes in 3 other children, whose parents were killed while in a cult. There is something not quite right with the two boys and girl, and when another foster child in the home is killed, Grace knows who did it.

Fast forward 20 years and Grace is in private practice. A new client walks in, states that he is interested in her paper published years ago on dealing with killers in a family. The man bolts after a few minutes. The next day she is visited by homicide detectives who tell her they have a victim with her business card in his shoe... only his name is not the name he used with her.

The book rocks back and forth between her remembering her life and the things that are happening in the present. She basically starts investigating on her own, as she now knows who her client really was... and the past jumps up and slaps her in the face.

Her memories were much more captivating than her investigation. That part of the book overstepped what I could imagine as actually happening. While good, I don't think it was as good as the author's Alex Delaware series. But he did merit a mention and a very tiny cameo appearance.

This book was furnished by NetGalley and Random House Publishing Group - Ballantine - Ballantine Books in exchange for an honest review.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

This is the first Jonathon Kellerman I have read for some time. It is vastly different to the other books of his I have read, and also mostly enjoyed.

The Murderer's Daughter is more thoughtfully written. There is not so much action as is usual with Kellerman's books, but there is a depth to his writing that I have not previously encountered.

Told in the third person, the chapters alternate between Grace's history, and the current day. This is done far more seamlessly than I have encountered with many other authors and works well. The writing flows well and I found myself totally absorbed by both Grace's past and her current situation.

Grace Blades is a psychologist dedicated to treating troubled souls - those she calls "the Haunted". Perhaps she is so successful because she is one of them. At the tender age of five she witnessed the murder/suicide of her parents.

But Grace has her own dark side...she frequently races her Aston Martin DB7 through the NPC road's twists and turns with her eyes closed. And then there is 'The Leap'...perhaps her most dangerous game of all, and one that may bring about her downfall when an evil she though she had left far in her past resurfaces.

Honestly, by the time I reached the final page, I was holding my breath and totally unsure of what the

outcome would be.

Well done Mr Kellerman. I hope to read more in this vein from you.

Thank you to Netgalley and Random House Publishing Group - Ballantine for the ARC of this book in exchange for an honest and unbiased review.
