



The Deadbeat Club

Dietrich Kalteis

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A fast and powerful crime novel full of action, vengeance, twists, and dark humour

Grey Stevens took over the family business after his uncle passed away, and now he grows the best pot in Whistler. It's called Eight Miles High and the word on the street is it rivals anything on the planet. Happy to fly under the radar in this mountain playground, Grey just wants to take life easy and snowboard the cold months and bike the hot ones. But demand for his pot among the locals and tourists keeps growing. Everybody wants to get their hands on it, including the two rival gangs coming to town, who want to take over the dope trade. When Grey steps in and rescues a girl from a beating at the hands of one of the gang members, he finds himself in the middle of a turf war and a new relationship at the same time. After one of his roommates gets attacked and another one goes missing, Grey has to decide whether he's going to play it safe — take off with the girl and start over someplace new — or stay and fight for what is his.

The Deadbeat Club Details

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Author : Dietrich Kalteis

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From Reader Review The Deadbeat Club for online ebook

Earl says

In *The Deadbeat Club* by Dietrich Kalteis the reader is immediately swept up in the street life and developing turf wars surrounding the business of drugs. The style is sharp and quick, it almost takes the reader's breath away. For avid readers this will likely be a one or two sitting read, both the prose style and the use of short focused chapters keeps the pages turning.

The main reason I gave it 4 instead of 5 stars is because one aspect of this delivery when there are quite a few characters is a tendency for the reader to have to pause and remember who is who. This doesn't last more than maybe a third of the book and is not a major issue. For those put off by this it could keep them from getting through the first third, which would be a shame. For those okay with it then the book is just fine. Either way, once you're hooked, you will finish.

Those who don't like the roughness of street language or the violence might want to stay away, though I think if you can bracket your discomfort you'll be rewarded with a story that is much more than just profanity and violence. For others who like crime stories this will be one you want to talk about with friends.

Reviewed from a copy made available through Goodreads First Reads.

Cynthia A says

One of the best novels I have read recently. Dietrich Kalteis has an interesting writing style that keeps you involved in the story. Recommend reading.

Won on Goodreads.

Nikki (nikkitheknack's In the Stacks) says

Full review here: <http://nikkitheknack.blogspot.ca/2015...>

3.5 stars. I read this as part of The Word on the Street's Book Club (and received an ARC from them), and so read it over the course of four weeks, answering questions about the story and talking to other people who were reading the book as well. I really liked being able to talk to people while I was reading the story, because the book and corresponding questions made for some thought-provoking discussions! I'm not sure how I would have felt if I'd been reading it all at once, but I enjoyed coming back to the story every week.

There are a lot of characters to keep track of - I was hoping that as I kept reading, I'd get a handle on who was who, and for the most part I did. There were some characters though, who didn't have big roles or were only present for a couple of scenes, but were mentioned later on in the book - so I found myself having to go back to remind myself who they were.

On the back of the book, we're told that Grey Stevens is the main character, but he never really comes across

as such. Personally, I think there are too many characters to peg someone as the main focus. It didn't bother me at all that there wasn't a main character, it just threw me off a little because that's how Grey was pitched. Having said that, I loved his scenes because he almost always provided comic relief in what was a pretty dark, action-packed novel.

Kendra says

Love his writing! So rich with a peppy beat to it. You can't miss a word or you'll lose some of this fast-paced plot with lots of fully developed, crazy characters.

Shawn Evans says

Wow, this book was amazing!! I started reading it just two nights ago and have finished it already. It's true, really good books are just too hard to put down. This is definitely one of them. This is my first time reading Mr. Kalteis, it definitely won't be my last!!

Loved the pacing of the story.

Janine says

I received this book through the goodreads giveaways for an honest review.

The Deadbeat Club is full of interesting characters, fast paced, an full of action.

I really like the way the author gives differing views throughout the book and was glad the way it ended.

Colleen Foster says

One of the few crime novels I've ever read. It was hard to keep all of the characters straight until maybe three quarters of the way through the book, but it added to the chaos of the rival gangs who never knew whose side anyone was on. The writing is what made me enjoy this book. Each character had a lot of weight and personality and it was fun to watch them go down their paths -- even if those paths were sometimes predictable. I would have liked a little more focus on Grey Stevens as the synopsis does set him up as a main character. Point of view shifts constantly in this novel and maybe highlights too many characters for Grey to have a big enough part.

Col says

Synopsis/blurb....

A fast and powerful crime novel full of action, vengeance, twists, and dark humour

Grey Stevens took over the family business after his uncle passed away, and now he grows the best pot in Whistler. It's called Eight Miles High and the word on the street is it rivals anything on the planet. Happy to fly under the radar in this mountain playground, Grey just wants to take life easy and snowboard the cold months and bike the hot ones. But demand for his pot among the locals and tourists keeps growing. Everybody wants to get their hands on it, including the two rival gangs coming to town, who want to take over the dope trade.

When Grey steps in and rescues a girl from a beating at the hands of one of the gang members, he finds himself in the middle of a turf war and a new relationship at the same time. After one of his roommates gets attacked and another one goes missing, Grey has to decide whether he's going to play it safe — take off with the girl and start over someplace new — or stay and fight for what is his.

My take.....

I had this one on my radar for ages, starting it and then putting it aside, not because I wasn't enjoying it, but because of the PDF format. I'm not a massive fan of reading on my laptop. Anyway, over New Year, I thought I had better pull my finger out as it wasn't going to read itself.

60 pages, one day, 250-odd devoured the next and a punch in the face from myself for not getting to it earlier.

We've some small town, good guy dope growers and dealers, subjected to a hostile takeover from some out of town criminal elements that play a little bit rougher. Two gangs in fact.

Our two rivals - Bumpy Rosco's Crew and the Asian Indo Army - have a bit of unsettled business between them – a situation exacerbated by one gang, Rosco's led by Travis Rainey making toast out of their rivals by launching an RPG from the back of a stolen bread van.

Throw into the mix a pair of cops seconded to sleepy Whistler; Jimmy Gallo, lazy and marking time, the other, Detective Lance Edwards, keen to make a difference and get back to the bigger leagues.

Add Bumpy Rosco's idiot son, Nick to the stew, with Rainey instructed to keep him safe and out of trouble while getting Grey Stevens to submit to Rosco's overtures and you have all the ingredients of a fast-paced, high octane thrill-fest.

My kind of book really. Fantastic characters, great action, some lowlives that you can't help but like.

Pretty much – a perfect book to start the year with.

Some of the writing had me purring. There's a real rhythm and cadence to it. It reads as if it was effortless to write.

Our two cops in a diner..... The cop on her left sipped down to the dregs. Making a face, Detective Lance Edwards pushed the mug away. Plaid was Jimmy Gallo, dipping a link sausage in his sunny-side eggs, cramming it into his mouth, working on a crossword on the back of the local rag. Eating low and loud. His fork was going like it was automated, shoving egg in after the sausage like he was stoking a boiler, his goatee doing nicely as a bib. Swiping the back of his hand across his mouth, he wrote in a word, let go a

silent burp.

Another scene later on when two of our good guys, Dara and Grey are fleeing an armed Indo gang member, gate-crashing the Whistler cheese-rolling competition, to the chagrin of our volunteer Janice....

Dara took a wide stance, pulled back and rolled the wheel down the course.

“What in God’s name . . .” Janice practically yelled and moved to stop her, grabbing at her arm. “Are you crazy, you carry them —”

Dara’s slap cut the air. Janice was knocked to the wet grass, sliding, her fingers clawing at the mud and grass, guttural sound coming from her.

“Want your cheese down the hill or not, lady?” Dara lined a second orange wheel between her knees and let go, the wheel rolling downslope, hopping, rolling, hopping, rolling, gaining speed. Janice crawled and pulled herself up against the folding table. Her hand went to her stinging cheek, Dara’s skull ring leaving its mark.

Askay stopped in his tracks, gun in hand. Whatever it was, it was orange and running at him like a deer. No, it was rolling. He sprang out of its path, slid down a few feet, got up, taking aim at the second one. Fuck, it was cheese. It struck him, swept his legs from under him.

“You can’t do this,” Janice yelled, pulling herself up, the iron taste of blood in her mouth. Sid and Nancy were destroying the cheese, assaulting the man below. Some sick game. Probably high on drugs. Let them have it, God! She had young children at home to consider. This was never part of the deal.

6 stars from 5

The Deadbeat Club is the second book from Dietrich Kalteis.
His debut – Ride the Lightning was enjoyed in 2014 – see here.
<http://col2910.blogspot.co.uk/2014/08...>
His third book, Triggerfish is due in June.

You can catch up with the author at his website/blog here
<http://dietrichkalteis.blogspot.co.uk/>
and on Facebook here.
<https://www.facebook.com/dietrich.kal...>

He was also generous enough to participate in a blog Q+A.
<http://col2910.blogspot.co.uk/2014/09...>

ECW Press - his publisher in Canada were kind enough to send me a copy of this.

<http://col2910.blogspot.co.uk/2016/01...>

Anne Martin says

This book is just too hard for me. I do not have a lot of sympathy for real drug dealers, and when murders enter the scene, I feel bad. Gangs make me want to run away.

That was my problem with the book... I could not get myself to like any of the characters.

I know, the question of the MC being likable is not solved, but I miss it terribly if no one deserves to be liked.

Obviously, not a book for me. I can believe other people will like it, but it is not my cup of tea.

Gina says

I received this book as a First Read. The story is interesting enough. The writing though gets so bogged down in description that it slows the pace of the story. There are some well written elements but this book would've been better with more editing.
