



Devil's Waltz (Alex Delaware Novels)

By Jonathan Kellerman

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The doctors call it Munchausen by proxy, the terrifying disease that causes parents to induce illness in their own children. Now, in his most frightening case, Dr. Alex Delaware may have to prove that a child's own mother or father is making her sick.

Twenty-one-month-old Cassie Jones is bright, energetic, the picture of health. Yet her parents rush her to the emergency room night after night with medical symptoms no doctor can explain. Cassie's parents seem sympathetic and deeply concerned. Her favorite nurse is a model of devotion. Yet when child psychologist Alex Delaware is called in to investigate, instinct tells him that one of them may be a monster.

Then a physician at the hospital is brutally murdered. A shadowy death is revealed. And Alex and his friend LAPD detective Milo Sturgis have only hours to uncover the link between these shocking events and the fate of an innocent child.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Kellerman's psychologist/sleuth Alex Delaware nimbly executes tricky steps of his own when called in to consult on the mysterious ailments afflicting a baby being seen at his training hospital in Los Angeles. In his seventh appearance (after *Private Eyes*), Delaware is in top form, carefully pursuing the possibility that 21-month-old Cassie Jones may be the victim of Munchausen's Disease by Proxy, a complex syndrome in which a parent, usually the mother, secretly causes the symptoms that endanger the child. That Cassie is the only grandchild of the hospital's new CEO, a corporate hotshot who has demoralized the staff with cutbacks and a new administration of "paramilitary types," adds political twists to the case's knotty psychological aspects. After a doctor involved in computer research is murdered in the hospital parking lot, Delaware calls on his friend Milo, a gay LAPD homicide cop currently serving as an input clerk. They link an earlier murder to the hospital and then key into a secret federal investigation, all the while trying to keep Cassie safe. With familiar characters, including Delaware's woodworking girlfriend Robin, and some well-developed new ones, notably the hospital's thuggish security head and an uptight pediatric nurse, Kellerman steadily turns up the suspense, reserving some surprises to spring near the end of this intricate tale, the best of recent Alex Delaware stories.

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From School Library Journal

YA-- This psychological mystery centers on a disorder called Munchausen Syndrome, in which a primary caregiver--usually the mother--inflicts harm upon her child in order to focus attention on herself as a concerned parent. The suspicion of this crime alerts Dr. Stephanie Eves to consult with her long-time friend and colleague, Dr. Alex Delaware, a retired child psychologist. So begins *Devil's Waltz*. Cassie Jones, daughter of devoted parents and beloved granddaughter of the hospital's financial savior, suffers from a variety of medical symptoms, made all the more alarming by the earlier SIDS death of her brother. As Dr. Delaware begins to unravel the mystery of Cassie's continuing medical traumas, he uncovers two related murders and a web of hospital intrigue. A surprise ending makes readers want to re-read the novel to see what clues they have missed. Fans of Alex Delaware will not be disappointed in his latest adventure.

- *Katherine Fitch, Lake Braddock Secondary School, Burke, VA*

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Review

Often, mystery writers can either plot like devils or create believable characters. Kellerman stands out because he can do both. Masterfully.

USA Today

Kellerman has shaped the psychological mystery novel into an art form.

Los Angeles Times Book Review

Jonathan Kellerman is back with [*A Cold Heart*], and it shows all the Kellerman class we have come to expect. I proclaim his best yet with every new book, but and this should be no surprise he manages to trump himself every time. . . . A bloomin good whodunit.

Wichita Falls

[A] highly successful series . . . Kellerman provides a meaty layer of interpersonal relationships beneath the surface of his plot.

Publishers Weekly

Detective fiction's best-loved shrink, handsome, intrepid, immeasurably sensitive, is in top form.

Kirkus Reviews

--The New York Times

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Derek Morton:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information currently can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even an issue. What people must be consider when those information which is in the former life are difficult to be find than now is taking seriously which one works to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take Devil's Waltz (Alex Delaware Novels) as the daily resource information.

Donna Sedillo:

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Mary Gilbert:

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Jennifer Stephens:

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