

A Cold Day in Paradise *by* Steve Hamilton



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Reviews of the *A Cold Day in Paradise* *by* Steve Hamilton

Vikus

I read this book when it first came out and recently read the latest installment. It had been so long that I decided to go back and reread the first. Alex hasn't changed much since this book, he's still tormented and obsessed with his own sense of loss (which he never seem to try to shake, he just goes through the routine of woe-is-me over and over). This one won the Edgar award and features a pair of psychos that border on serial killer cliché (though they are not serial killers) but I think that my rereading suffers from all the other books that came out at the same time that had that crazy killer as a stock piece feel. The setting is interesting in Upstate Michigan, Chief Maven is still a complete jerk, and Alex has his first lost love (which will continue to be a theme for the rest of the series). He doesn't come across as very likable and the constant fits of rage and depression got a bit wearing, but this is still a good read maybe just a little dated. and you can't blame a 20 year old book for that. if you like Hamilton I suggest the Lock Artist, that was a great book.

Thabel

Story was unusual, made me curious, wanted to keep reading. The character of Alex needs some more depth, more sides to him. I would have preferred less angry outbursts on so many occurrences from him but he is supposed to be a tough guy, so he resorts to what seems juvenile behavior. There was good tension building and interesting characters except for Sylvia who's behavior verged on crazy. That relationship was not developed. Over halfway through the book, I guessed that not all the characters are what they seemed. Would read more of this series but having better character development would be an improvement.

Shomesht

This is the first Alex McKnight story and it is a good one. When watching all the superhero movies of late, I enjoy the background story more than the fighting scenes that build to the climax. I know how those storylines are going to unfold, but discovering the beginning is always more interesting, more revealing and more dramatic. Steve Hamilton has done a nice job introducing the world to a new character while also telling a decent tale. Even for a hardboiled detective story, there are a few unexpected plot twists. I also appreciate that the Hollywood-inevitable-ending story that society expects does not happen. I like the relationships with the lawyer and the former mistress, in particular. As a Canadian from Toronto, I can appreciate the setting - the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. This may be the most daring of Hamilton's decisions: a reluctant, would-be private investigator based in an unexpected locale. Not a lot of sexiness here. Paradise is no San Francisco or LA, which means the story and the writing has to be that much stronger to appeal to the reader. It is as though Hamilton puts himself behind the eight ball right away. But, it works. McKnight spent summers in the town and by the time of this this book has lived up north for more than a decade, but there is still a distance that separates him from the locals. A Cold Day in Paradise is the first outing for Alex McKnight. If you are like me, then you take comfort in a series that tells the stories of a single protagonist. You get to know him, and you develop a relationship with him. His adventures become a part of your subconscious. This first book with McKnight is a great start to a series.

Yggdi

I am not sure why this book won the Edgar award. I enjoyed it but was not happy with the abrupt ending. The way the author wrapped up the story at the end in a few sentences seemed too calculated to be believable. I enjoyed the book until two thirds of the way through; that's when it started to seem like the story became rushed, as if the author wanted everything tied up neatly and disposed of. I was disappointed because he has a great style of writing. You can easily picture the main character and follow his narration.

Ueledavi

I'm not usually one for detective stories, but when I went in search of another Steve Hamilton book I stumbled upon "A Cold Day In Paradise", and decided to give a try. I was pleasantly surprised with this book. After a slow start in the first 40 pages, this became an intriguing mystery I could not put down. This wasn't a classic detective mystery where the story revolved around mundane interviews, which I don't prefer. Instead, this was a mystery where the main character happened to be a detective, one who a crazed murderer was determined to kill.

When Alex received a call from a friend that he stumbled upon a murder, Alex was suddenly drawn into an intricate web of death and deceit. I liked that Alex struggled to resolve the bizarre events that took place. Hamilton's main characters always seem to have a hint of arrogance and a healthy sense of humor, which make them enjoyable and believable! Those traits were present in this book, and I liked Alex from the beginning. The writing was excellent because it was straightforward and descriptive. In the end, the mysteries were all resolved, well mostly. The identity of the true villain was twisted, just what I've come to expect from this author.

I loved this one! I've already put the rest of the series on my list of books to read.

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Kigul

I know this book received the Edgar Award in 2000 but I can't believe it was earned. None of the characters is likable. The anti-hero, who was a policeman who had been shot, doesn't appear to be someone trained in law enforcement. The book starts years later. He didn't once behave intelligently in the first half of the book when I gave up hope. and stopped reading.

gorik

If you're from Michigan or any of the colder state or Canada, you'll appreciate the humor and imagery. Overall, the book really drew me in with the style of writing and the main character's voice. However, the Columbo presentation of how it all went down at the end was a let down. I would much rather have had the story lead me through what happened rather than tell me at the end.

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