



## At Large

*John W. Mefford*

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## **At Large** John W. Mefford

The pursuit of the truth. The hunt for a life.

For the first time in months, FBI Special Agent Alex Troutt feels almost normal, hanging out at a local bar with friends after work. Not long into the evening she stumbles over one of the most disturbing images she has ever seen.

And that's only the beginning.

A body is found in Lowell, the human damage, once again, inconceivable. Hours later, another strike. Pushing heartache aside, Alex immerses herself in the investigation. But with every new clue comes a new twist.

With the killing spree drawing the attention of every intelligence and law enforcement agency in a five-state radius, Alex is forced to partner with an egomaniac from the CIA. Yet, even with limitless resources, every step forward proves to be a step too late, the kill list seemingly endless.

Once the killer makes it personal, Alex is left with no other option—she must confront the person who destroyed her life to try to cease the vicious murders. And when she finally learns the killer's end game, every second counts if she has any hope of stopping the brutal killings.

The hunt will end. Will Alex?

## **At Large Details**

Date : Published March 11th 2016 by Sugar Hill Press (first published March 10th 2016)

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Author : John W. Mefford

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## From Reader Review At Large for online ebook

### **Leila says**

I love John Mefford. He writes thrillers so well!

I felt like AT Large started where AT Bay left off, but not so much that you had to have read the first one to follow the second (it just makes life a little easier. Besides, you don't want to miss anything written by John!)

It has been awhile between the first book and now so I didn't remember all the details, but I was quickly reminded.

I still have yet to figure out any of John's books before he tells me and I love that! I love the challenge of trying to figure out and then not getting it and then of course, there is always some whacky twist and this one left me speechless!

Although – a little note for the author – the actual ending actually ticked me off because I'm not 100% sure who was there... I have an idea, but knowing how the books are, I am probably wrong... which worries me!

I cannot wait for the next installment and more Alex. I have always loved John's characters, but I really love Alex. I think I can relate to her a bit more and would love to work with her!

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### **Cecelia Kelsey says**

Alex Troutt is at the gun range to qualify on firearms and she is experiencing a flashback to her husband's grisly death. She never saw the body but she saw the others killed in the same way. The image does not want to leave her. She takes a quieting breath and fires making the kill shot. On her way out she has a confrontation with her old SSA, Randy. Nick reminds her that he is not worth it. Once she gets outside, she pauses for a to gather herself and Jerry, her present boss, announces they are all going to happy hour. Alex tries to beg off but Jerry will not take no for an answer. They end up at the same place Alex last saw her husband alive.

John W Mefford writes an exciting mystery that pulls you in from the very beginning and keeps you on the edge of your seat! Alex Troutt is a strong female lead that also shows some weakness. She is someone to cheer. This mystery has everything that I want and expect from a good mystery.

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### **Mary says**

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. Another incredible story by John. This is an exciting, intense romantic thriller that is full of twists and turns, with characters that come to life. A real page turner that keeps you on the edge of your seat. I couldn't put it down until I'd read the last sentence.

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## **Nicki Conroy says**

I read the first Alex Trout book and was left waiting for the next one to come out. I have to say that this one did not disappoint. Did it draw on the previous book? Without a doubt. Do you need to read *AT Bay* to be able to read *AT Large*? No, this is a great standalone.

The Boston area makes a perfect setting for a thriller book. Mefford blends in the area with police work and some travel to other areas this time. Alex heads to New York City and Washington, DC. We also get to meet her father.

I love a book that leaves me trying to figure out what is going on. I am always on edge, trying to be one step ahead of the author and characters and never get there with this book. The twists and turns were not ones that I could ever have anticipated. I sometimes wonder how anyone's mind works in the way a good author's does. I would like to spend time inside Mefford's brain to figure out how he gets these ideas.

If you want suspenseful read, I totally recommend picking up *AT Large*.

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## **Shelly says**

I'm a firm believer that if you're going to read a series, you need to do it from the first book on. That being said, if you like to be a rebel, this can be read as a standalone but I highly recommend starting from the beginning.

It never fails that John doesn't disappoint and as I found myself turning every page, I could feel sweat trickling down my temples and spine. Alex is finally getting her life back to normal when she's faced with something so horrific that it sets her back. However, I love her drive and determination! It really sets her apart from the role you'd think she'd play after everything she's gone through.

John's words had me so engulfed in the thrill that I couldn't stop reading. I was furious when it ended as I felt like I was left with so much of the unknown. If you love to be psychologically thrilled, start this series now!

I received this book to review through Beck Valley Books Book Tours, all the opinions above are 100% my own.

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## **Mary says**

Another great story by this author, following the first in the series, *AT Bay*. Wonderful writing with suspense and intrigue as the main characters look for the murderer(s) of horrendous brutality and mayhem. This story grabs you from the first paragraph making it hard to put the book down. I recommend this book highly for all mystery readers.

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## **Kathy says**

Mefford has done it again! This Alex Troutt book is better than the first. It grabs you from the beginning and doesn't let go. Another serial killer is sending messages to Alex from horrible crime scenes. Alex is still trying to put her life and her memory back together after the last brush with a serial killer left her husband dead and her memory shot. Now she doesn't have time to dwell on any of that as she races to catch this killer. Great characters, lively dialogue, gruesome crimes all make for an excellent thriller!

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Toni Osborne says**

Book #2, in the Alex Troutt Thriller series

This book can definitely be a stand-alone but I would suggest reading "At Bay" book 1 first so you can better place the characters and where they come from.

Mr. Mefford writes novels full of intrigue, suspense and thrills and undeniably his style will evoke an emotional connection to his characters. In "At large" Alex is thrust into a bizarre string of murders. She partners with a CIA counterpart and together they chase a killer up and down the east coast. Victims are both male and female but how are they connected and what is the killer's end game.....

Alex Trout is an intrepid character, while fighting her internal demons this FBI Agent entertains us with non-stop action while the investigation goes on and more mutilated bodies pile up. Yes, the story goes on at a rapid pace, is rather graphic, has a decent language and a pretty good plotline to entertain us. What it does best is keeping us on our toes: guessing who may be next, wondering if Alex is up to the task and will she get her man.....or will he get the better of her....The story is well-crafted but isn't memorable, soon read soon forgotten...but so much fun to read.

Entertaining

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## **Julie Baswell says**

J.L. Cobb is a serial killer who murdered Alex's husband. Now that he has been caught and imprisoned, Alex tries to slow down and become more involved in her kids' lives. At least that was the plan. When another gruesome killing spree leads Alex back to Cobb, she uncovers his true façade. Now, with no time left, Alex must figure out why the killer is focused on her.

I like Alex's character more with each book. She is brash, tough, and genuine. Even her surrounding characters earn their reference. Although this series is very graphic, it is engrossing from start to finish. It makes you feel like you have gone through the ringer alongside Alex. Mefford has outdone himself with Alex Troutt. I can't wait for the next investigation surrounding her.

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### **Norma says**

Second in the Alex Trout series but, whilst having read the first book ( and why wouldn't you - it was so good?) slightly enhances the background to this story, it is a stand alone novel with any pertinent details from At Bay filled in completely comfortably without disruption to the story flow or the ever increasing pace as the investigation unfolds.

A good thriller, more a why-done-it than a who? as parts of the story are told from the killer's perspective. But the real excellence of this book, as with it's predecessor, comes from the ongoing character development of the main protagonist, Alex, an F.B.I. agent, who is still trying to sort her memories after amnesia resulting from an earlier injury. As she discovers herself, so do we. But forgetfulness in no way dampened her feisty, even aggressive, character and the interplay between her and her colleagues is pure joy. Her family life is cute, too

Good story, good characters well written and a pleasure to read. What are you waiting for?

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### **Michele says**

Special Agent Alex Trout is still attempting to remember all that went on before she lost most of her memory in a massive car accident--before her husband was brutally murdered all of which occurred in the first book of this series, At Bay, which I recommend you read first. You can read my review of it here. At least she has reconnected with her children or as much as anyone can connect with teenagers but still feels the dra of her job. Alex is still having trouble with her memory but more and more is coming back--in flashes. Then another murder occurs and even though she is advised not to try and help--she does. Then it becomes personal!!

John Mefford has done it again--I started and finished this book in one sitting. It is sure to hold your attention as well. I whole heartedly recommend any and all of his novels and I think I have read them all!!

AT Large

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### **Abbie says**

#### **Must read series**

John Mefford has crossed all the t's and dotted all the i's in bringing the life FBI field agent Alex Troutt to life. This series goes from zero to sixty in less than one chapter. I recommend starting with the first book in the series. Enjoy.

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### **Sonya Neal says**

John Mefford has done it again! His thrillers will grab you by the throat and not let you go until the very last page. AT Large is his second Alex Troutt book, and she is my new favorite FBI agent.

Alex is still trying to put her life back together after an accident that took her memory and a serial killer who took her husband. She's thrust into another case that's far too similar to the case she just closed. Can she put her life back together for her family's sake and find a serial killer before more lives are destroyed?

This book has some graphic injury descriptions, and it makes you question how Alex has such bad luck, but is an amazing story. It's gripping and gritty and unearths the nastiest form of humans, but I loved it!

It's the second in the series, but it is a stand alone story (although it's definitely a better read after reading AT Bay).

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### **Sue Olexa says**

It takes a very skillful writer to continue producing book after book that hails as successes, but John Mefford manages that very well and this book is yet another one to prove that. Suspenseful, very introspective for main character Alex Troutt who is still battling amnesia remnant problems. But she forges on as small flashes of memory returns and does not disappoint with her fortitude to bring those who need to be brought to justice for their evil acts. Very skillful writing that creates page turner after page turner. Great characters, and creative plots, and smooth story telling continues to bring us readers gratifying reading enjoyment. Can't wait to read next book in this series. Grab Books 1 & 2 and give yourself a gift of reading a great Author...John Mefford. HIGHLY recommend!

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### **Julie Stafford says**

And The Series Continues:

John Mefford has a winner with this series. At Large is the continuing story of Alex Troutt, a hard core FBI agent. She is a strong female lead character and holds her own throughout the book. This is an enticing read with a lot of twists and turns. Mefford does an excellent job of setting the scene and creating believable characters. I'm very excited to read the next book. John Mefford is continuing to prove his mettle as an up and coming thriller, mystery author. I believe he is on his way to the top. I will impatiently wait for the next book. Don't miss this phenomenal series.

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