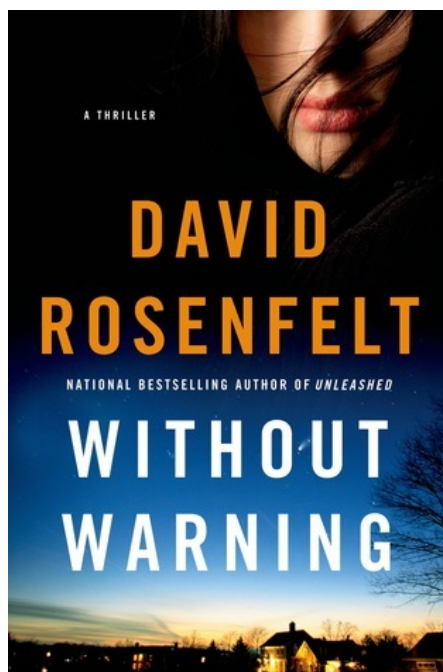




Without Warning

David Rosenfelt

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It's been thirteen years since Kate Callahan's husband committed suicide after being arrested for murdering Police Chief Sean Blaylock's wife. It's a small town and memories are long, but they've all tried to put the tragedy behind them, especially Kate and Sean. But it's all brought up again when the town's quaint tradition of creating a time capsule every fifty years reveals a macabre set of predictions dating back to days before the murder/suicide. Someone predicted Cindy Blaylock's death, and forty-nine other tragedies, which have been occurring right on time for more than a decade.

At last, after all these years, Kate has reason to hope that her husband might not have been guilty of Cindy's murder after all. But as she and Sean race to stop the next predictions from coming true, they find themselves caught in a terrifying mind game with no rules . . . and life or death consequences.

Without Warning Details

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Author : David Rosenfelt

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From Reader Review Without Warning for online ebook

Carl Alves says

I generally have a distaste these days with serial killer novels. It's a subgenre that is insanely overdone, and most of these novels are a waste of time. That made it all the more surprising when I read a novel featuring a serial killer that I actually enjoyed. For starters, the premise was great. A newspaper staff opens up a time capsule that they had placed five years earlier, and inside the capsule is a sheet of paper that predicts a number of deaths, including the murder of the wife of Sheriff Jake Robbins. Jake is investigating the case, and soon learns that every single person who dies is tied to him, and more specifically, can be seen as people that he holds grudges against.

The author has an easy to read and enjoyable writing style. He alternates between first person in Jake's point of view to third person with other characters. The suspense in the novel builds as each death mounts, all sticking with the predictions that were made in time capsule. Generally, the serial killers in these novels are dreadfully unbelievable. This novel does not suffer from that. The one weak spot in the novel is that I didn't find the killer's (and the people working with him) motives to be sufficient to kill all these people. Still, it was a good read and I would recommend it.

Carl Alves – author of Conjesero

Jim says

I've liked a lot of Rosenfelt's mysteries, so went into this expecting a good story. For the most part, it was, but I'm being generous giving it 2 stars. Interesting people & a really good mystery, although he used a method for heightening the suspense that I don't care for. When an author tells me everything from a character's POV & then there is a sudden revelation because of information that hasn't been supplied & isn't until later, I feel a bit cheated. There are ways of handling it that aren't quite so obvious, but Rosenfelt pulled the trick a few too many times & it just felt cheap. Still, it wasn't too bad.

Unfortunately, the ending was forced & illogical. There were suddenly huge, unbelievable gaps in actions & motivations, especially on the part of the villain, but even leading up to that kind of sucked at times. It was one of those cheap reveals I mentioned earlier. Suddenly, instead of talking (view spoiler)

I could have forgiven that one, but one of the final scenes was HORRIBLE!!! (view spoiler) UGH!!! Awful!!! No one would do that, especially not after all that prep.

I'd give this one star if the ride hadn't been so enjoyable up to the end. As it is, I can't recommend it.

Rachael says

I picked this book up at a supermarket while on vacation without an inkling of a clue what I was about to read. It was cheap and I liked the colors on the cover. It ended up being a fun little serial killer mystery. I admit, I read very few thriller/serial killer type books so I am no aficionado when it comes to judging but I thought this little book was a lot of fun. In fact, so much so, that I sat in our hotel room bathroom (so I wouldn't bother the family) and read late into the night until it was finished.

There are quite a few negative reviews on here about this story and I suppose they are from people who read many of these types of books and can be more critical than I.

I wasn't expecting a powerful, life changer of a book so I thought I did pretty good in the cheap, grocery store, book picking department. 4 stars for my enjoyment and late night, bathroom party. Maybe I should read more of these things?! Obviously, I can give it a pretty good rating because I am not being the literary nit picker that I usually am in my preferred genre.

If you want a quick, easy thriller that will waste some of your precious time, pick up Without Warning. I closed the last page thinking, Lifetime Movie here for sure. The ending was a bit far fetched (and the silly make out session was just plain, well, silly) but it still had me tripped up so that is great. I knew that Jake would obviously come out on top but there were some fun twists along the way.

Gina says

The book started off with a good premise of a small town that was hit by a hurricane and flooded. This same small town also had a tradition of burying a time capsule to be opened every fifty years. The capsule contained small relics from the time period as well as predictions about the future of the town. Due to the flooding, the capsule was opened early to check for water damage and during the opening the police and reporter, Katie Sanford, find an extra set of predictions that are vague riddles alluding to murders. Some of the murders have already happened and some are ongoing. Katie and the Chief of Police, Jake Robbins, must figure out who made these predictions and stop him before he continues his murderous rampage.

This all sounds good and pretty unique and a good author could really go somewhere with this plot line. However, the book is slow, repetitive, and full of cliches. Each chapter reads the same but with different characters. The writing is simplistic and changes point of view mid page, which was very confusing. And the thing that really blew the book to pieces was the ridiculous ending! Come on! You really expect readers to believe that in a small Maine town? No way is that gonna happen! This is the second book by this author that I have read and they were both pretty bad. I won't be recommending this book or this author. Time to move on. I gave him a fair chance and he just isn't a good writer. A very generous 2 stars. More like 1.5 stars.

Meg says

Too silly for me. Although I didn't guess the full plot (who could? How ridiculous) I guessed a good section of the plot by about one-third through. A "thriller" needs to be more based in reality with believable motivations. And a small town does not carry on with 'business as usual' when violent murder happens. The entire population becomes distrustful of each other and people do not go out alone, etc until time goes by and they relax a bit more. This read like a young-adult novel.

Kathleen J says

Police Chief Jake Robbins realizes there is a serial killer loose in his small Maine community when a time capsule is opened after five years instead of fifty and predictions of the unsolved or mistakenly solved deaths of local residents are found inside. One such crime is the murder of his own wife, supposedly by the husband of an old girlfriend, Katie, who is now the publisher of the local newspaper. Before long the Chief realizes that the murderer is targeting people who have a relationship with Jake himself and so he must solve the crimes quickly before the remaining predictions become reality. In the process of tracking down the killers,

he and Katie relight old flames and then he becomes the chief suspect for the murders. When Katie's life is put in danger, it ups the ante for Jake and he must take a lot of risks to bring down the villain before even worse things happen.

Although I love good thrillers, I can't say I was a fan of this one.

First of all the characters are not just one-dimensional they are emotionally weird. Although protagonists such as Jack Reacher and Stone Barrington act woodenly, the emotional reactions of Jake and Katie are schizoid---they have little emotional reaction to things when their reactions should be strong and their reactions are strong when they should be weak. Jake reminded me of a teenager the way his emotions were all over the map. In general, the emotions just didn't ring true. Give me Will Robie any day.

Take one example. Jake is so upset by Katie's life being at risk that he sets a timetable for the final denouement that depends on the cavalry coming to the rescue at an exact time even though he hasn't even consulted the cavalry about their availability. Now, Katie has been in the same dangerous situation for several days, so why risk everything going wrong by setting things up to happen in ninety minutes instead of two hours? The Chief often gets really irritated over things that shouldn't set him off that much, like the author is trying to show us by this that Jake is upset. His rants, however, take longer than whatever delay he is complaining about.

There were a lot of little things that drove me crazy about the characters and the plot. Some are very minor. Like the fact that, although I'm not sure of their ages, it seemed as though the couple were in the late part of their childbearing years. Yet neither had children nor mentioned why not when a lot of less important information than that is presented. And I got tired of Jake bitching and moaning about his being heralded a war hero. Seemed sort of petty to me.

One of the big things that bothered me is the fact that a lot of people, including the FBI, start believing Jake is the killer without ever checking to see whether he has an alibi for any/all of the killings. Clearly he does for at least some of the important ones but does anyone even ask him about them? Nooo.

Another example of the kind of thing that bothered me related to the reporter's informant. He had used the woman in the past to obtain information about non-serious police issues. But the source continues to help the reporter during the investigation even though she has a crisis of conscience about doing so since it could jeopardize the investigation. So, why does she continue to help him? No good reason is ever given.

By half way through I guessed who the villain was although I didn't guess some of the other facts about his actions, including his reason for doing what he did. And there was a pretty good red herring along the way.

Although I don't expect great literature, a perfect plot, or really deep characters in my thrillers, I really found this one unsatisfying on almost every level other than decent writing mechanics and a certain amount of tension.

Marilee says

I really, really like David Rosenfelt's Andy Carpenter series. He tried to break out here with something new, with an entirely new set of characters, and completely fell flat. It didn't feel like his writing at all. The plot felt forced, it was unimaginative, and was without a trace of wit. Andy Carpenter has snark. Reading this is

like eating a bowl of oatmeal without the brown sugar and berries.

Barbara Bryan says

Quick read kept interest but in the end so far fetched and silly.

Judy says

Good captivating read, that I found difficult to put down.

Ron says

Very good story. Tight writing. Even though Jake Rollins is former MP, he is more reachable than Jack Reacher. This is a page turner and it hangs together until the end.

Jennifer says

I won this book via the goodreads giveaway. I loved it!! I would have read it in one sitting if I could. It was so fun to read, fresh and original. I was on the edge of my seat, especially at the very end. The main character, Jake Robbins, maintained his cool through out, with a smooth confidence that I envy. There was just the right amount of everything. I had no idea what to expect, every twist and turn was unpredictable. Two thumbs up!!

Paul Pessolano says

“Without Warning” by David Rosenfelt, published by Minotaur Books.

Category – Mystery/Thriller Publication Date – March 25, 214

Jake Robins, decorated war hero, and Chief of Police of a small town has got some big problems. It seems his wife was murdered by his high school sweetheart’s husband. Although this has happened several years ago it now becomes an issue due to a flood.

A time capsule that was buried by the town has become unearthed due to the flood and when it is opened it contains some dire predictions.

The predictions, not only foretell Jake’s wife’s murder, but contains eleven other predictions of more deaths. As the predictions come true Jake realizes that all the deaths have something to do with him. Jake must look at the predictions and try to solve the riddle of the prediction and identify the next victim. He also finds himself battling the local newspaper that seems to have an upper hand on the developments of the case and there is a possible security leak in his own department.

Jake pulls himself off the case because of his personal involvement and hands it over to the FBI. This works in Jake's favor because now he can pursue the case without interference from outside sources. Jake, who has revived his feelings for his high school sweetheart, receives a phone call from her telling him that she has been kidnapped. In a race against time, Jake must find her and unknowing to him, at the time, is also in a race to prevent a major disaster.

A nice mystery that can be enjoyed by everyone, but may be a disappointment for Rosenfelt followers because this is a stand alone mystery that does not include his Andy Carpenter character of his previous ten novels.

Rich Wagner says

I liked this book as it was an easy read ,a page turner.The problem I had was that it seemed a bit predictable and a bit over the top and unbelievable. If you are looking for a book that you can burn a few hours on without having to analyze too much ,this is a good choice.

Judy Collins says

WITHOUT WARNING by David Rosenfelt is one with a smart serial killer in a small town of Maine, and a time capsule containing buried secrets which predict crimes in the future, which some have come true.

Jake Robbins, a war hero and police chief of this small town— after returning from Afghanistan to Wilton, where he grew up. His wife, Jenny, was murdered by Roger, the publisher of the local paper, with whom she was having an affair. Roger was murdered in prison, leaving his wife, Katie, to assume control of the paper.

After a hurricane destroys a Wilton, Maine dam and Katie, and her staff unearth a time capsule which was buried nearly five years earlier to check for water damage (was not to be opened until 50 yrs. later in the future). They are shocked to discover skeletal remains and a set of predictions about future crimes, including the murder of the wife of police chief, Jake Robbins.

Some of those murders—like Jenny's—have already taken place, but others have not, and Jake must resolve the mystery before more people are killed.

To further complicate the suspense, months after the capsule's burial, Katie's husband allegedly killed Jake's wife. There are many other weird predictions about an unsolved arson case and murders. In addition, Katie and Jake were high school sweethearts so they have a past.

The clues turn to Jake, as he seems to be front and center and main suspect in the crimes (people are getting killed and the hits are targeting himself, when other people step in the way). Someone is out to frame him as he attempts to put together the cryptic clues in order to remain alive and solve this crime mystery.

While investigating these clues offer proof a murder could not be committed by the person charged, as this man was killed in prison. Some of the murders have not taken place, so a race to find the real killer before more devastation.

While this was my first book by Rosenfelt—the audiobook narrated by Jeff Steitzer was engaging; with a bit of humor mixed in. However, a negative—the women’s voices were hard to differentiate and not a lot of character depth or development, so did not connect fully. Kate was totally lacking a personality leaving it a little forced.

<http://judithdcollins.booklikes.com/p...>

Marsha Hubbell says

I am a huge fan of David Rosenfelt, particularly his Andy Carpenter series. Without Warning is a stand-alone, and a stand out! Truly a fun ride, packed with suspense, action and surprises galore.

Ex-vet hero turned small town police chief, Jake Robbins, is called to the scene following a hurricane after a time capsule is opened 46 years early revealing a dead body and murderous predictions. Jake soon learns he’s not only fighting for his life, but for someone else he cares a great deal about. As the dominoes fall, the race to discover who’s behind it grows more deadly.

I’m going to keep this review short, as I would hate to ruin the shocks, and the fun, ahead. Let me just say, it’s an intelligent, fast-paced, can’t put it down, thrilling who-done-it! Fans of Rosenfelt will not be disappointed as we await the next Andy Carpenter sequel. New readers will soon become fans.
