



Chasing the Traveller

Alex Kane

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‘I’ve fled from my husband and the only life I’ve ever known. I’m terrified that if he finds me, I’ll never find myself.’

Kat is trapped in a world where she has never belonged. As a traveller, she has always felt lost, especially since the death of her parents in a fire when she was fourteen years old. Having been taken on by the Denton family as their own, Kat falls in love with their son, tearaway Jimmy. His charm soon wears off and Kat finds herself married to a controlling and violent thug.

Sixteen years later, Kat decides enough is enough and begins plotting her escape from a lifetime of abuse.

Stripped of her personality, Kat has no idea how to start again but she finds an unlikely ally in her sister-in-law Ellie who shows Kat that she is not alone.

Kat and Ellie Denton begin their venture into a new world, where they meet new people and build new lives. But Kat still wants to know more about her parents’ past and when she seeks the location of an address on the back of a family photograph, Kat begins to uncover more than she expected including a revelation that will lead Kat back to the traveller site she had been so desperate to escape from.

Will she find the answers she is looking for, or will she fall prey to the violent Jimmy Denton once more?

Chasing the Traveller Details

Date : Published November 25th 2017

ISBN :

Author : Alex Kane

Format :

Genre : Thriller, Fiction

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From Reader Review Chasing the Traveller for online ebook

Lee says

Not a genre I'd normally go to, but was offered a chance to review.

I believe this might also be the author's first published book for this genre. The first few chapters are quite confronting, but a gripping read. I felt genuine anger at what was happening to Kat, our main character. All in all I read this book in under 24 hours in around 3 sessions. It's a fairly short read but really well written and the tension and pace are consistent throughout and I never wanted to put it down.

My only gripe would be that it was somewhat predictable, but that didn't really deter from what is a well executed story.

I looked up the author on Goodreads at around the 30% point. I was actually looking to see if Alex was a Glaswegian. What stunned me was that Alex was a 'He'. I truly expected the author to be a she from the way the story is written. This is a credit to Alex.

I enjoyed this book and would certainly recommend it.

Mandy White says

Kat is a traveller, working around the country at fairs and carnivals. She is married to Jimmy who has turned into a controlling and abusive man. Her parents were killed in a fire and Jimmy is all she has.

After 16 years she finally escapes with her sister in law Ellie. All she has with her is a photo of her family with a strange note on the back. She has also recently discovered that she is pregnant.

Getting away from the life that they knew isn't easy for either of the women. They are always looking behind them and scared that the travellers will catch up with them.

Kat decides to look into the note on the back of the photo and begins to learn things about her past that she never knew.... and maybe she didn't want to know.

This is a dark story of physical and mental abuse and how it changes a person. It is a story of family and love. Kat was a wonderful, strong character that really tugged at the heart strings. A great book that I highly recommend.

Noelle says

The story begins on a traveller's site in Scotland and jumps between this and Glasgow/ surrounding areas throughout. The reader is faced with some hard-hitting and emotional themes such as betrayal; loss; survival; protecting those you love; hope; discovery; trust; domestic abuse; relationships; recovery; power & control; manipulation and new beginnings.

Wow! Talk about grabbing your reader by the throat with a prologue that has you holding your breath whilst

fighting back the anger and tears! The writing is edgy, focussed and full of suspense as the build up is gradually placed before us and we are invited to join Kat on her journey of discovery and survival. Told in the third person POV you get a rounded look at all the action and various perspectives of the characters as well as insight into the travelling community. I also loved the letters we come across throughout that deliver pieces of Kat's past until all is revealed!

This story is littered with some interesting characters, but I will only touch upon a few so as not to spoil anything for other readers. The main character, Kat has suffered years of horrendous domestic abuse on all levels imaginable. Something finally snaps (no spoilers) and she realises she cannot stay in her marriage any longer. She is vulnerable, constantly looking over her shoulder but has a fiesty and fierce determination to survive.

Jimmy Denton – Kat's husband ...what an arsehole! There is absolutely nothing likeable about this guy! He is the epitome of a domestic abuser: full of charm initially, a master manipulator but evil to the core underneath it all. He objectifies Kat, believing he owns her and puts her through physical, emotional and every other level of abuse imaginable. Would I like to have seen him get his comeuppance? Absofrigginlutely! Would I like to have delivered a few blows myself? Damn right, I would! Does this happen? You'll have to read the book to find out!

Ellie was another interesting character. Kat finds an ally in Ellie but I initially was wary of her. What we learn is that despite her mean, hard exterior, Ellie is also a vulnerable and misread/misunderstood young lady full of her own demons and fears. I loved everything about her, once the layers were peeled back and we saw her for who she really was!

Seb was another character I enjoyed. A counsellor who helps Kat piece her past together and draw strength from within. He allows Kat to do all the work as he understands and empathises with her.

There are so many more characters I could go on about, but you really do need to discover them for yourself as each delivers a different feel to the story as it unfolds.

Would I recommend this book? OMFG! Absolutely I would! There are twists, suspense and a very emotive but riveting storyline to keep you hooked and turning the pages! Once you start your journey with Kat, you will not want to stop! A massive *well done* Alex Kane – I am certainly keeping my eye out for what you have in store for us readers next!

Sue says

CHASING THE TRAVELLER is by Alex Kane otherwise known as Emma Clapperton, author of supernatural crime series with Patrick McLaughlin. In Chasing the Traveller, the author has switched genre, and now has produced a well-written fast-paced domestic abuse thriller. It is so easy to follow the author's style of writing. I was totally gripped by this novel.

This story follows a woman's desperation to be freed from domestic abuse, living in a trailer in a traveller community, and move on with her life. This was not an easy read, but I was rooting for her to escape and make a new life for herself. Travelers live in trailers and travel the country in order to make a living.

'I've fled from my husband and the only life I've ever known. I'm terrified that if he finds me, I'll never find myself.'

Kat is trapped in a world where she has never belonged. As a traveller, she has always felt lost, especially since the death of her parents in a fire when she was fourteen years old. Having been taken on by the Denton family as their own, Kat falls in love with their son, Jimmy. His charm soon wears off and Kat finds herself married to a controlling and violent thug.

Sixteen years later, Kat decides she has had enough and plans her escape, along with her sister-in-law Ellie who shows Kat that she is not alone.

Kat and Ellie Denton escape and begin their new lives, always looking over their shoulders. But Kat still wants to know more about her parents' past and when she seeks the location of an address on the back of a family photograph, Kat begins to uncover secrets from her past, that will lead Kat back to the traveller site she had been so anxious to escape from.

Will it be a mistake to find the answers she is looking for, or will she fall victim to the violent Jimmy Denton again?

A book that I highly recommend.

Many thanks to the publisher for providing me with a copy.

Expected publication: 02/07/2018

Claire says

It's not often you come across a book that is based around the traveller community; from what I know, it's quite a private community. So I started this with slight apprehension, would the author pull off the authenticity of a fairground backdrop? The answer to that is for me....yes!!! The parts set in the traveller camp described the setting to ignite your imagination and transport you there.

I really felt for Kat. Stuck in a relationship, suffering daily abuse from a man who professes his love. Abuse dished out for any reason, even ones out of her control; the looks from the visitors to the fair, the guy who keeps coming back. The author really created an atmosphere of terror from the start. Kat's fear was real, I was walking the permanent eggshells with her. And even when she does escape, the paranoia that she'll be found! I was scared for her!

Despite Noelle singing the author's praises for some time, this is the first book I've read by her and I have slapped myself for not reading her books before. This is one hell of a domestic thriller! I was on tenterhooks throughout!! I will have to start reading the Patrick McLaughlin books before long!

Sarah says

Chasing The Traveller is very much a domestic noir story with a touch of suspense.

It's weird to say you really enjoy a book especially due to the nature of the story being quite a dark one. I did though. I loved that the story line was to do with travellers as it gave me a bit of an insight into what life is like in that community, though I am sure it is very different to Kat and Jimmy's.

Jimmy right from the off I disliked. He is a bully. A big manipulative one at that. No wonder Kat is in constant fear of him and was desperate to get away.

Kat is someone the reader really routes for. I wanted her to be able to move on with her life and to have the happiness she so much deserves. To start with Kat is like a frightened rabbit, she is very much struggling to get on with her life as she is constantly looking over her shoulder. I really enjoyed reading the thread to do with her family as not only was Kat discovering things about them but so are we. It certainly makes for some interesting reading.

Chasing The Traveller is a gripping read where the tension builds up the further into the book you get making it impossible to put down. Whilst the nature of the story is an uncomfortable one the author makes sure that Kat's story keeps you turning the pages. Loved it and highly recommended.

K.S. Hunter says

An engaging read about a disturbing and emotive subject matter, Chasing the Traveller is a thought-provoking thriller. I finished reading it around the time I saw Sleeping with the Enemy for the first time in many years and I found the emotional response it got from me was similar to that wonderful film. Jimmy is an effective villain who I disliked immensely and that made Kat's desperation to get away from him even more believable and something I became fully emotionally invested with. A book that I would highly recommend by an author to watch out for.

Abby Slater- Fairbrother says

This novel opens with a prologue, which is a scene of brutal domestic violence. We become rapidly aware that Jimmy Denton is a jealous thug and his 'wife', has been subjected to physical violence, rape and being spat on regularly!

Jimmy's wife Kat, is the central protagonist. She has lived a life of fear, dominance, and complete and utter control! Jimmy decides what she eats and wears. He views her, merely as his property! Kat is alone in the world with no family of her own. She is apathetic and accepts a lifetime with the 'Denton's' on their traveling site. That is until a ray of hope is offered from an unlikely source.....

Jimmy's sister Ellie Denton, has always treated Kat with contempt. But one day, the women take a moment to confide in each other of the psychological scars they both bare due to Jimmy's violent ways. Together they are stronger, and it is together, a plan is forged!

"This is no way to live. You know it as much as the rest of us here" – Ellie

Kat after years of being victimised and dehumanised, relies upon Ellie tremendously, for their plan to work! Their plan is one of escape, but an escape, that must be secretively, carefully and meticulously planned. If their plan is discovered, Jimmy may kill both the women.

When Kate discovers she is pregnant with Jimmy's child, she fears for not only her own safety but the safety of her unborn child. She must put all her faith and trust in Ellie.

The traveller site that the Denton family 'rule', is fully explained. Denton women are forbidden to leave the site unless accompanied by a Denton man. It is easy to see how a community such as this, can easily harbour domestic abuse and sexual violence. Women are treated as possessions to be owned, rather than partners to be loved.

“Kat we’ll do it together. We’ll change our names so no one can trace us, we’ll start a new life together and we’ll get away from this shit hole” – Ellie

The women leave, with Kat clutching nothing but a single photograph of her parents. They are positively terrified, and fear follows their every step away from the site.....

I really admired the characterisation of the women. Kat as the victim and Ellie as the saviour. It was refreshing to read a novel where a female character, is helped by a fellow female, to save her own life. I found this very accurate and realistic. Ellie nurtures Kat, back to her former self. There is a lot to be said, for the power of sisterhood amongst women and this novel is a perfect example.

The novel then progresses to one year later. Kat is now Katelyn with a three-month-old daughter named Lucia. Auntie Helen (Ellie) is still helping Katelyn overcome her painful past. Helen encourages Katelyn to seek therapy, as the women live their lives, always looking over their shoulder! Katelyn begins to investigate the photograph, her only one possession taken from the site. What she uncovers is decades of secrets and a glimpse into her own family’s history on the traveller site! The opening pages that describe the travellers site and the violence easily meted out. I could have quite easily believed to have been a Martina Cole novel. The writing was so detailed and brutally honest! The mental hold of domestic violence and dehumanisation is fully explored!

Beat, control and dominate!

Can Kat set herself free? Can she overcome the past? What will become of baby Lucia, if Kat fails to find the strength? Will Jimmy seek revenge?

To find out more of Kat’s journey, you will have to read the novel! But remember

“Don’t allow your past to define your future”

4*

Best Crime Books & More says

Alex Kane is actually the pseudonym for Emma Clapperton and because I am a fan of her other books I was looking forward to reading this new material. The previous books she has written have a supernatural element to them and in all honesty that's never been my favourite subject but she does the books well enough that it's not an issue for me. I was looking forward to seeing how she would fare outside of her normal stuff and what this new material would be like. What I wasn't prepared for was how amazing it would be.

I had started this and read the first few chapters whilst being constantly interrupted. I put the book down and finally picked it up again at around 8pm. It was shortly after that I realised just how amazing the story was and I had no intention of putting the book down. Kat is the star of this show and she is in the worst possible place you could imagine. Married to a member of a particular travelling community her life is a living hell. Her husband Jimmy is an evil and barbaric man who frankly I wanted dead from the moment I started reading about him. As I read I could almost feel the fear from this character dripping off the pages and it seems her days are numbered until a chance conversation with Jimmy's sister Ellie.

From that moment the two women are determined to get away from that life and they take the huge risk of

running. The story follows Kat and Ellie as they try to make a new life for themselves. However what you end up with is watching these two women take a journey that makes the hair on your arms stand on end. The constant fear they will be caught, and with the added fear of Jimmy discovering another of the reasons she left.

I was so shocked when I read this book as it is totally different to her other stuff and I literally couldn't put this down. The book had me gripped from the early chapters and I read it in two straight sittings. An absolute corker of a book and I think there are many people out there who would be surprised at just how much I think they would like this book. A huge hats off to Emma (or should I Say Alex?) an amazing book which I devoured and frankly would be happy to read all over again. A first class book and I will eagerly be looking to another book like this.

Susan Angela Wallace says

chasing the traveller by Alex Kane.

Kat is married to a traveller but he doesn't treat her right. she gets beatings from him Daily. Can she find the courage to leave him? his sister wants to leave with her. Can they do it?

Omg a fantastic read. a moving read. I really felt for Kat. she was a strong woman for doing what she did. just Couldn't put it down. Highly recommended. 5*.

Nicola Mitchell says

Took every available moment to immerse myself in Kat's story. Figured out fairly quickly the reason for an earlier tragic event in the tale, but this didn't detract. A carefully woven story full of pain, sorrow, joy and strength. I willed Kat on in her quest for the truth. I love books where there is a strong female lead and this book was perfect for this. Definitely worth a read.

Georgina Roberts says

I loved this book and finished it in two sittings. The way that the story is written really makes you want to keep reading to find out what's going to happen next. It's full of tension and suspense and my heart was racing in some bits wondering what was in store for Kat on the next page.

I don't know if the ending really stood out for me but I still really enjoyed it.

Lainy says

Time taken to read - 2 days

Pages - 222

Publisher - Indie

Source - ARC (author)

Blurb from Goodreads

Kat is trapped in a world where she has never belonged. As a traveller, she has always felt lost, especially since the death of her parents in a fire when she was fourteen years old. Having been taken on by the Denton family as their own, Kat falls in love with their son, tearaway Jimmy. His charm soon wears off and Kat finds herself married to a controlling and violent thug.

Sixteen years later, Kat decides enough is enough and begins plotting her escape from a lifetime of abuse.

Stripped of her personality, Kat has no idea how to start again but she finds an unlikely ally in her sister-in-law Ellie who shows Kat that she is not alone.

Kat and Ellie Denton begin their venture into a new world, where they meet new people and build new lives. But Kat still wants to know more about her parents' past and when she seeks the location of an address on the back of a family photograph, Kat begins to uncover more than she expected including a revelation that will lead Kat back to the traveller site she had been so desperate to escape from.

Will she find the answers she is looking for, or will she fall prey to the violent Jimmy Denton once more?

My Review

Kat Denton is battered, abused, treated like an animal and has nowhere to turn to in her travelling community. Finding herself in a situation that changes everything and forms an unlikely alliance with Ellie, her sister in law, Kat takes the plunge and runs from her abusive husband. This is their story, by escaping Kat and Ellie find themselves on a journey of self discovery, healing, hope and that you cannot outrun your past.

I have bought a few of this authors work when writing under Emma Clapperton but had yet to read them. This is a genre switch and my first dance with this author, the story is both very dark and filled with hope. The start of the story sees Kat being horrifically abused by her husband, violence, rape, emotional abuse and manipulation which makes for hard reading at parts. It is very real to life in parts and I think anyone who has experienced such trauma(s) may find a very emotive response. Passages like this in fiction is really a testament to the authors writing skills and much of the book is not like this, however I feel it needed comment on.

I thought the story was going to be lots of violence and suspense, in actual fact a lot of the focus was about rebuilding a life, acceptance, self discover, survival and recovery. Trust and learning how to assess, accept and recover from emotional manipulation, we follow Kat's very personal journey. It also has danger looming on the edges as Kat and Ellie are on the run from Kat's husband who we know could appear anywhere. The book is a very different read than what I expected and depending on the readers background and life experiences I think it will strike very emotive responses.

Human beings are amazing in what they can endure, survive and cope and whilst this is a work of fiction I think many will be able to relate to it from very real experiences. The book tackles relationships, roles, abuse, family, friendship, love, actions and consequences it also has a sense of danger, survival and the old you cannot run from your past. It is a busy wee book and had time permitted I would have read it in one sitting. 4/5 for me, at time of posting the ebook is available for pre order for 99p. I think I will need to bump the authors other works up my TBRM mountain, this may have been my first dance with this author, it won't be my last!

Shell Baker says

Chasing The Traveller is by Alex Kane otherwise known as Emma Clapperton. Author of supernatural crime series with Patrick McLaughlin, which I must say I am a big fan of. So I was very intrigued to read this novel with the author switching genre. And has always I do love the author's style of writing. She definitely knows how to grab your attention from the start and keep you there until the very end.

In this story we follow Kat on an emotional rollercoaster journey after she finally gets the courage to leave Jimmy who is a control freak. Having lived the life has a traveller and losing her parents in a fire. The only person she has is her sister-in-law Ellie. Kat and Ellie begin to venture into a new world and begin to rebuild their lives, But Kat wants to know more about her parents and how they died. She begins to uncover more than she expected including a revelation that will lead Kat back to the traveller site she had been so desperate to escape from.

Will she find the answers she is looking for, or will she fall prey to the violent Jimmy Denton once more?

So I went into this story knowing it was a psychological thriller but not realising it was a domestic noir. Which most you know that I am not a fan of. It starts off with a very powerful prologue which I loved, then it moves to a slower pace where we follow Kat rebuilding her life. But then the story took a turn I wasn't expecting and I ended up really enjoyed it.

I loved the fact that the story is about travellers and knowing some myself this story is very realistic and original. The author does a brilliant job of making the reader feel the emotion and anxiety the characters go through. But will also keep you on tender hooks.

This is a very well written story which I highly recommend giving it 4 stars. Grab your copy now from Amazon for only 99p

Linda Strong says

4.5 Stars

When Kat and Ellie flee the traveller community, they take nothing except the clothes on their backs ... Kat's picture of her parents who were killed in a trailer fire ... and her unborn baby.

Kat is running from a 16-year period of abuse from her husband ... both physical and emotional. She's finally had enough of being treated as a punching bag. Her husband's sister, Ellie, needs to get out of the controlling community.

Together, the two women begin to make new lives for themselves. But this road they travel is not an easy one.

This is a fast-paced domestic abuse thriller. The violence that these women suffer, the fear of never knowing when the next slap or beating will occur, never knowing what causes the outbreaks of anger and manipulation ... it's all so palpable, the reader can almost taste it. The emotions literally jump off the pages.

Wanting to know more about her parents' lives before they died, Kat looks for the person whose name

appears on the back of the one picture she has. Kat begins to uncover secrets from her past, secrets that will lead Kat back to the traveller site she had been so anxious to escape from.

Kat's story is told in her voice ... from the present, to the days when she first loved Jimmy, to the time he became mean and abusive. She tells of how she came to be this utterly weak person who stayed with an abuser because she believed she had no other choices. It's a gripping story, well-written and easy to follow.

Many thanks to the author for providing a digital copy of this thriller. Opinions expressed here are unbiased and entirely my own.
