



Murder Suicide

Keith Ablow

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The only forensic psychiatrist writing suspense, Keith Ablow is being hailed as the heir to Thomas Harris.

Keith Ablow's novels delve deep into that dark and deadly place that Ablow, one of the nation's leading forensic psychiatrists, knows best: the psyche of a killer. Ablow has explored the catacombs of the criminal mind to find out what makes them tick, and he brings that expertise to his new novel, a chilling and emotionally compelling story of the lengths to which one man will go to leave his own life behind.

In *Murder Suicide*, Ablow and his alter-ego, Dr. Frank Clevenger, return to take on a murder case like no other. John Snow is a brilliant inventor who has made millions from his genius in aeronautics. He has everything a man could desire: wealth, family, even a beautiful mistress. But he also has a brain disease, a rare form of epilepsy, that threatens his most valuable possession -- his mind. Only one doctor may be able to cure it surgically, but at a terrible cost, one that Snow reveals to no one: Snow will have no memory whatsoever of his past - of its emotional entanglements or its secrets. He will be abandoning everyone he has ever known. But the night before he is scheduled to undergo the operation, he is found near the Massachusetts General Hospital, dead of a gunshot wound. Did he commit suicide, as the police suspect - or was he murdered?

Forensic psychiatrist Dr. Frank Clevenger delves into Snow's complex past and tortured relationships to unlock the identity of Snow's killer: Was it the wife who can never forgive what he's done to their child and their marriage, the son who loathes him, the beautiful mistress who loves him so deeply but can never have him, or the business partner intent on taking control of his inventions?

Only Frank Clevenger can unlock the door to Snow's startling past. And only Keith Ablow can take readers even further into the mind of a killer.

Murder Suicide Details

Date : Published July 1st 2004 by St. Martin's Press (first published 2004)

ISBN : 9780312323899

Author : Keith Ablow

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Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Fiction, Crime

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Beth says

This is the 5th book in a series of 6 to date, and while I usually don't like "coming in in the middle", I did not feel like I was missing out on any great secrets. In fact, I will probably discover there was more than one spoiler in this book for one earlier in the series. Overall, I liked this - as it is right up my alley (no pun intended - you will know what I mean if you read no further than the first chapter of this book.) Murder most foul!! I will definitely read more by this author and will probably want to start back at the beginning in case there are any more spoilers in a later book.

Saleh MoonWalker says

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Stephen Collins says

I thought the book had a lot of complications that I enjoyed, and occasional got lost at, but I continued to push through the book, and I was very glad I did. I loved the book, but the only slip up it had was some of the explanations of how it could not have been the son of John Snow who killed him, but It was something to easily look over. Overall it deserves 4/5 stars by many more people because it is a great book with again many intricacies that make it thrilling to read, and if it did ever become a movie I don't think it would be a very good movie given the style that the book is in, but I would still go to see it just because of how good the book was.Keith Ablow

James Fitzgerald says

A MYSTERY

I enjoyed reading this book it was well written I liked the characters it had a good story line. it had me guessing who did it to the very end.

Dr. Frank Clevenger a forensic scientist and psychiatrist is brought in on a suicide of John Snow a brilliant inventor by the police to rule out that it wasn't a murder. Clevenger digs into Snows relationships with his wife,children,business partner and mistress. worth the read

Linda Branham Greenwell says

Since Psychology is my field of study, I really enjoy Keith Ablow's novels. Mr. Ablow has done a wonderful job in opening up the pathology of the criminal mind in his series of books. I relate to the way in which he focuses on the the way in which a person "thinks" that leads that person to create the criminal behavior. And

not just the criminal - but Frank Clevenger himself

In this novel Frank Clevenger is called in by the police to assist in the investigation of the shooting death of John Snow. John Snow was a brilliant scientist and inventor - but was troubled by severe seizures, seizures which were believed to be brought on by the overload of impulses to the brain when he was at his most creative. Mr. Snow was scheduled to have radical brain surgery with a somewhat narcissistic surgeon, Jet Heller. Dr. Heller was going to perform a controversial surgery to try to stop the seizures, but the surgery ran the risk of some unpleasant side-effects - one of which was that he would not know anyone that he had known before.

The reason Clevenger's expertise is required is to assess whether the prospect of the upcoming surgery and his possible future was too much for Snow to handle and so he decided to commit suicide instead. Detective Coady - the policeman in charge of the Snow case - wants Clevenger to show that it was a suicide - it would make his job a whole lot easier.

There are many complications - a new invention by Snow seems to be missing (did he complete it or not?) - Dr. Snow had a partner who would make a lot of money from the new invention - there seems to have been a "girlfriend" in Dr. Snow's life - and the surgeon would have greatly to his achievements by performing the surgery

And of course, all of the issues in Clevenger's life - including his adopted son Billy
You'll just have to read the book to see what happens :)

P.S. - I would recommend reading an earlier novel so that you get a "feel" for the main characters.
"Psychopath" was the novel right before this one

Dianne says

I was looking forward to reading this as I rated Psychopath highly. But I was bored all the way through. The tone was flat and cerebral. There was no alteration in pace, no build ups, no troughs, no menace.

Frank Clevenger is a forensic psychiatrist. Most psychiatrists I know, including forensic psychiatrists, can tell very good stories entertainingly, and have oodles of empathy. Clevenger is cold - I must remember I am a psychiatrist- and analytical, difficult to relate to. Apart from his analysis of John Snow's apparent suicide, there was little else that was convincing. Even his meeting with his FBI ex- lover is unconvincing. I found John Snow and the neuro-surgeon Heller implausible.

Laura says

This book strikes me as one step below mediocre. Cliche quota reached by page 5 whereupon a doctor manages to use all three of the following phrases, "Beat, goddamn you." "Don't quit on me, don't you quit on me." "You coward... You..." I was going to take one for the team, trudge through because the premise was intriguing and the medical explanations (an out-of-place scientific accuracy that was not smoothly integrated into dialog) were interesting. But the characters are parodies of themselves, and with that, I am bored.

Grace says

First time I've read a book by this author and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Being a forensic psychiatrist in real life definitely lends him credence in the field and the twists and turns of thman mind. A little bit of sex is always welcome and there is some of that as well.

Marti says

This was fairly interesting. A forensic psychiatrist, Frank Clevenger delves into mysteries of whether persons are suicides or homicides. He himself is carrying certain baggage--pursuing an old love, and caring for a teenage foster son. One thing really irked me--the use of the term 'lovemap' in relation to two people who have feelings for one another. It seems blatantly unnecessary. The characters that Frank investigates are complex, and he struggles to put the pieces together. Would I read another novel by Keith Ablow? Maybe, but...

Laura says

Story line was really good but it read more like a screenplay than a novel. Didn't think there was much character development - not like you get in the classics. Would make a good movie.

Mikel says

I really enjoyed my first Keith Ablow book read years ago. Now that I'm going into psychiatry, the thought of reading a book with a psychiatric protagonist was very appealing.

Ugh. Very disappointing. The book rang of a sort of false-note machismo that gave the impression that an author hunched over the keyboard was sketching out an impression of who he'd like to be. The plot was predictable and the characters wooden. The scenes were disjointed and inelegantly edited, as if you could almost see a sequence of pinned index cards moved around a cork-board until the author had a semblance of a novel.

Won't be returning to the Ablow series. Actually, I can be a glutton for punishment and will give it another try in a few years when I forget how much I disliked this one. Time will tell...

Kim says

I read this mystery in two sittings. Ablow really does grab the reader and pull them in right from the start. The story is about the death of John Snow, a genius of a man who suffers from epilepsy. He dies from a gunshot wound outside the hospital where he is about to have revolutionary surgery to free him of his fits,

among other things.

The book is one of a series with Dr Frank Clevenger as detective-type. Clevenger is a forensic psychiatrist so he doesn't do all of the grunt cop work, but unravels the complexities of the relationships between the dead man and the suspects.

Another crime writer I will read more of. I liked this book - easy to read but interesting and thought-provoking at the same time

Deb says

Review taken from the online description...In *Murder Suicide*, Ablow and his alter-ego, Dr. Frank Clevenger, return to take on a murder case like no other. John Snow is a brilliant inventor who has made millions from his genius in aeronautics. He has everything a man could desire: wealth, family, even a beautiful mistress. But he also has a brain disease, a rare form of epilepsy, that threatens his most valuable possession -- his mind. Only one doctor may be able to cure it surgically, but at a terrible cost, one that Snow reveals to no one: Snow will have no memory whatsoever of his past - of its emotional entanglements or its secrets. He will be abandoning everyone he has ever known. But the night before he is scheduled to undergo the operation, he is found near the Massachusetts General Hospital, dead of a gunshot wound. Did he commit suicide, as the police suspect - or was he murdered?

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Jaime says

It was a fast read.

Jess says

Finally, a mystery with a psychological probe that I wish for but almost never get. Those who will like this book the most are probably people more interested in solving the "why" aspect of a mystery rather than "who" did it. I'm going to check out what else he's written.
