



Black Friday

Alex Kava

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On the busiest shopping day of the year, some idealistic college students believe they're about to carry out an elaborate media stunt at the largest mall in America. They think the jamming devices in their backpacks will disrupt stores' computer systems, causing delays and chaos. What they don't realize is that instead of jamming devices, their backpacks are stuffed with explosives, ready to be detonated by remote control and turning them into suicide bombers. Caught up in a political nightmare, battling a new interim director and still mourning the death of her boss A. D. Cunningham, FBI profiler Maggie O'Dell must put her own troubles aside and fly to Minnesota to help figure out what's behind this terrorist attack--a massacre that is all the more frightening because no group has claimed responsibility.

The search becomes personal when a tip reveals that one of the college students involved is Patrick, Maggie's brother. Afraid and on the run, Patrick must decide if he can finally trust Maggie enough to help her unravel this horrifying nightmare.

Sifting through the debris for answers, Maggie is joined by Nick Morrelli, who has recently taken a job with a national security company that oversees security for the mall. Although Maggie and Nick have investigated several cases together in the past, they've never investigated a relationship with each other. Nick would like to change that.

When an informant confides in Maggie that there are other attacks on the secret agenda, she knows that she's running out of time. In less than twenty-four hours she'll need to figure out exactly when and where the second attack will take place, who to look for and how to keep her brother from becoming one of the casualties.

Black Friday Details

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From Reader Review Black Friday for online ebook

Jim says

The seventh book in author Alex Kava's Maggie O'Dell's series. "Black Friday", is the day after Thanksgiving in which retailers rely on to make their maximum yearly profit from the fourth quarter in sales. The Largest mall in the United States is in Minnesota. The "Mall of America" usually greets 150,000-200,000 shoppers on a typical black Friday. However this year is going to be different. Four unwitting college students are carrying exactly the same type of backpacks and wandering the the Mall Of America. They believe they are part of a protest to create havoc on the retailers who have locations in the mall. They believe their backpacks are merely for disrupting computer functions going from store to store. How naive these students actually are. The Backpacks are all locked so the students really don't know what they are carrying around the mall. As these pawns meet up in the food court, a madman with a remote detonator sets off the bombs in these four backpacks. Four wild explosions rock through the mall. 43 shoppers are killed, and 200 plus shoppers are hurt. Two of the backpack bombers are killed as well. FBI Profiler Maggie O'Dell is ordered to mall to help establish what happened. There she once again comes across Nick Morrelli. Like a bad penny, Maggie just can't seem to shake Nick out of her life for good. For the most part a pretty good read. Much stronger than book six in series, "Exposed". "Black Friday" has some pretty well defined characters to drive the plot. With Kyle Cunningham dead from book six, Maggie has a new boss who is not her biggest fan. Some of Maggie's usual characters are not really in this particular novel. Dr. Gwen Patterson, and O'Dell's partner R.J. Tulley are pretty much missing in this outing. I thought it was a good lite read to breeze through on a late summer's day. I read in about 24 hours. I'd recommend "Black Friday", for those not looking for anything complicated but breezy. I've rated it three stars out of a possible five stars. (Could really be like a 3.25 star book). All in all a satisfying read. Author Alex Kava's novels never really go too deep under the surface and stay safe wading along within the shallow end of pool. Would love to see O'Dell get a life outside of crazy crimes she ends up being assigned to.. Romance and maybe some sex could liven this series up a bunch. Check out the series. I've read 7 of the 11 books so far. For the most part the enjoyment of reading Kava's books overcome the vanilla they live in. Have some fun with the series.

Diane says

I should have read this book last week for an even bigger effect!

After reading this book, I still don't understand why people want to be in big crowds in big malls during big sales!!! My how life has really changed after 9/11 and also after events before this. Scary actually.

Well written again using facts and making it her story - really, really liking Alex Kava's books!

Robin says

Americans are rushing to the Mall of America on the Nation's biggest shopping day of the year. No one expects three deadly bombs to be detonated inside that mall. FBI Profiler Maggie O'Dell is called to the

scene to construct a profile of the bombers. Why would three young men each carry a red backpack with a lock into the mall? Who were the young man and woman seen on the security tapes entering the mall with one of the bombers? Maggie has her work cut out for her to discover the motive behind the explosions, especially when she learns that there are more incidents planned for this weekend.

I had a hard time putting this book down. It was fast moving and suspenseful. I liked that Maggie uses her strengths to help determine what exactly happened in that mall and who is behind the deadly bombings. But I didn't like the non-resolution of the story. My rating: 4 Stars.

Cupcakencorset says

I zoomed through book 7 of the Maggie O'Dell series and not just because it's a fairly short novel. Actually, there's a whole lot of quality packed into this story, the bulk of which takes place over a 24-hour period. That 24 hours starts on the Friday after Thanksgiving with a bombing at the Mall of America in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The mall is packed with (what some of us consider crazy) people taking part in the now-traditional Black Friday shopping frenzy, and the bombers are college kids who have been lied to about the contents of the backpacks they have agreed to carry through the mall. When two of the three are killed in the explosion, the surviving three realize they have been used and are now probably in danger as "loose ends" that must be tied off, permanently. Then, perhaps to keep them from slacking on any of that, there's another attack planned for an unknown airport less than 48 hours later. Maggie and the local authorities have to find and protect the surviving kids, figure out what airport is the target, discover who's behind the plot and prevent the airport bombing. It's a tall order and one with a high emotional impact, as Maggie's halfbrother Patrick is one of the surviving college students who was pulled into this horrific plot and who can identify the man who arranged the attacks, but not without putting himself in extreme danger. Oh, and Maggie's former love interest Nick Morelli plays a big role here, too.

Somehow, Kava keeps all these balls in the air. She has written an engrossing whirlwind of a novel that touches on all our secret fears of terrorism (even the domestic kind) disrupting our seemingly safe worlds and lives... and confirmed my inner suspicion that going shopping the day after Turkey Day could be lethal and that airport travel on holiday weekends is a bad idea all around.

Well done, Kava! This one is a solid win.

Phryynne says

I read one review of this which said that it appeared the author had phoned this in from a beach somewhere just because she had to. I think I agree.

There was a plot but it ceased to be interesting quite early on and even the author gave up on it judging by the ending which fell very flat. People got rescued from situations in the nick of time but there was no real tension in the build up. Nick Morelli popped up again in a very unlikely fashion. As did Patrick. Meh. I am rapidly talking myself into two stars!

But I will stick with three. Maggie did do a bit of profiling which was good. She did not jump into bed with Nick which was also good. The book was short and moved along quite well and it was readable. I have not decided yet whether to continue the series.

Darcy says

I liked when this one opened and it was set at the Mall of America. I live near there and I like reading about books set where I live.

While I would never step foot in the MOA at the holidays, (it's a zoo!) I hated what happened there, hated even more that the supposed "bad guys" were taken advantage of. I thought it was interesting how Maggie and Nick ended up at the same disaster, more interesting was how Maggie didn't trust Nick right from the start. It definitely made things sticky for them. I really liked when Nick realized what Maggie thought, it really seemed to shake his sense of self.

Maggie's thought process from going after who was really behind things was different. Once again it was some odd thinking, especially when you added in Maggie's new boss. The new boss seemed to muck things up and even after I'm done reading the book I still don't know what to think of him and if he is on the up and up.

I did like how the events of this book brought Maggie closer with her brother. I was a bit worried a couple of times during the action, especially at the end. But going forward I have a feeling that they each will let the other in their life.

Wendy says

I really enjoyed this 7th book in her Maggie O'Dell series!

Nicola Marsh says

Love the characters in this ongoing series.

Interesting plot, leading into the next book quite nicely.

Lauren says

Black Friday

3 Stars

Synopsis

Black Friday, the busiest shopping day in America, and three young men are about to wreak havoc by detonating an EMP pulse in the Mall of America. Unbeknownst to them, they are actually pawns in a much larger and deadlier conspiracy that will leave dozens dead and FBI profiler, Maggie O'Dell in a race against time to prevent an even more catastrophic terror attack.

Review

A good premise but the execution is poor and the finale does not deliver.

This is supposed to be a "race against time" scenario but the pace is slow and there is no sense of urgency. The book also finishes with too many loose ends and unanswered questions - (view spoiler).

The writing is choppy with events occurring out of the blue with no exposition or development (view spoiler). The chapters are also very short, often 2-3 pages, which makes it difficult to become engaged with the storyline.

Once again, there is little to no character growth - the cat and mouse between Maggie and Nick is getting old - too many hurt feelings and lack of trust. It is time to either put up or shut up with this relationship. On the other hand, Maggie's half-brother, Patrick Murphy, is given some much needed page time and the sections about him are enjoyable.

One positive aspect of the plot involves the exploration of the John Doe #2 conspiracy theory following the Oklahoma Bombing - as a non-American, this is my first time hearing about this and it added an interesting element to the terrorist plot.

On a final note, the book references numerous events from previous installments and it might be difficult for first time readers of the series to follow.

Overall, a disappointing addition and I hope that the next one will be better.

Mary Gilligan-Nolan says

Another Agent Maggie O'Dell story, and this one was probably my least favourite. Maggie, as a character, is not developing in any way. Once again, there are two men vieing for her affections, the ever patient Nick Morelli, lesser men would have given up on her long before now, and Benjamin Platt, who made his first appearance in the previous book, Exposed. Still no sign of Maggie being ready for a relationship with anyone, other than her work. Now, she also has a boss she intensely dislikes and the feeling seems to be mutual and her young half brother, Patrick, features in this one, and what I found annoying, was that she constantly referred to him as her step-brother. Does Ms. Kava not know the difference between the two? Anyway, the premise of the story wasn't bad, the largest Shopping Mall in the U.S., is hit by three bombs on Thanksgiving weekend. The bombs are carried in backpacks, by three students who think they are carrying jamming devices and the worst that will happen is they will cause havoc with computers and electrical devices, interrupting trade. The whole reasoning behind the story was way too complex, and just didn't make a whole lot of sense. This was reading like a book Ms. Kava, only half thought out and lost interest in, so she rushed it and was lazy with the whole concept. The end was far from her usual fast paced action, it was dull and lifeless. Disappointed, no conclusion, no answers, only loose ends. I'm going to go ahead and read "Damaged", but I am seriously thinking of giving up on Alex Kava and Maggie O'Dell, and if Nick Morelli were a real person, I'd advise him to do the same.

Anne (Booklady) Molinarolo says

3.5 Stars

Whatever it takes.

When you read this novel and its unusual twist on terrorism, you'll understand.

Jonetta says

It's the day after Thanksgiving and a bomb has gone off at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota. Maggie O'Dell's interim assistant director demands that she join him on the case as they, along with the deputy director of Homeland Security, work with local law enforcement to find the perpetrators.

This story had a great premise and showed a lot of promise in the beginning. It kept me hooked through a lot of the story, more than halfway. Unfortunately, it was again plagued with the tiresome relationship plot line (yes, Nick Morelli is back again). It also failed to deliver the excitement it should have because of sudden shifts in direction and lack of follow through. We're given yet another incomplete finale with hastily tied off loose ends. Maggie also seems to be pedaling a stationary bike with respect to her relationships. Ben Platt makes brief appearances, though they are uninspired.

The best part of the story, the most complete, was the inclusion of Maggie's half-brother Patrick. (Most annoying, though, is the author's reference to him as her stepbrother.) Their relationship moved forward significantly. Let's hope it doesn't fizzle the way the rest seem to do in this series. I'm not sure how long I can continue without some serious character growth and development.

Sheila says

What better time and place for a terrorist plot than a bombing at the Mall of American on the day after Thanksgiving. Maggie gets involved in a very personal way.

Mallory says

3.5 stars

Chilling and incredibly relevant. White supremacist groups, domestic terrorism, profiling - it hit all the hot button topics. Really liked Maggie and although these are recurring characters, Ms. Kava didn't make reading any prior Maggie O'Dell books a requirement, as she detailed past cases and interactions without detracting from the current plot.

Alex is The Romance Fox says

Black Friday is the 7th book in FBI profiler Maggie O'Dell Series and opens with the bombing of Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota the day after Thanksgiving.

The storyline is frighteningly real and the use of real facts interwoven into the story makes it even more believable.

The plot moves at a good pace....it takes place over a period of 24 hours. The first chapter kicks off really well but then it goes in all these different directions that become confusing and I started losing track of what was going on and who was who.....

I like Maggie O'Dell...but in this book I kind of lost her along the way.....in fact there are no characters that stood out to me.....perhaps Maggie's brother did!!!

There are so many lose ends that never get tied up and we're left up in the air about who the bad and good guys actually are.

Not one of the best in this series.
