



Crush

Alan Jacobson

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In FBI Profiler Karen Vail's second adventure after the standout bestseller *The 7th Victim*, Vail finds herself in the Napa Valley where a serial killer has been crushing his victims' windpipes and leaving their bodies in caves and vineyards. But when the Crush Killer learns that an FBI profiler has joined the Major Crimes Task Force, the newfound attention emboldens him, and he engages Vail in a deadly game of cat and mouse. Although a sudden break in the case helps her zero in on the identity of the killer, she senses that something isn't right. Will she figure it out before it's too late?

In a rousing climax that has left readers breathless (and which *Publisher's Weekly* termed "a shockeroo" ending), Vail must pick up the pieces—and the carnage left behind by the Crush Killer.

Note: elements of the *Crush* storyline continue in *Velocity* (Karen Vail #3). A discounted, bundled digital edition of both novels is available.

With the killer's actions threatening the Napa Valley's multi-billion dollar industry, the stakes have never been greater, and the race to find the killer never more urgent.

And through it all, a surprise lurks...one that Karen Vail never sees coming.

Meticulously researched during years of work with the FBI profiling unit and extensive interviews with wine industry professionals, bestselling author Alan Jacobson delivers a high-velocity thriller featuring the kind of edge-of-your-seat ending that inspired Nelson DeMille to call him "a hell of a writer."

Crush Details

Date : Published July 1st 2014 by Open Road Media Mystery & Thriller (first published September 1st 2009)

ISBN :

Author : Alan Jacobson

Format : Kindle Edition 381 pages

Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Fiction, Suspense

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From Reader Review Crush for online ebook

Diane says

An excellent read, well written, and fluid. You know the identity of the serial killer from the get-go, you just don't really know who he is :)

The story line takes place in Napa Valley, California - great scenery descriptions and wine too! Nothing like having a romantic get-away in wine valley and stumbling over a dead body! Just the way I would want to vacation - not!

Mr. Jacobson spins a great tale filled with suspicions about everyone and then makes the book a cliff-hanger - ARRRRGHH! Well done Alan Jacobson, well done.

Highly recommend this book (and series) to anyone that loves a good suspenseful mystery - 2 thumbs up and 5 stars!

Mandi says

First of all, I have a problem with so much detail. The book seems to go on and on and on... My second issue is with the ending! It seems like the author had a deadline to meet and was running out of time for a good conclusion so decided to carry it to the next book so he can drag it out more. These are my reasons for taking 2 stars away.

Now my reason for giving 3 stars... The author gave a few good twist and turns in the story. Some of the things were unexpected so for my surprise he earned 3 stars.

I don't want to keep reading this series but I may borrow the next book to read the beginning so I can finish the end of this book.

Joyce says

First let me just say that as the story line went, I was at the edge of my seat, and the ending left me there. To me there was no ending and that left me very disappointed. Unless you plan on purchasing more books, don't bother reading this one. I don't like being forced to buy another book in the series, just so I can get an ending to one. I did feel that there was way too much explanation of what a profiler does and how. I could have done with less of that and more of the story.

Kristopher Mcclanahan says

Reviews Of Unusual Size

Re Karen Vail, a profiler with the FBI goes on vacation to Napa Valley and finds a recently murdered woman that may be the latest in a string of serial killings. Or is it something more complex than that?

Outstanding Well written and the characters seem to have some spunk and personality. The real reason behind the killings lingers in the background as an enticing little secret.

Unacceptable Too bad it never materializes. This book reads like the first half of a novel. Or like the author decided 4/5 of the way through writing to expand it and went back to add some little hints about the next book. It made the ending seem very anti-climactic and unfulfilling, rather than cliffhanger and awesome.

Summary Crush was an interesting book, with some characters that, though a bit stereotyped, were fun to read, but the story got crushed underfoot by the end. It concludes with a massive cliffhanger and some seriously muddled thinking that I have no interest in following up with.

Notes This is the second book in the Karen Vail series and though I was disappointed by the ending of Crush, I liked the character enough to consider tracking down the first novel.

reviewsofunusualsize.blogspot

Eileen says

After reading some of the fluff (let's just call it like it is) I've been reading, it's always hard to jump into a different genre. Once I finished the prologue, I was intrigued enough to continue reading. So why does it only get 3 stars? Well... I like a good series as much as the next girl (evidenced by what I've read this year), but I've never read a novel that ended as abruptly as this did! Does it make me want to run out and get Velocity (the next installment)? Yes, so to that effect, Jacobson succeeded.

Lonnie says

I felt the novel flowed fairly well until the end. However, at a point about 2/3rds of the way through wine country politics started popping up AND murders that might be tied to the politics but yet were not resolved. At the end of the book was another 'mystery' that needed to be solved but was left hanging, except for a note from the author stating it would be solved in the next book.

I usually avoid serial books because of the need to read the next book in order to find out the answer to something that was left hanging. In my opinion the best books with recurring characters sum up the current story while continuing with back story, etc. I would have rated this book higher if it hadn't been for this 'hook' towards the end.

Marie says

I couldn't wait to get my hands on this new Alan Jacobson book, but am left feeling deeply disappointed. The book starts off with a bang, lots of interesting action and serial killer mystery, but then suddenly turned into a snooze fest (at least for me) midway through the book, and I feel like the story never fully recovered. But the author's brazen ploy at the end to force us to read his next book was most insulting. I suspect the author knew he did wrong, otherwise, he would not direct all his readers to go to his crush website so he could "explain". Boo. Hiss.

Jim says

i'm seventy pages into this 400 page novel, enjoying it, then went to the author's signing. a mistake. the best thing about the autographing was the scones and the two kinds of cheesecake factory cheesecake. i may have been the only person in the audience who he didn't know and who he hadn't named a chapter after. (ironic because i bought the book because the main character's last name is the same as mine.) the book is 400 pages long and he pointed out, several times, unfinished. you need to get the next book for the end of the story. reminded me of the second Star Wars movie, Han Solo stuck in that rock-thing, Vader about to conquer the rebels and...fadeout, the end, so long suckers, see you in two years. it was cheap when George Lucas did it and i'm not going to spend three hundred more pages in this book and one hundred in the next to see if he's as creative as Lucas.

first time i can remember buying a book and the author talking me out of reading it And rueing that i'd spent money for it.

Barbara Brink says

Crush was a great thriller with lots of action, a very twisted serial killer, and an interesting (although a bit abrasive at times) female FBI profiler, who is trying to help the local police while on vacation in Napa with her boyfriend. She ends up giving most of her attention to catching the killer and her boyfriend is left on his own. The action spirals to the last page of the book--but in fact the story does not have an ending. You are left right in the middle and it was not very satisfying.

I realize the author wants you to buy the sequel, but he could have tied up a few things just by ending the book a few pages earlier. Instead he left a bloody mess at the end with no resolution.

I can't complain about the price, as I got the ebook fairly cheap, but the sequel is priced much higher and it feels a bit like extortion.

Marisa says

I liked the story line of this book but didn't find it as compelling as the first one in the series. While I understand that Jacobson needed to explain certain terms used in the FBI, police, etc. world that most ordinary people wouldn't know the meaning to, I felt like he sometimes overly explained to the point where it felt unrealistic. In the beginning of this and the last book, he made it seem like Vail's job is so out of the

ordinary that the police forces she works with don't even understand what she does. I can't imagine actual cops thinking a Profiler is someone who touches a dead body and can "see" who the killer was, like on drama tv series. I found this concept so overstated and annoying.

Also, I don't understand why 99% of the book is written in third person but then Jacobson would randomly throw in first person as Vail out of nowhere. There were a few sentences that started with "She [did x, y z]" and the very next sentence was "I thought [whatever]" where "she" and "I" were the same person. From a writing perspective that makes absolutely no sense to me and I found it extremely confusing; especially where there are multiple main characters in the story.

And alas, I can't not mention (view spoiler) While there were several things that bugged me about this book, it was a fast paced, intriguing read and overall I still liked it.

Misty says

Let me just say that this book left me going WTF. No he didnt just do that. The way Mr Jacobson ended the book made me glad I got this as a Free Friday selection. It had a horrible cliffhanger ending. I will only bother to find out how everything turns out if I get the next book free as well. I refuse to pay for the next one. Im normally not so angry about cliffhanger endings, but this one took the cake. I thought the rest of the book was OK even though Karen did so many things that I think a normal human being, even an FBI agent wouldnt do.

Darcy says

I found when I read the first book in this series I thought the story was ok, but good God how much more could happen to one woman, so then this book became a make or break book for me. Unfortunately I won't be continuing on with this series.

Karen is such a ball buster that I don't feel a whole lot of sympathy for her. She seems to bully the people around her but they like her anyway, I am not sure why. The crime in this one was ok, but the book got mired down with too much info. Set in the Napa Valley wine country was great background, but I didn't needed pages of info on the businesses, way of life, and wine. There were parts of the book that were very tech heavy too, but I couldn't tell where that made a whole lot of difference in the story. So even with a cliff hanger ending I'm giving this one up.

Jery says

I am honestly surprised to hear that this author's first novel won so many awards. I am not trying to be overtly critical, but the level of detail that he includes about minor plot details really overwhelms and bogs down the story. And reading the afterword, he apparently names characters after everyone he knows. Not that is in and of itself a bad thing - but also distracting, it feels like he's trying too hard to develop the characters.

On the plus side, I think the story would be good if the details could be more subtle. This was a Kindle freebie so at least I'm not out any money :)

Bill says

A good story is supposed to have a strong beginning, a well told middle, and a well crafted ending. Alan Jacobson failed his readers by not providing a resolution. The book just stops with the author providing a quick one-page offer that we should wait for the next book to find out what happens. The only reason for doing so is to sell the next volume, a self-serving effort by him and his publisher. They clearly don't care about the reader.

I , for one, will not purchase or read the next book. The 400+ page plot of Crush is just not that compelling and I see no reason to expect Crush 2 to improve the weak plotting and mediocre characterization. The only interesting part of the story are Napa Valley and the interesting vineyards Jacobson describes.

I am very disappointed in Alan Jacobson and his publisher in trying to pull on fast one on his fans--or in my case a former fan.

Bluedaizy says

I hated this book. If I could give it negative stars I would. I don't believe I have ever said I "hated" a book before either...I mean, who am I to judge, right? I've never tried to put pen to paper. More power to ya if you can write a book and get it published. If I didn't like a book, I figured maybe it was just me...not my cup of tea so to speak.

This book sucked. I tried to like the characters, but I had a hard time suspending my disbelief from the get go. A male author writing with a female protagonist is iffy for me but I figured I was just being sexist and kept pushing on through the pages. But I found it more and more difficult to find any of the characters believable.

I finally get to page 262 and this paragraph made the whole book grind to a halt for me, "Wirth swung his head around, then turned back, a smile broadening his face. "Great grandfather. Josef Wirth. That photo was taken in Bialystok, Poland, sometime around 1725."" O.M.G. I don't know anyone who can swing their head around without hurting themselves (unless possessed and hasn't yet had exorcism). The punctuation, WRONG! A photograph in 1725, REALLY?? I mean, REALLY??? I checked that at least 10 times before I could move on and had to keep coming back to make sure I read it right.

Granted these are probably just typos but the man has at least five pages of credits at the end of the book thanking about 100 people and apparently not one of them actually read the book. And who thanks 100 people in their acknowledgements?? kiss ass.

And DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON THE ENDING!!! UGH UGH UGH!!! I'm not going to do any spoilers, but suffice to say it ends with a note from the author encouraging you to get the next Karen Vail novel to tie the loose threads together. As if. You couldn't pay me to read the next novel.

