



Dead Man Running

Steve Hamilton

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Alex McKnight--hero of Steve Hamilton's bestselling, award-winning, and beloved private eye series--is back in a high-stakes, nail-biting thriller, facing the most dangerous enemy he's ever encountered.

On the Mediterranean Sea, a vacationer logs on to the security-camera feed from his home in Scottsdale, Arizona. Something about his living room seems not quite right--the room is bright, when he's certain he'd left the curtains closed. Rewinding through the feed, he sees an intruder. When he shifts to the bedroom camera, he sees the dead body.

Martin T. Livermore is the key suspect in the abduction and murder of at least five women, but he's never been this sloppy before. When the FBI finally catches him in Scottsdale, he declares he'll only talk to one person: a retired police officer from Detroit, now a private investigator living in the tiny town of Paradise, Michigan. A man named Alex McKnight.

Livermore means nothing to McKnight, but it soon becomes clear McKnight means something to Livermore...and that Livermore's capture was only the beginning of an elaborate, twisted plot with McKnight at the center. In a hunt that will take him across the country and to the edge of his limits, McKnight fights to stop a vicious killer before he can exact his ultimate revenge. And his grand finale will cut closer to home than he ever could have imagined.

Dead Man Running Details

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From Reader Review Dead Man Running for online ebook

The Real Book Spy says

Alex McKnight returns with a bang in Dead Man Running, the thrilling new novel from New York Times bestselling author Steve Hamilton.

Alex McKnight, last seen in Let it Burn (2014), is still living in Michigan's Upper Peninsula when readers meet back up with the former Detroit cop turned private detective. While he's still battling the tundra-like winter conditions and living in near isolation, McKnight has a new gig this time around working as a "fugitive recovery agent" (a fancy way of saying bounty hunter) for Superior Bail Bonds out of Marquette.

While on a cruise on the Mediterranean Sea, Frank Thompson takes a moment away from sunbathing on the deck with his wife to check his security camera at home. At first, the video feed coming through seems normal, until. . .

Continue reading here: <https://therealbookspy.com/2018/06/24...>

Ed says

#11 in the Alex McKnight series. This 2018 series entry by author Hamilton is an enigma. Except for 5 pages of chapter 2 and 3 pages of the Epilogue, this series entry, after a five year hiatus, might be a standalone thriller with the same protagonist name and police experience as the series. It is never adequately explained why the villain put himself so at risk and dependent on the FBI and Alex dancing to his tune. Eventually, his end game is revealed but since it is sufficient to engage Alex in itself, the majority of the novel seems like an unrelated thriller stitched to an Alex McKnight novella.

The novel does end with a hook to a sequel, so we'll see which Alex appears in that one.

Thanks to a home surveillance system, robotics engineer Martin Livermore, a necrophiliac who's eluded the law, is spotted abusing a corpse in the Arizona home of a couple vacationing in Europe. It's unclear whether he murdered the victim before or after he brought her to the house. As Livermore's m.o. is to return to where he left his victim, FBI agent Roger Halliday leaves the cadaver in place and later arrests Livermore when he goes back to the scene of his crime. The FBI brings in Alex McKnight, a retired Detroit police officer who now works as a bounty hunter in Michigan, after Livermore discloses that he knew about the surveillance system and that he will provide details only to McKnight about another potential victim, who, at least for now, is still alive. McKnight, who has never heard of Livermore, has no idea why the killer requested his involvement.

AC says

I'm going to be in the minority here, but I really did not enjoy this book.

It is a bit of a departure for Alex McKnight, heading out of Paradise, MI because a serial killer wants to talk

to him - a serial killer unknown to him either by sight or name. Martin Livermore promises to lead the FBI and local authorities to proof of his crimes, but only if Alex McKnight is there. Once there, it's clear that while Alex does not know Livermore, Livermore knows plenty about him, from his minor league baseball days to his work as a Detroit cop and the incident that caused him to leave the force and return to Paradise.

OK, that's fine - sometimes you have to go along with the premise to get into the story. Sometimes it pays off. This time, however, it did not.

Probably spoilers ahead, so....

(view spoiler)

And that's it. That's the end. Alex goes back to Paradise, fields a call or two from Jeannie. I suppose this means she'll be popping up in another book. If she does, her fate will probably not be a good one.

This book had none of the humor of the previous books in this series. It started dark and got darker, and the usual characters only make an appearance in the beginning and at the end. We're left with a completely different Alex hauling himself around chasing a serial killer who is, of course, smarter than anyone else, ever, and leaves no forensics except those he intends to leave.

Not recommended.

Ed says

Alex McKnight's is back in a page turning serial killer hunt in Phoenix. I admit to losing interest in "brilliant" serial killers but Alex McKnight is too strong and complex a protagonist to ignore. He is definitely in his best form in this imaginative thriller.

Mysticpt says

I'm not sure what this was but it didn't seem like an Alex McKnight book to me. if it wasn't for the author and the character I wouldn't have kept reading as this is not the kind of book I like to read, this was bordering on horror with just one over the top and unbelievable scene after another. Hoping for a much better read, like i am used to, with whatever you write next.

Chuck Barksdale says

After a wait of 5 years and 2 books in his new Nick Mason series, Steve Hamilton has brought back Alex McKnight in **Dead Man Running**, the eleventh book in this excellent series, one of my favorites. This book starts in a more typical third person style when Jack Thompson, checking his security cameras while on vacation, sees something unusual in his home in Scottsdale, Arizona. This eventually leads to the FBI believing they were seeing serial killer Martin T. Livermore. The FBI is surprised that Livermore was not careful and even more surprised when Livermore was captured returning to the Thompson's home. Upon his capture, Livermore says he will only talk to Alex McKnight.

The FBI does not understand the connection and neither does Alex when they come to get him at his home in Michigan when the book returns to the first-person perspective more typical of books in this series. Alex reluctantly agrees to go to Arizona to meet with Livermore and upon meeting him, still is unsure of the connection. Eventually, Alex will get to understand the connection and work to stop Livermore from ever killing any more women. This exciting and gripping book adds to the great list of excellent Steve Hamilton Alex McKnight books. I hope we will see more in this series.

Although I'd certainly recommend starting at the beginning of this series, Steve Hamilton does a good job in providing the main back story about Alex McKnight so that this book could be read without having read the prior books, especially since the other minor recurring people in this series are not key to this book. The scenes at the Glasgow Inn and those between Alex and Vinnie were minimal in this book and that was a little disappointing after all this time waiting for the new book in the series. (I expressed similar feelings when Misery Bay was published in 2011 after a similar 5-year wait.)

Gail says

I was so happy to see the return of Michael McKnight. What an awesome story! A heart stopping story with so many twists and turns that keep you wondering what will happen next. A very well written story with an amazing cast of characters. I loved every minute of it and hated to see it end. Here's hoping we do not have to wait so long for the next Alex McKnight story.

Gloria Feit says

Alex McKnight has had a long rest: five years since he appeared in the last novel in this great series. And he needed it for this, the 11th novel in the series. It seems a tourist traveling in Europe remotely checks his home where he recently installed security cameras, and discovers an illegal entry. Moreover the intruder, Martin T. Livermore, is having sex on the marital bed. It turns out the female is dead.

Police capture the culprit, who refuses to speak to anyone but Alex McNight, who is thousands of miles away in the upper Michigan peninsula. He promises to lead McNight to his possible seventh victim, who may be alive. Alex accedes to the perp's wishes and, along with all kinds of law enforcement personnel, is led into a trap where only McNight and Livermore, who then escapes, survive. Thus begins a grueling chase to save the victim as well as capturing Livermore.

Actually Livermore, with his superior intellect, sets up a challenge for Alex, based on an obscure relationship between the two, unknown to McNight. The author maintains a steady tension throughout the novel, a characteristic for which he is famous. At the same time, the plot develops in countless deviations as Livermore keeps Alex on the run until the novel concludes in an unexpected fashion.

Recommended.

Joan says

I couldn't read this book late at night, the suspense was so intense. This psychological thriller is right up there with the best I have read. The character development of the crazed killer may be the best I've experienced. Just thinking about him makes me shudder. The plot is an engaging one, as well thought out as the plans of the villain. The shocking first pages of the book grabbed me and the near continuous action never let go. I realize that there is backstory to the hero as this is down the line in a series of books featuring McNight. But this novel read entirely well on its own. His history was clearly presented where needed. This is the first novel by Hamilton I've read and I will certainly be looking for more.

I recommend this novel to readers who like well plotted suspense, a genius of a villain who keeps one step ahead of the FBI, and an engaging hero who just will not give up until he has caught his man.

I received a complimentary e-galley of this book from the publisher. My comments are an independent and honest review.

Linda says

Thank you Steve Hamilton for bringing back Alex McNight! It has been too long but well worth the wait. What a thrill ride and heart pounding novel! I couldn't put it down. Please don't wait so long for the next one.

Definitely put this one on your to read list. You'll be sorry if you don't.

Jeff Benham says

The long awaiting return of Alex McKnight finds him out of his environment in Arizona. Some psycho (With the geeky name Martin T. Livermore.) is coming up with new ways to torture and murder young women. He never leaves any clues, until he is ready to get caught. The FBI believe they have finally caught a break, but when they arrest him, the only person he will talk to is Alex. Neither of them have a connection to each other, so the FBI gathers Alex up and flies him to AZ for the interview. Livermore infers that there is still a victim alive and he will take them to her. What he leads them to, however, is the massacre of a lot of FBI agents, where he carefully planned his escape. For most of the book, the reader is kept in the dark and given no clues for why Livermore has targeted Alex. What is missing from this story, is Alex's camaraderie with his UP cohorts and it just wasn't the same without them involved.

Larry H says

One of the last things a man did before he and his wife went on a Mediterranean cruise was set up a security camera at their house. Maybe it seemed a little paranoid, but better safe than sorry, right?

When he's finally able to log on for the first time, his fears are unfounded—wait, why does the living room seem brighter than when they left? Did the front door just open? He watches, aghast, as an intruder enters their house and heads up to their bedroom. While he readies for the intruder to steal his wife's diamonds (which he didn't let her bring on the cruise), he is utterly unprepared for the woman's body on their bed. Not to mention what the intruder does to the body...

The intruder turns out to be Martin Livermore, a gifted scientist who is the suspect in the abduction and murder of at least five other women. The FBI has been hunting him for a while, but he's never been this sloppy before. When he is apprehended returning to the vacationers' home for another encounter with his latest victim, the feds feel victorious, but they can't help but wonder why it seems as if he was *trying* to get caught this time.

Livermore once again gets the upper hand, when he refuses to speak to anyone but Alex McKnight, a former police officer and private investigator from the small town of Paradise, Michigan. McKnight has no idea why Livermore has involved him, can't figure out any connection to this murderer whatsoever. But Livermore knows too much about him, and Alex is a crucial part of a tangled, dangerous plot that Livermore is about to put in motion.

With each action, Livermore ups the stakes, and as Alex races to figure out why the murderer has drawn him into his schemes, the danger continues to grow, and it threatens to affect him in places he'd never expect. How do you catch a criminal mastermind who has targeted you, who taunts you with his crimes, and knows your every step before you take it? Alex faces off with a relentless killer, and only one of them can survive.

In a veritable sea full of thriller writers, Steve Hamilton is the real deal. He's one of the rare breed of authors in this genre who can write pulse-pounding action scenes while creating characters with depth, characters you root for and care about. Every time I read another one of his books I say the same thing—I cannot understand why he isn't a household name, because his books are far superior (a little Michigan humor) to

many more popular authors.

It was great to have Alex McKnight back again, but I definitely missed Paradise, and Vinnie, Jackie, and Leon. Still, it was good to see Alex have to leave his comfort zone and try and figure out his connection to Livermore. While I don't love villains who are always one step ahead of everyone else, and who can always outsmart law enforcement, Livermore was one creepy character who made me shudder. (His diversions were pretty dastardly.)

Dead Man Running is a prime example of a writer at his peak. If you've never read any of Hamilton's books, you don't know what you're missing. Whether you read his Alex McKnight series, his newer series featuring Nick Mason, or one of his standalone books, you'll see this is an author whose name you should see on books being read everywhere you look. Hopefully someday soon the world will catch on to what I've known for years—Hamilton is one of the best.

NetGalley, PENGUIN GROUP Putnam, and First to Read provided me an advance copy of the book in exchange for an unbiased review. Thanks for making this available!

See all of my reviews at itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com, or check out my list of the best books I read in 2017 at <https://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com/2018/01/the-best-books-i-read-in-2017.html>.

Karen says

DEAD MAN RUNNING (Alex McKnight #11)

By Steve Hamilton

This was my first time reading an Alex McKnight book and it could be read as a stand alone even though this is #11 in the series. The pacing is fast and action packed that keeps the pages turning. A man is on a cruise and he has cameras and video set up in his house in Arizona. He studies the video and he sees something off but he can't quite figure out what is wrong. As he rewinds the video he notices the living room drapes are open making the sunshine in the room. He thought it seemed bright. Then upon closer inspection he sees the front door wide open. He inspects the video in the bedroom and in his and his wife's bed lays a body of a dead woman.

This book went in an entirely different direction than I was expecting. The FBI get in contact with fugitive hunter Alex McKnight and fly him to Arizona as a person of interest. There is a serial killer who was caught on camera on the video that the man on the cruise had running in his home. When the FBI try to question the serial killer he is callous and he won't answer any questions. The serial killer does write down two words on a piece of paper and they are Alex McKnight. When Alex is brought in the room to meet the serial killer Alex has no idea who he is. Alex never saw him before.

This was very suspenseful and fans of this series won't be disappointed with this one. The writing is above average and there is a desire to keep reading to find out why this serial killer keeps on taunting Alex. This was a bit dark for me as the serial killer escapes in transit tricking the FBI, State police and a few prison guards as he has them believing that he is leading them to the five dead girls. The serial killer leads them to a remote area and leads them into an ambush. Why does he kill all of them except Alex? This leads to more

killings and a cat and mouse chase. If you like serial killers and more killing then this book is for you.

Thank you to Net Galley, Steve Hamilton and G.P Putnam's Sons for providing me with my digital copy in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Shoshana says

Oh. My. Stars. This book starts fast and never lets up. I have enjoyed others of the Alex McKnight books by Steve Hamilton, but this one is spectacular. Do you want to read something you cannot put down? This is the book for you.

Alex McKnight, a former Detroit police officer, has lived in Michigan's Upper Peninsula near the small town of Paradise for twenty years. A criminal in FBI custody in Arizona refuses to cooperate without the presence of McKnight. The FBI picks up Alex and flies him to Phoenix where he confronts the criminal; a man who is a complete stranger to him but who seems to know everything about McKnight's life. Creepy. And it gets creepier.

I don't like spoilers, and I normally do not give any, but for this book I especially do not want to give the game away. Hamilton is a master, and this book is a masterpiece of plotting and tension. I tried to not read "Dead Man Running" after ten o'clock because I wanted to be able to go to sleep!

I highly recommend "Dead Man Running." Other books may be described as a thrill-ride. This one is like the highest, fastest roller coaster you can imagine, and what a ride it is.

Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for the ARC.

Monnie says

4.5 stars, actually.

Admittedly, I've read only two books in this series, but they were good enough to make me a fan of former cop Alex McKnight. That familiarity made me doubly happy to be approved for an advance review copy from the publisher (via NetGalley). And once again, I wasn't disappointed. In fact - save perhaps for the knock-down, drag-'em-out ending involving almost super-human feats - this is my pick of the litter so far. It was so good, in fact, that I kept reading all the way through a nightly episode of "The Rachel Maddow Show" (well, okay, with one eye on the program); that should convince those who know how much of a news junkie I am that I'm telling the truth about how much I liked the book.

Anyway, this one starts off with a [figurative] bang as a vacationing homeowner watches a live video from the security cameras he installed in his bedroom back home. Not too long of a story short, they catch the perp - a presumed serial killer named Martin T. Livermore - who refuses to talk to anyone except Alex, who's now contents himself working for Superior Bail Bonds in Paradise, Michigan. Hot to trot (or at least get some kind of confession out of Livermore), the FBI agrees to bring Alex in. But when he meets Livermore, he has absolutely no idea why the guy sought him out; there's no readily discernible connection between the

two men, nor does there seem to be any among all the other five (at least) women Livermore has brutally murdered over the years.

Once in Alex's presence, Livermore not only admits to the heinous crimes, but promises to take him and an FBI crew to the place he's stored his victims' bodies. Livermore isn't exactly trustworthy, but the lawmen agree, albeit reluctantly, that there's no other way to find the bodies - all women. What happens next, though, proves them dead wrong; clearly, Livermore not only can't be trusted, but he's intent on playing some kind of head game with Alex to reach some kind of end that is intended to be the end of Alex.

Will Livermore emerge triumphant? Assuming as I read along that this book doesn't mark the end of the series, I was on the edge of my seat but not too worried about Alex's life. But why the killer wants to get Alex remained a mystery almost to the aforementioned action-packed end, making the book almost impossible to put down till then. I must point out one other tidbit made this book more interesting to me - that some of the scenes are set in two of my favorite places on earth: Columbus, Ohio (go Bucks!) and Michigan's scenic, secluded Upper Peninsula. All in all, this is a stellar entry in the series, and yes, I'm already looking forward to the next installment.
