

A Cold Day in Paradise: An Alex McKnight Novel (Alex McKnight Novels)

By Steve Hamilton

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When first published, *A Cold Day in Paradise* won both the Edgar and Shamus awards for Best First Novel, launching Steve Hamilton into the top ranks of today's crime writers. Now, see for yourself why this extraordinary novel has galvanized the literary and mystery community as no other book before it....

Other than the bullet lodged near his heart, former Detroit cop Alex McKnight thought he had put the nightmare of his partner's death and his own near-fatal injury behind him. After all, the man convicted of the crimes has been locked away for years. But in the small town of Paradise, Michigan, where McKnight has traded his badge for a cabin in the woods, a murderer with the same unmistakable trademarks appears to be back. McKnight can't understand who else would know the intimate details of the old murders. And it seems like it'll be a frozen day in Hell before McKnight can unravel truth from deception in a town that's anything but Paradise.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
Doing their best to ensure the future of the genre, St. Martin's Press and the Private Eye Writers of America give out an award every year for the Best First Private Eye Novel. The 1997 winner was this splendidly evocative work by IBM employee Steve Hamilton, which takes just about every cliché in the field and turns it inside out. Yes, Alex McKnight was an athlete in his youth--but a minor league baseball player, not a top pro forced out by injury. And yes, he was a cop in Detroit before he moved up to the town of Paradise on the shores of Lake Superior--but even this overused genre icon is made believable by the details of a particularly bloody shootout. In Paradise, Alex runs a hunting camp built by his late father and only drifts into private investigations because of two friends, a persuasive lawyer and a local millionaire with a gambling problem who needs his help. When two bookmakers are murdered and the millionaire disappears, all the signs point to the psychopath who killed McKnight's partner and left a slug near Alex's heart 14 years before. The only problem is that this man has definitely, positively been in prison ever since. You might figure out the plot twists a page or two before McKnight does, but don't bet the farm on it. And the deep layer of details that Hamilton provides about life in this bleak part of the world add to the book's many pleasures. --*Dick Adler*

From Publishers Weekly
Hamilton combines clear, crisp writing, wily, colorful characters and an offbeat locale (Michigan's Upper Peninsula) in an impressive debut. Alex McKnight is a retired Detroit cop living in Paradise, Mich., on disability with a bullet next to his heart. He rents cabins to hunters and has recently taken out a private-detective license at the suggestion of Lane Uttley, a local lawyer. The book begins fast, with a lot of background deftly woven into the narrative. At a local bar, the lawyer's former investigator accuses Alex of stealing his business. Later, Edwin Fulton, the scion of a wealthy Detroit family and a compulsive gambler, calls Alex from a nearby motel where he has found the murdered body of his bookie. After Edwin's strong-willed mother hires Alex to protect the family, another local bookie is murdered and Edwin disappears, prompting Alex and the lawyer to start a search of their own. Meanwhile, Alex receives letters and calls that appear to be from the Detroit man who shot him and whom the then-cop had helped send to prison for life without parole 14 years ago. Hamilton cleverly joins the plots, leaving but one disappointment: how long it takes Alex to learn to place his trust in others with care. (Sept.) FYI: This book won the Private Eye Writers of America/St. Martin's Press Award for Best First Private Eye Novel of 1997.
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From Library Journal
This story of a Detroit cop who moves to a woodsy Michigan town but can't escape murder won St. Martin's 1997 award for Best First Private Eye Novel, then 1999 Shamus and Edgar awards. Nick Sullivan will do the narration.
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Terry Dansby:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing

for us to learn everything in the world. Each book has different aim as well as goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They are reading whatever they take because their hobby is reading a book. How about the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book once they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will want this A Cold Day in Paradise: An Alex McKnight Novel (Alex McKnight Novels).

Margaret Pinson:

What do you consider book? It is just for students since they're still students or the item for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Simply you can be answered for that question above. Every person has different personality and hobby for each other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't need do that. You must know how great and also important the book A Cold Day in Paradise: An Alex McKnight Novel (Alex McKnight Novels). All type of book is it possible to see on many solutions. You can look for the internet sources or other social media.

Arthur Bailey:

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Jeanette Williams:

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