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Jonathan Kellerman

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Troy Turner and Rand Duchay were barely teenagers when they murdered a younger child. While Troy died violently behind bars, the hulking, slow-witted Rand managed to survive his stretch. Now, at age twenty-one, he's emerged a haunted, rootless man with a pressing need: to talk—once again—with psychologist Alex Delaware. But when Rand's life comes to a brutal end, his words die with him.

LAPD homicide detective Milo Sturgis suspects that either karma or revenge caught up with Rand, but Delaware's suspicions run darker. As Delaware and Sturgis retrace their steps through a grisly murder case that devastated a community, they discover madness, suicide, and even uglier truths waiting to be unearthed. And the nearer they come to understanding an unspeakable crime, the more harrowingly close they get to unmasking a monster hiding in plain sight.

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

Rage Details

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From Reader Review Rage for online ebook

Jerry B says

Alex Delaware in great form - brainy thriller for sure!

We're big fans of J. Kellerman, but find that sometimes the Alex Delaware stories drift so far from his child psychology specialty that it's tough to believe either the action or the detective work. But in this latest "intellectual" thriller, we spend much of the time reading dialogue between Alex and cop buddy Milo Sturgis dissecting a variety of perplexing clues; their skills at finding motives and posing possibilities are tasked to the limit. The tale starts with the killing of a toddler by two tough teens. Alex interviews them to help determine whether trials as adults make sense, but a plea bargain puts them both in youth prison without courtroom proceedings. One of the youths is murdered a month later, but the other survives eight years in jail (with scars galore) and comes out wanting to talk to Alex again, presumably with new information about the murder. Before the meet can take place, this youth's murdered body turns up and the race is on to figure out what is going on. Before it's over, the toddler's parents are involved, some "spiritual advisors" and foster parents are involved, and a clever but insidious killer is eventually unearthed. The application of justice at book's end is a fascinating conclusion, even though it seemed the novel ended a bit abruptly considering how totally absorbed we were in reaching the outcome.

Kellerman has crafted an intriguing plot, one that requires plenty of cerebral work on the part of both his leading men and the reader. Unraveling the eventual truth created tremendous suspense, sustained without some of the silly cops and robbers type action of some of the other Delaware stories. Delaware's love life was mostly on vacation as well, although new love interest (and fellow doc) Allison seemed to be losing the spark. Meanwhile, long-time ex-partner Robin has returned to LA, having dumped her singer boy toy, and we're left to wonder might happen there in what is bound to be our author's next release. It sounded like a tiring Milo is having thoughts of "pulling the pin" (retiring) as well -- will he? We're more than happy to recommend "Rage" as Kellerman and Delaware in the very fine form of his earlier works -- enjoy!

Writerlibrarian says

Sometimes Kellerman gets lost in the demons he conjures up. As a reader I need to care at least a little about the victims or give me a bad guy that's charismatic so I can at least enjoy the ride. Rage is dark from beginning to end. Creepy and dark.

The Devil's waltz was creepy and dark but had a intriguing villain and plot. Rage's plot is completely crushed under all the weight of the bad and disgusting things that are revealed. This is too much reality intruding in my murder mystery for me. I have a high threshold but enough is enough. I don't mind open ended conclusion or if the bad characters get away with it. I love Minette Walters the queen of the weird endings and bad guys getting away with it for me. I mind when things don't make sense in the end.

(view spoiler)

Don't get me started on Robin. I mean, please, no. I like Allison. Robin gets on my nerves with oh, I have this new man in my life but I still want you Alex. At least Allison is honest about her desires and what she

wants. I'm a bit miffed that Kellerman is having Robin back in Alex's life. A little miffed.

aPriL does feral sometimes says

Troy Turner, elfin psychopath who looks 12 but he was a year older, and Rand Duchay, a mentally challenged youth of 14 who looked like a linebacker, decided to kidnap a two-year-old toddler from a mall and kill her for fun. Since they are seen on security videotape, the only question after they are caught is how responsible are they for their actions. Most people care very little about these kids, but the grandstanding defense lawyers have a bigger stake in the outcome than the worthless caretakers of Troy and Rand. Dr. Alex Davenport does an evaluation, but it is obvious the damage had been done when they were still babies. The California social services system for taking care of kids with incompetent or missing parents is often hit and miss, and when it is a miss, these kids only have the choices of rage.

It is 8 years later and Dr. Alex Davenport gets a midnight call. Rand is on the line. Shocked, Alex realizes Rand must have been released from the juvenile facility where he had been held. Rand wants to talk. Davenport agrees to meet him. Rand doesn't show up.

Hours later, Rand's body is found. Milo Sturgis, detective, takes the case, and Alex is riding shotgun. The little girl's parents are first on the suspect list. However, before 24 hours has passed, the list of possible killers is as long as one's arm.

If that wasn't enough mystery, Robin calls. Robin was Alex's girlfriend, but she left several books back in the series, unable to take the sadness of Alex's dark cases. Alex has a new girlfriend, Allison, an earnest honest psychologist, and they've been getting along quite well. However, Robin has Spike, their old dog, and she thinks Alex should drop by to give Spike a tummy rub since Spike is sick. Or something like that. She has split from her recent boyfriend and is all alone except for Spike.

Hmmmmmm.

Not able to stop and deal with Allison and Robin, Alex, with Milo, pursue and interview a truckload of wicked mean adults and adults who meant well and failed - but which ones are responsible for what? Not knowing Robin is in the wings waiting as her understudy, Allison is tired of Alex hanging out with Milo and forgetting he is a psychologist and not a cop.

The good doctor has a lot to think about. The only one giving Alex any joy is Milo. Oh oh. Spoke too soon. Milo is tired of his job. He can't remember working on such a depressing case. Alex wonders what Milo is planning - after all, Milo has his minimum 20 years before retirement done.

Don't it make my brown eyes blue....

The author has never written a plot without stretches and holes in the fabric of his plots, and this one isn't any different. The only changes I've noticed throughout the series is Jonathan Kellerman has made Davenport less of an avenging superhero fighting cartoon villains and more of a detective with a psychology doctorate helping Milo understand the crackpots, predict responses after interviews and poke sticks at suspects hoping they will get defensively stupid.

Readers can easily ignore the gaps of story and logic (they aren't that bad, anyway), and settle down for a fun

mystery.

Christy says

Psychologist Alex Delaware receives an unsettling phone call from Rand Duchay, a mentally challenged young man he evaluated several years before. At that time, Rand and his friend Troy Turner kidnapped and murdered a young girl, and Alex was asked by the court to determine whether the two young teenagers could be tried as adults. Rand, recently released from his imprisonment in a youth facility, asks Alex to meet him, but when Alex arrives, Rand is nowhere to be found. Very soon after that, his body is found with a bullet wound to the head. Alex manages to garner the interest of his friend, Lieutenant Milo Sturgis, and together the two try to track Rand's last moments and determine who killed him. Their investigation reveals several murders within the past years, all persons connected to the murder and kidnapping several years before.

As a reader who has followed this series, I have found the last several to be dull and apathetic. Kellerman seems to be on a better track with his latest, although there seems to be an underlying depressive element that remains. There are very few likable characters, and that includes Alex and Milo. Both are cynical and jaded and a bit supercilious. The book presents LA in the worst light, filled with illiterates and egomaniacs. Some of the characters seem to be a copy of others in prior books. The majority of scenes involving Milo and Alex have Milo stuffing his face. What? Is Kellerman on a diet? There's a hint Robin will be back in the future, but I'm not sure that will help a series that is struggling hard to remain fresh.

Gordon says

"I Find it a Bit Strange with Alex Delaware..."

The Alex Delaware series is still one that the 'jury is out on' for me at least, but does anyone else find it strange that this psychologist, no matter how decorated in the field he may be, just because he's friends with a higher up can just tag along for an initial raid into a potentially dangerous environment? I mean its one thing to bring in an expert once all said & done to look at evidence, talk to people, etc... but Alex is following Sturgis into a house that is unclear & could have an armed suspect in it & Milo is like 'Come on' like he's some sort of backup. He isn't even armed, is he gonna throw a show? honestly? who throws a shoe?

So, I've been cherry picking the series according to reviews as 'side candy' while my main dish of 'The Great Gatsby' is just like going thru school again, trying to see the metaphors, looking up words etc... This kind of book is perfect to put in between when the other gets too intense. Many other series may start somewhat slow (except Mitch Rapp) as the character is built, Davenport, Reacher, Harvath, even Robicheaux, perhaps its not the best sign I'm jumping around because the reviews are really hot & cold. But this particular one was pretty good involving real life issues that plague our foster homes & oversight of a pretty lucrative setting if u aren't in it for the children but purely business, I know about billing codes & trying to get the best of ur patients visit but if this is how children are also dealt with, I'm a bit unnerved.

Either way, its an entertaining read albeit I still have a serious misgiving that a place like L.A. would allow a psychologist to follow another cop, LT. or not around potentially dangerous, armed & dangerous felons like

its a field trip without some training & being armed but... suspension of disbelief... once again, a story that doesn't take much of my mind to read or listen to while I digest, 'The Great Gatsby', a book that is like a 7 course gourmet meal..

Suzy Black says

Most of the Alex Delaware novels tend to run into each other after reading a few - the plots are different, but it's usually just the same song, different verse. This one, however, stands out for me as one of the better ones. Maybe I was more engaged with the plot - I don't know - but I really liked this book. Two young men have murdered a toddler and after the trial and a month into his incarceration, one of the boys is murdered. After spending 8 years in a juvenile facility, the second your man is released and is murdered a week later. From there on, the plot twists and turns and comes out the other side completely altered from where it began. Good one!

Judy says

Another good Kellerman book. I really enjoy his writing and sometimes complex stories he devises. And Delaware and Sturgis are such a good team for solving mysteries. I'm not sure what is going to happen next in Delawares love life. I've read some of Kellermans later books, and am filling in with the ones I missed. So, I don't think it's absolutely necessary to read them in order. Still I usually do, and feel as though I'm following a good friend.

Kelly ... says

Alex Delaware is a child psychologist -- intelligent, calm and empathetic. Milo Sturgis is a dogged, gruff and sarcastic homicide detective. Alex is intuitive; Milo is calculated. Alex is confident; Milo is cocksure. Alex is a handsome, educated man. Milo is a massive, gluttonous man. Together they find themselves solving crimes using their unique personality traits. The best books of this series allow the differences of these two men to be amplified and to cause hilarity and tension. The best of these books do not stray from the initial premise, where they solve crimes involving children. In recent volumes it seemed that Delaware changed his specialization. Here he is back and I liked it.

A minor concern: I still do not like the relationship with Allison. She bores me, and although she is meant to be a very smart and educated woman, I find her to be submissive. She is too nice.

Michael says

Read it while babysitting grandchildren. It was fine for that. I may be a bit jaded, but I do get tired of idiosyncratic types that are supposed to charm us with their flaunting of flouting convention. Nevertheless, there is enough plot to sustain interest through the book.

I am pretty sure that I have read other Kellerman books (by Jon or Faye), but I only remember this one

because I read it last week.

Ed says

Kellerman is back. This story is a real grabber and one I could hardly put down.

Faced with talking to a young man he's done a psychological profile on years ago, Alex Delaware shows up only to be stood up. Later the young man, a slightly retarded hulk of a guy, is murdered. Alex enlists his friend, Milo Sturgis, to help him find out what happened. In the process, he discovers there are very evil things being done in plain sight by people pretending to be what they aren't. The search for and uncovering of the truth drives the plot and kept me hooked through the entire book.

As in most of Kellerman's stories the characters are drawn with a great deal of detail. My only problem with them is that it is sometimes difficult to believe that people can be as horrible as some of the ones in Kellerman's books. Then I read the morning paper and realize that even described in the spare, journalistic style that there are people who really commit acts that defy any kind of rational explanation.

The book also contains a sub-plot describing how Delaware is trying to get through his break-up with ex-lover, Robin. He has a new girl friend, Allison, but it's fairly clear that the relationship won't last and that it is inevitable that at some point Alex and Robin will try again. Interestingly, it does not detract from the main plot but rather enhances it.

The story's conclusion is surprising but satisfying. I'm looking forward to my next encounter with Alex Delaware.

Rumeur says

This is not the first Alex Delaware I've read, nor will it be my last, but I was quickly drawn into the book loving about the first 150 pages or so---then it was repetitive and boring!! I would've easily given this 4 stars but with what I just wrote plus the fact I hated the ending---this brought it down to 3 stars, thinking if possibly only 2!

As another reviewer wrote, I'm not impressed not do I care about driving directions in California or any place else. He makes much "filler" to describe street names, directions and speed etc. if I did live there, I'd probably not know if these were real ways to go, but I also wouldn't care. It makes for boring reading and unnecessary filler which should've been put more wisely on a better ending?

Robyn says

The Book

A two year old girl goes to the mall with her mother, where she is then taken and later murdered. The alleged perpetrators are two troubled boys; Troy and Rand. Alex is asked to assess both boys for their trial. Both boys are convicted and sentenced. Unfortunately it seems the wheel turns; Troy is murdered while still

behind bars. Rand meets the same fate on the very evening he calls Alex 8 years later. The bodies are piling up sending Alex and Milo on another race-against-time investigation.

My Thoughts

I am a huge fan of Jonathan Kellerman, I find his writing to be captivating, his books seldom leave me disappointed or with any sense of needing more.

Rage had me expecting much the same as other books, but turned out to be far more than that. It is dark, chilling and bordering on depraved. I will warn my fellow bibliophiles that there is a potentially huge trigger - child abuse. While it does take some time for this to come through in the book, there's a fairly obvious lead on to it though nowhere near sufficient in letting the reader know just what they're in for.

As usual, I thoroughly enjoyed Alex and Milo's interactions. I find Milo was slightly more enjoyable as a character in Rage, I'm not sure exactly what it is but he seemed far more... human? likeable? Either way there was a change I felt in him which was great.

Jonathan does an awesome job of portraying his characters in a realistic manner which I always appreciate and enjoy.

And interesting dynamic was that of Alex and his beau. They crash heads in a most unlikely way and I enjoyed the potential for investigating the impact of the psychology profession on two trained individuals in a relationship.

Do I feel like the book closed well? I'm still not sure. I appreciate the open ending we're given as there isn't the usual arrest and closure for the reader, but it still felt weird from what I am used to reading. There is a fairly well configured closure for the characters though, one I sort of expected, but didn't at the same time.

I am so looking forward to completing my collection of the Delaware series!

Miranda says

I love the Alex Delaware books. This one was meh. Not horrible, but it didn't cruise along at fast a pace as previous Alex Delaware novels I've read. Nothing really stood out for me in this novel, other than something Alex said about religion. "Some people are attracted to religion because they're struggling with forbidden impulses." That resonated with me. And it explained a lot about the Bible-thumping perv Drew Daney, whom Alex and his cop pal Milo spent the novel tracking and suspecting. What became of Cherish or Barnett? Who knows. The novel just ended without resolving where they ran off to. This novel started about two teen-agers who killed a toddler, but soon evolved into a pervy foster father who diddled his wards. Was Rand as guilty in the murder of Kristal as Troy? Who knows. Rand was killed before he could talk to Alex. By whom? Again...who knows. Maybe Drew. Maybe Barnett. Was Barnett Kristal's biological father? There's a lot of questions that didn't get answered, but that makes the plot seem like reality. How often do things elude answers in real life? Far too frequently.

Nancy says

Years ago a toddler was kidnapped and killed by two teenagers who seemed to have done it for a thrill. It

appeared to be an open and shut case, and the more remorseless of the two died in jail. When the other young man is released from jail years later, he reaches out to Dr. Alex Delaware who had initially evaluated him, but he himself soon dies suspiciously. Alex and Milo work together to solve the case, and discover a depraved individual who preys on young vulnerable women (mostly in foster care) and his twisted way of controlling them that leads back to the toddler and her killers.

Alasandra Alawine says

Alex receives a phone call from a former patient who has just been released from prison. Rand wants to talk to Alex about the death of the toddler he went to prison for killing. Before Alex can meet with him Rand is found dead. The prime suspect is the toddler's "Father", but then several things come to light.

The other teenager (Troy) involved in the murder was killed in the Juvenile Detention Center he was sentenced to shortly after he was sentenced, after saying something about getting "rich" when he got out. His Mother was murdered shortly thereafter, the Mother of the toddler supposedly committed suicide and the teen who was suspected of killing Troy was murdered shortly after he got out of Juvie just like Rand was. It's beginning to look more and more like someone is trying to hide something about the toddler's death.

With few clues to go on Alex and Milo start to dig into the lives of the "religious" couple (Drew and Cherish) that were Troy and Rand's spiritual counselors and who gave Rand a place to stay after he was released from Juvenile Detention. Alex notes how much like a harem the house appears to be as the couple only foster teenage girls. And more and more things about Drew disturb Alex. Soon it is uncovered that Drew is getting the teenagers pregnant and then forcing them to abort. And when Alex realizes that the toddler's Father couldn't have fathered her he wonders what would happen if Drew got a married woman pregnant who refused to abort...
