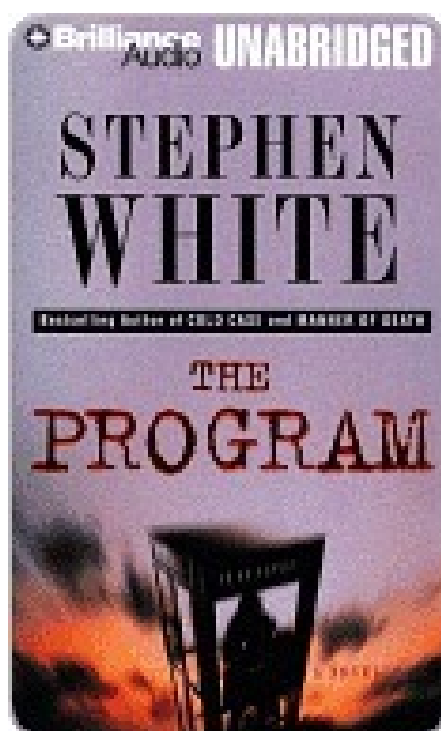




The Program

Stephen White

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The Program safeguards the truth, but when **The Program** has a hidden agenda, the protected become the hunted

With his nuanced psychological insight, inscrutable plotting, and a captivating lead character that parallels Jonathan Kellerman's Alex Delaware, Stephen White's Alan Gregory novels have become perennial national bestsellers. But, with **The Program**, White has challenged himself and honed his craft with remarkable assurance to create a rare breed of thriller. A dazzling mix of first-person and omniscient voices rewards readers with an irresistible narrative momentum. But the heart and soul of the novel is an indomitable woman reevaluating the seemingly innocuous choices she's made in the past while confronting the horrifying circumstances that threaten her family's future survival.

"Every precious thing I lose, you will lose two." **The Program** begins with a condemned man's last words to New Orleans District Attorney Kirsten Lord. After her husband is gunned down in front of her, Lord has no choice but to flee the wrath of the murderer's vengeance. Lord pulls up stakes, changes her name, and accepts the Witness Protection Program's offer to hide her and her young daughter in Boulder, Colorado. Soon thereafter, they are befriended by Program veteran Carl Luppo, a solitary mob assassin tormented by his former life who has nothing but time for regret.

Sensing that someone inside the program has compromised Lord and her daughter's safety, Luppo takes on the role of sentinel, fully realizing that this may be his last shot at redemption. Even though Lord suspects that Luppo's warnings about the Program's dark side are justified and that she should believe the former hit man's instincts, the only people she can really trust are her nine-year-old daughter and perhaps her Program-appointed psychologist Alan Gregory.

The Program Details

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Author : Stephen White

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Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Suspense, Thriller, Mystery Thriller

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From Reader Review The Program for online ebook

Kristina Faricelli says

Definitely worth becoming sleep deprived over! Try as I might, I could not find a good spot to stop reading so I could go to bed. I was hooked from page one and just when I thought Kristen couldn't possibly get herself into deeper trouble she proved me wrong.

There's a part in the book (not a spoiler) where I was on the edge of my seat and I wanted to close my eyes so I wouldn't have to read what was going to happen next!!! I believe I woke my husband a couple of times by commentating a little too loud as he was trying to sleep beside me.

Besides Kristen my favorite character in the book was Carl. I never thought I'd be rooting for a hitman but alas it's true!

Adrienne Campbell says

I'm a big fan of Stephen White's "Alan Gregory" series. The writing is clear and concise and the characters are people you'd like to get to know. White draws you in to the story by allowing you to see and experience the life of psychologist Alan Gregory's patients.

This time Alan has two new patients both of whom are in the Witness Protection Program. They are not supposed to meet or even be aware of the other.

The first, DA Kristen Lord who has already seen her husband gunned down. She is living in fear with her young daughter and not just in fear of the ruthless man she prosecuted (who swore in court he would kill everyone she loved) but in fear of the program. In the past she was outspoken in her criticism of the Witness Protection Program and there are many who believe she should not be helped and even those who would like to see her killed.

Then there is the case of a man she prosecuted in Florida who is now sitting on death row. She has misgivings about the proof provided by the police who investigated the case and wonders now if and how she should speak out about her thoughts.

The second patient is a man called Carl Lupp, a hit man who turned states evidence to save his own skin. He has been in The Program for a while and has learned the routine and by observation a lot about his "keepers". He knows Dr. Gregory is a temporary player in The Program and has been assigned other WPP clients. He waits and watches until he discovers the identity of Kristen Lord.

A strange and sometimes strained friendship develops between the Kristen and Carl as well as Kristen's daughter.

Another great addition to the series is the location - Boulder, Colorado, where Dr. Gregory's wife Lauren (who happens to have MS) is a deputy district attorney for Boulder County. She always adds a bit of spice to the story with her wry sense of humor.

Shawnee Bowlin says

This was the first Stephen White book I've read. I was impressed. He caught and held my attention. I felt the bond with the characters and was interested to see how their stories played out. I was only a little disappointed in the ending, but only because I had hopes of a romance happening with two of the characters. However, Mr. White did a wonderful job.

Dustin Crazy little brown owl says

The Program was featured as a June 2012 Group Read in the Stephen White - Alan Gregory group. I am also having this book meet the Summer 2012 Reading Challenge in the Dare to Dream Group.

The Program meets the following requirement:

August is National Immunization Awareness Month

Read a book this summer in which a CHARACTER GETS SHOT

Some favorite parts later in the book:

Immediately my introverted daughter asked Carl, "He's a boy, right? Why doesn't he have any balls?" Carl looked at Landon with a critical eye. The he said, "Oh, Anvil has balls, my little friend. He just doesn't have any nuts."

-The Program, Chapter 9

And the memorable pick-up stick story:

Lauren raised her cell phone. "Don't worry, it's not a big deal. She's always late. This time she got called to the hospital to remove a pickup stick from an eleven-year old boy's penis." She held up a hand as though she were about to be sworn in as a witness. "I kid you not. How's your daughter feeling?"

I could hear Landon all the way from the backseat of the car as she said, "Oh, that's gross."

I couldn't help wincing at the pickup-stick story myself. I answered Lauren. "Landon's uncomfortable, but she'll feel better as soon as she gets some antibiotics. I'm sure she's feeling better than the little boy with the pick up stick in his...penis. Thanks for asking."

-The Program, Chapter 10

Jodi says

This may have been the best Alan Gregory book to date, which is interesting because he is not the primary character. In fact, though the book is primarily first person, it isn't from, his point of view. Alan is called in as a replacement therapist for people in what we think of as the witness protection program. One of his

patients, a former prosecutor, is under death threats from a drug dealer she put away. That's par for the course, only her husband was killed in a professional hit and someone tried to kidnap her daughter. But what if those things had nothing to do with the case at hand? It's a very complex and captivating thriller. In Gregory's personal life, Lauren, his wife, is due to give birth, and what I like about Alan as a therapist is that he is also very human. He wants to help his patients but not as much as he values the safety of his wife.

Emona says

They promised you'd be safe. They were wrong!

A real page-turner with a twist of suspense of the first order - sinister and scary!
Constructed with the dexterity of a surgeon and the sensitivity of a psychologist, I don't think I've read a better-crafted novel, as yet!

Elizabeth says

fun read, not exactly pulitzer prize winning writing, but most of the book takes place in Boulder, CO, so it was fun to read and recognize places I've been.

Ed says

#9 in the Alan Gregory series. The Program (2001) is one of the more memorable entries in the series. Alan treats two members of the Witness Protection program and they will become recurring characters for the next dozen years.

Dr. Alan Gregory is asked to take over a couple of delicate cases temporarily treating members in the Witness Protection Program. Kristen Lord, a Florida prosecutor witnessed the execution of her husband. Her need for protection stems from a threat made by a lowlife she sent to prison. Dr. Gregory's other patient is Carl Luppó, a hit man turned informant.

Lorna says

The Program centers on former New Orleans prosecutor forced to enter the Witness Protection Program with her 9-year old daughter following the murder of her husband in the French Quarter. As she watches in horror, she recalls the threat that was made across the defense table, *"Remember this, 'every precious thing I lose, you lose two.'"* Kirsten Lord and her daughter enter The Program and are relocated to Boulder, Colorado. Dr. Alan Gregory, covering temporarily for a colleague, agrees to conduct psychotherapy for Ms. Lord and an ex-Mafia hit man as part of their witness protection program. Against the rules, Carl Luppó befriends Kirsten Lord because he is concerned that her safety has been compromised and takes it upon himself to protect her as well. It was a fast and entertaining read.

Maicie says

Maeve Maddox, who writes for www.dailywritingtips.com, defines the mystery/thriller/suspense genre as:

mystery: the main character is occupied in tracking down the truth about an event, usually a murder. If the protagonist is in any danger, it is usually moderate, and becomes a problem only as the detective approaches the truth.

thriller: the protagonist is in danger from the outset.

suspense: the main character may become aware of danger only gradually. In a mystery, the reader is exposed to the same information as the detective, but in a suspense story, the reader is aware of things unknown to the protagonist. The reader sees the bad guy plant the bomb, and then suffers the suspense of wondering when or if it will explode.

This has nothing to do with my review. I just thought it was interesting.

This was my first Stephen White book, which is amazing because the author lives in Colorado. It's always fun to read books with references to places and things that are familiar. The Program takes place in Boulder (aka the Republic of Boulder) where I grew up. My first job was as a server in the dining hall at Chautauqua Park; I bought my children toys at Grand Rabbits and my grass on The Hill. (Don't get excited; everyone was high in the seventies.)

I better write something about the book. I picked it up because I needed a book for a challenge where "the primary character...adopts an alternate identity." The main character in The Program is in the Witness Protection Program/WITSEC. Perfect! However, the book starts out as a mystery...not my favorite genre but I stuck with it to fulfill the challenge. Well, it soon turned into a darn good thriller/suspense story.

This is #9 in the Alan Gregory series but I had no problem with the story so you don't need to read the first eight books to understand The Program. Another interesting thing is, while this is an Alan Gregory book, his character plays a relatively small part in the novel. I found this refreshing. I tend to avoid series because so many of them have to be read in consecutive order and I usually get tired reading about one character over and over again. (I loved the Potter books but I was getting a little annoyed with Harry at the end. I spent more time with him than I did my own children.)

I plan to read more Stephen White. I hope his other books are more thriller/suspense and less mystery. I'll let you know.

Christine says

I have to say this has been the best Alan Gregory book I have read so far. I don't give out five stars often, especially when I have read 10 books in the series so far. I think the most interesting thing about this book is it was written from the point of view of another character and not that of Alan Gregory. I think that is what I like about Stephen White's writing of this series is that he does change it up from time to time and keeps his

characters and his stories interesting. I am a huge fan of the recently ended TV Show In Plain Sight about the Witness Security Program, WITSEC for short. So when I saw this book was about that, I had some preconceived notions of what the marshalls were like and their witnesses. Boy, was I in for another view of this "sainted" program. The book makes you wonder who the good guys really are and that when a knight in shining armor comes to your rescue, he may be a bit of a wiseguy.

Judy Churchill says

I've read a number of White's novels and with the exception of "The Siege", this is the best. I couldn't put it down. What would you do if you were desperate? If your life and your child's life were threatened? This book expands common definitions of many things and many people. Definitely worth a read.

Nyah Rust says

Personal Response: This book was not really what I expected it was okay though

Plot Summary: Kirsten Lord was the D.A assistant in New Orleans and when she took up a case with a very angry man who threatens her that she will loose everything he does times two, She disregards the remark until She is going to have lunch with Her Husband and He is shot right in front of her by the man wearing chinos and the windbreaker held at a funny angle over his arm. Kirsten and her daughter are put in witness protection and are given new names and a new home in Slaughter, Louisiana and Kirsten is very cautious of her and her daughter and the one friend her daughter has made. When the friends mother calls about strange men in an SUV like she was told to do by Kirsten and she is accused by the friend later on when Amy her daughter is almost kidnapped by some strange lady and then they move to colorado where everything goes south Kirsten meets Carl and he helps her run from the people trying to kill her and the retired hit man helps her live when the witness protection program does not help he kills and almost gets himself killed for her and he kills for her and the both of them feel a connection with each other on a higher level than friends but nothing happens and her daughter realises this and says nothing but that she likes Carl and his dog Anvil. When Carl gets shot for Kirsten and Amy she feels sad because she can not ever see him and thank him in person but when he calls she answers and is happy that she got to know he was okay and that she got to thank him and all is good no one is trying to kill Kirsten or Amy and they continue to live in Colorado in happiness

Recommendation: I would recommend this book to people who like okay, just plain okay endings not to happy or sad.

Jacquelyn Keller says

I loved this book. It was really interesting and exciting. It had lots of twists and turns on every page. The plot of the story is about a prosocuter named Kristen whos husband is killed because of a promise a man once made to her. After her husband is killed she is on the run and goes into hiding.

This book is definatly a thriller. I didn't want to put it down. The theme would be things that you've done to other people usually come back to haunt you sometime in life.

Their is rising action throughout the whole story and it keeps you guessing until the very last page. Their are many different conflicts that the main character (Kristin) has with many different people. The mood is very intense and high energy. A person who might like this book is someone who likes thriller books and likes to be surprised.

Lash says

This story was so good, about halfway through I couldn't stop reading.

I find it interesting the difference in writing styles. Elvis Cole stories move fast, I am out of breath often.

Alan Gregory stories are not as fast paced, yet I am still left short of breath.

I found myself yelling out loud as if my voice could warn the characters, or my advice would be of any use to them. In spite of my inability to help, Dr Gregory and the rest were able to function without me.

I am already dreading reaching the end of this series even as I race to read them all.
