



A Killing Frost (River Dance, #1)

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A terrible secret haunts Dr. Jama Keith. But she must return to her past—her hometown of River Dance, Missouri—and risk exposure. She owes a debt to the town for financing her dreams. If only she can avoid ex-fiancé Terell Mercer—but River Dance is too small for that.

When Terell's niece is abducted by two of the FBI's most wanted, Jama can't refuse to help—Terell's family were like kin to her for many years. The search for young Doriann could cost Terell and Jama their lives. But revealing her secret shame to the man she loves scares Jama more than the approaching danger...

A Killing Frost (River Dance, #1) Details

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From Reader Review *A Killing Frost (River Dance, #1)* for online ebook

Kim says

I really enjoyed reading this book.

AJ says

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Book Summary—Dr. Jama Keith is forced to return to her hometown, River Dance, in order to repay the town's investment in her medical education. This wouldn't be so bad if it weren't for the Mercer family, who took her in when her mother left her father and when he, some eight years later, died. The Mercers became her foster family, and oldest-of-five Tyrell Mercer is her heart's desire. And that's the problem. Because of a bad choice in her past involving Amy Mercer, his sister, she harbors a secret that could forever distance her from the family and especially from her heart's desire. And, as if things couldn't get worse, Doriann, Tyler's niece, is kidnapped by two of the FBI's Most Wanted, and Morty Mercer, the Mercer patriarch, has a serious heart condition that could threaten his very life. And Jama Keith is, of course, at the center of each. Right alongside Tyler.

My Review—Firstly (and it's nitpicky), J-A-M-A is a Sudanese surname, so I had a hard time hearing it for a Missourian female.

Now, about the story: It was okay. My mother read it years ago and really liked it. Usually, she and I have the same taste in novels, but I just didn't feel all that enthusiastic about this one. Maybe because I really didn't warm to Jama. I admit the mystery's in this one, I didn't guess at all, but, before learning her mystery, I was bored with her game. Tyrell proposes to her, and she turns him down—without an explanation! I find this exceedingly rude. I don't know about ALL men, but it seems to me few will get to a point of proposal unless they're fairly certain your heart's his, so, for Tyrell to propose, he had to think his love was returned (and he even says this). And it is but, because of her secret, she says no. And the poor guy's stumped. And, of course, curious. And she very rudely rebuffs his desire to know her reason—each time he prods her for it.

After learning her reason, I get why she would feel he's say no, but he still deserved to know. And, once she finally DOES tell him, she wigs out because he gets upset. Duh. Of course, he's going to be upset at first (spoiler alert!)—you had a part to play in his sister's death! But that doesn't mean he'll STAY upset. He needs time to digest and adjust. It's not the reason he was expecting, so cut the guy some slack. But, in the book, Tyrell (and the authors) make it seem as if HE'S to blame for his very natural reaction. Yuck.

Still, the story, itself, was good. Except, once again, Tyrell's blamed because he, the big brother of five (seven?), told one of his little sisters that she's, basically, a negligent mother (and her husband, a negligent father) because she, Heather, shoves off her daughter, Doriann's, rearing onto her twin, Renee. Tyrell claims Heather's too busy with her medical career and gives her daughter too much leeway. Which is correct! And is proven by Doriann's kidnapping. But, of course, Tyrell's scolded for his speaking the truth to his sister and brother-in-law, Mark Streeter.

So, except for being a vehicle for beating up on the man who, as I read it, was in the right, it was a good story. Kidnapping, drugs, medicine, “ER” scenes, and drama, plus interesting characters and one very cute dog (Humphrey)—make for a good story. I suppose I’ll read the next in the series.

Grade: B+ - A-

Mary says

A new author for me. I liked the story of a girl returning to her hometown to be a doctor, but it was just a bit to unbelievable. She saves a life, reunites with her boyfriend, solves a mystery in one day!

Aimee says

was ok

Jovdb says

Dr Jama Keith returns to River Dance the town where she grew up. Her childhood was difficult: her mother, suffering from a mental illness, left her and her father, and her father died soon after. As a result, Jama was taken in by the Mercer family and brought up as their child.

Now Jama has returned, as a fully fledged doctor, she takes up her position at the newly opened clinic in town. Before the clinic is even open, her adoptive father comes to the clinic after a fall off a ladder. Jama realizes there is more going on and immediately dispatches him to hospital.

Tyrell, one of the dons in the Mercer family, has proposed to Jama, but even though she loves him, circumstances prevent her from accepting. Something tragic in Jama's past is holding her back.

Meanwhile, Tyrell's niece, Dori, has been kidnapped by drug dealers on the FBI most wanted list.

This is a romantic thriller. Jama, Tyrell, his large family, the director of the new clinic, .Ruth, and characters from the town, are interesting, multi dimensional characters.

A good start to a new series.

Tina says

Christian fiction with a slightly dark edge. Story alternates between Doriann's kidnapping and Jama's return to her childhood roots, until the two storylines become intertwined in the small town of River Dance.

Wilani Wahl says

Another great Hannah Alexander book. Romance, Suspense, Medical, and Inspiration all woven together in one story. It is well written. A couple of my favorite quotes are "Aunt Renee always said that the enemy you see today could be a brother or sister in Christ tomorrow because with God all things are possible." and "As she prayed she realized that she was thinking of reason to keep praying because she discovered that she felt closer to God. Safer. It made fear go away for a little while." I fell in love with these characters. I hope I will get to meet them again.

Bonnie Ainsworth says

This is a new author to me. Thanks to some recommendations from a book discussion group, I was told to explore the softer. This husband-and-wife team writes very good medical mysteries. I'm enjoying these books so far. I just started the hideaway series, and I'm looking forward to that. Great work

Bonnie says

Obligations, debts to pay, small town dramas, a kidnapping, and FBI investigations make up "A Killing Frost". Dr. Jama Keith returns to River Dance and immediately gets thrown into a confrontation with her former fiancé, Tyrell before the clinic even opens. First patient, his father, then his niece was abducted so there was no escaping their meeting again. Hopefully their reunion would be a pleasant one without having to reveal her secret to Tyrell. Captivating and suspenseful twists along with Doriann's faith in God's guiding hand completes another one of Hannah Alexander's great adventures!!

Debbie says

"A Killing Frost" is Christian romantic suspense. Actually, it's two stories--Doriann and the kidnappers in one storyline and Jama and Tyrell in another, and they only briefly merge at the end.

The characters were complex and acted in realistic ways. The vivid details brought the setting and characters alive in my imagination. The high suspense was created by medical emergencies, threat of physical danger to Doriann, and relationship tensions.

Doriann--the kidnapped 11-year-old--was grabbed by the bad guys while she was disobeying her parents, so she started bargaining with God that she'd never do this or that again if he'd only protect and save her. By the end, she realized that God had been taking care of her long before she started making bargains with him. One of my favorite lines was, "This was why Humphrey was a wandering dog. Because God knew that someday, this dog would need to wander here and find a freezing kid in the middle of a killing frost" (to help keep her warm). I loved Doriann's part of the story.

The Christian element was woven into the story, and it never came across to me as preachy. There was a minor amount of "he swore" style bad language. There was no sex. Over all, I'd recommend this well-written, suspenseful novel.

Claudette says

Skimmed pages a lot.

D.J. says

Hannah Alexander writes fabulous medical mysteries...

I must admit, sometimes they're just a bit difficult for me at the beginning, but this is only because they pull me into such a vivid, believable reality that I'm immediately scared and wanting to hide under my bedcovers!

A Killing Frost has a "killer beginning"! Eleven-year old Doriann has skipped school, only to be kidnapped by two crazy lunatics. It's such a great story, that only when I finished it, did I realize why much of the action at the beginning of the story actually happened. Wow!

Hannah's characters are complex, professional "real" people who are very convincing, especially the bad guys. Even the conflict between Dr. Jama Keith and Tyrell... I would never have guessed what would come up later!

I'd say more, but I'm too afraid I'd reveal something I shouldn't – and I HATE spoilers, so I'll leave you with this...

If you enjoy reading a great mystery, you have to read A Killing Frost!

Missy says

Loved this book! Great mix of mystery and suspense along w/ medical thriller. Love the writing style of this novel, too. I highly recommend it.

Kristen says

Wow- edge of seat. Nicely done.

Carol says

Rural Missouri where meth labs hide away in the hills, and where everybody knows everybody, sets the

scene for this mystery.

Dr. Jama Keith returns to her home town to work in a new medical clinic to pay off a debt to the town that paved her way. She hardly feels at home though. Her reputation for recklessness in high school shadows her right from the start. That's not the only thing shadowing her new job either. She is haunted by her past with a secrete that keeps gnawing at her heart and gets worse each time she faces the man she loves. Tyrell has come back home too. He comes to take over his family's farm and he also intends to marry Jama. That Jama can never marry this man because of the burden she carries, weighs ever more heavily as she finds herself working along side him to help solve looming tragedy.

First of all, Tyrell's Father lands at the front steps of the clinic even before it has officially opened to be treated for what later turns out to be a heart attack. In the midst of this Tyrell's 11 year old niece, Doriann, has been kidnapped by two of the FBI top wanted. They are meth addicts and wanted for murder.

The weather forecast calls for a freeze that threatens the local wine producing crops and further could kill an 11 year old girl lost in the woods, if the kidnappers don't kill her first.

And then there is Humphrey. He is a wandering dog that loosely belongs to Tyrell's family. Humphrey adds another pivot in the maze that has hit too many dead ends.

Not only is this a story about the past creating invisible barriers to life playing forward, but it is also a tale showing the devastating upshot of our drug culture's crippling effects on innocent lives.

Combined with many charges down false paths, there is the the wild card of weather that can turn an event into complete calamity in a matter of hours.

Without sugar coating the heart aches presented on each side, there runs a story of faith. There is halting faith, questioning faith, desperate faith, and faith that has struggled through the night arriving at a sense of God's greatness in all events. Herein is the faith that can clearly make a crooked way straight against all odds.
