



Kind of Blue

Miles Corwin

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When a legendary ex-cop is murdered in L.A., the pressure's on to find the killer. Lt. Frank Duffy needs his best detective on the case, but his best detective, Ash Levine, quit a year ago. A tenacious, obsessive detective, Ash resigned after Latisha Patton, the witness in a homicide case he was working, was murdered. Without his job, Ash is left unanchored-and consumed with guilt that he somehow caused Latisha's murder. When he's asked to rejoin the force, Ash reluctantly agrees. Getting his badge back could give him the chance to find Latisha's killer. Ash dives in headfirst into the shadowlands of Southern California to investigate the ex-cop's murder. But even when he has a suspect in custody, something about this case doesn't sit right with Ash, and he continues working the increasingly dangerous investigation while quietly chasing leads in Latisha's murder. Unable to let either case go until he has answers, Ash finds that his obsessive nature, which propels him into a world of private compromises and public corruption, is a flaw that might prove fatal.

Kind of Blue Details

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From Reader Review Kind of Blue for online ebook

Corissa says

I really enjoyed it! All the hateful criticism is such a waste of time. If you didn't like the book - why did you finish it? I thought it was an easy read that kept one's interest throughout. Check it out!

Lily says

I don't like writing reviews, but this was seriously the most contrived book I've ever read. Major points:

- 1) Props for having a Jewish detective. But a Jewish detective whose name is "Ash Levine", has a neurotic mother and a brother for a lawyer, has a chip on his shoulder about the Holocaust, and then proceeds to date a Lebanese girl? Please. Over it.
- 2) While we're at it, a detective who is divorced and therefore depressed and drinking? See above.
- 3) Yes, we get that you're trying to make a tribute to Miles Davis. It's in the title. No need to bash it over our heads.
- 4) formerly racist coworker of the Jewish detective who gives him a hard time and ultimately comes around at the end of the novel.
- 5) 4) Is there a more unoriginal crime novel plot than cop gone bad?

QED.

Byron says

Hyper-cliche LA-based cop procedural. Detective Ash Levine likes to do things his own way, much to the chagrin of the angry chief. He's haunted by the memory of a witness he failed to protect. He took some time off on the force, but they pulled him back in, like Al Pacino in the Godfather Part III, because he was the only one who could crack the case. Have I mentioned the part where he's Jewish (obvs), his mom is ridonkulously overbearing, his father, who happens to be much older than his mother, was a survivor (no Destiny's Child), and his brother is..., you guessed it, a lawyer?

Kaylor says

When I started this novel, I was unsure of what I was getting into. I've read detective novels in the past that was straight-up, hard-hitting action ALL. THE. TIME. And those didn't appeal to me very much. I feared this novel would be similar, but I was in for a surprise.

The novel is one that keeps a decent pace, but still manages to develop a sense of place and a set of characters that you can almost reach out and touch. The main character Asher Levine, is given a tough edge on the outside, but every once in a while, his vulnerable core is shown to the reader.

Probably the biggest compliment I can give about a detective book is that I had no idea who the killers were

until the end. When Relovich's killers were identified, it was a revelation out of left field. I would have never guessed. I also enjoyed that Asher got to clean up a previous case, one that had left him destroyed.

Brenda says

This was a good police drama, strong on the investigation itself. The first third of the book was a bit slow with introducing characters, setting the personal life, and reviewing the past year. I had a good sense of the detective's doggedness in his pursuit of the criminals. There were some twists and turns, one in particular that was really surprising. Altogether a satisfying book.

Tania says

I really enjoy police procedurals, particularly if it's about the LAPD. I only give this 2 stars because the protagonist's feelings of guilt over his relatives death in the holocaust was not compellingly or believable. The plot, of all three of them, made the story kinda clunky. A more focused story with deeper character development would have helped this effort.

Al VanNostrand says

Nicely done

Police procedural. The book held my interest Ash was compelling and his backstory was a nice change of pace. I'll stick with the series.

ronald damato says

Surf into the sunset

First MilesCorwin read,it was a page turner from end to end. So many twists,turns and suspects. Ash Levine never sleeps. The only problem I had was the author seemed to have trouble ending the story but he pulled it all together.

Maddy says

PROTAGONIST: Ash Levine, homicide detective

SETTING: Los Angeles

SERIES: Debut

RATING: 3.25

Ash Levine was one of the best homicide detectives working for the LAPD who gave up his job, consumed with guilt for failing to protect a witness in a case he was working on. Ever since, he's been trying to determine who murdered Latisha Patton, an endeavor which has gotten him nowhere.

But then Pete Relovich, a legendary ex-cop, is killed; and Lieutenant Frank Duffy is being pressured to put the best detective he knows on the case. That happens to be Ash Levine, who finally agrees to come back after having been "retired" for a year. What isn't obvious is that Ash has agreed just so that he can have a chance to find Latisha's killer. He is warned not to continue that investigation, but Ash is one who does exactly what he wants.

As he works on the Relovich case, he uncovers a lot of departmental dirty laundry, which he uses against those in power. Out of self interest, those individuals allow Ash to proceed however he wishes in his investigation. That is a very dangerous course to follow, as he has no one to call him on his own questionable behavior. Without supervision, he starts to become a vigilante cop, engaging in threatening others, breaking and entering, and so on.

KIND OF BLUE was an intense book with an obsessive, somewhat arrogant, protagonist who was hard to like. It wasn't real obvious to me why Levine was so well regarded as a detective. He is a real loose cannon who abuses the law instead of enforcing it and thinks nothing of blackmailing his superiors to achieve his own ends.

On the plus side, the book was well plotted. Corwin's own background as an LA Times crime reporter served him well in developing a gritty and believable narrative. Unfortunately, my negative reaction to Ash Levine made this book one that I found hard to like.

Jay Fromkin says

Thank you, Mile Corwin, for a literate police procedural with nary a serial killer in sight. Asher Levine, a Jewish cop who quit the LAPD after his witness in a murder case is executed, is called back as lead investigator when a retired cop is killed down in San Pedro. Ultimately, the old cold case and the new hot one intertwine in a web of gang violence and police corruption. Corwin draws his characters well, imbuing each with his or her own set of physical and behavioral qualities, and the dialog is smart, punchy without running over into parody. The writing only feels forced when Levine dumbs himself into a couple of mortally dangerous situations and smarts his way out of them. In an era when murders are solved in 60 minutes on TV (exception for "The Killing"), Corwin demonstrates that police work can be a long, tedious, painstaking process that sometimes results in a quick arrest, sometimes not. Along the way, he provides a compelling look at Los Angeles and its environs - the architecture, the streets, the ethnic neighborhoods and restaurants; he also provides a look at cop culture that I haven't read since Joseph Wambaugh.

Corwin doesn't do enough, however, with Levine's Jewish background. There are some funny (and pretty realistic) scenes with his mother and uncle Benny about history, aspirations for the next generation, and finding "a nice Jewish girl (Levine is already divorced from one) instead of dating "shicksas" (non-Jewish girls, particularly Lebanese Christians). And while Corwin occasionally touches fleetingly on Levine's service with the Israeli Defense Forces in southern Lebanon, the experience probably should have informed his character more than it does in the book.

I read a fair amount of police procedurals, and this is one of the best I've read in a while.

Naomi says

I just wrapped up Kind of Blue by Miles Corwin...This turned out to be a great read. This is the book I was concerned was going to be like a bad detective story, but it turned out to be anything but...My only criticism of it is that the author made multiple references to incidents in the main characters past that in my opinion should have either been done as a first in series or prequel...This is a character I easily could see turn into a series character and do really well in it. If the trials and tribulations of the main author would have been better explained or would have been covered in a first in series, I would have given this book 5 stars...because the author left the reader guessing...4 stars!

Patricia says

I really enjoyed this book. It was well written and the main character was tragically flawed, but dogged in his search for truth and vengeance.

Aaron Kendal says

An excellent police mystery with a new and engaging hero. The start of a new series by notable true-crime writer Miles Corwin.

Well written, the twists are unexpected, and the author makes you begin to think that x did it and it turns out it wasn't x at all - but without any deus-ex-machina twists it sensibly and satisfyingly moves towards an excellent solution of the mystery.

Dlmrose says

3+

Harvey says

This is first in (presumably/hopefully) a series featuring LA Felony Special detective Asher Levine. The character and backstory are very interesting (e.g. child of Holocaust survivor) and sets up some interesting dynamics for this and subsequent books.

This is in essence a police procedural but focuses more on the bullheaded/obsessed detective solving multiple murders (including a guilt-enducing cold case). This reminded me (favorably) of Michael Connelly/Harry Bosch where Levine is the "star" loner in the squad and doesn't always play well w/ others.(Like Bosch, Levine might not always call for backup when he should.)

Also throws in some good stuff on downtown LA architecture (and food).

I'll definitely read the next from Corwin.
