



Whitewash

Alex Kava

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Sabrina Galloway is the top scientist at EcoEnergy, leading the company's research team to a successful breakthrough in the quest for an alternative fuel. The promise of a cleaner tomorrow and the economic impact on world markets could be staggering. Then she makes an alarming discovery: someone has tampered with the production process, resulting in toxic waste leaking into the Florida waterways and the Gulf of Mexico. Fighting mounting terror fueled by too many accidents and untimely deaths, Sabrina pieces together the grim puzzle. The evidence points to a cover-up orchestrated by the chief executives of EcoEnergy. Now her determination to expose the company's secret has placed her in the crosshairs of a conspiracy that reaches further than she could ever imagine--America's biggest traitors are lurking behind the doors of one of the highest offices in the land. Desperate, Sabrina flees the company with damning evidence, aware that an enemy with eyes and ears everywhere makes each move a gamble. Running for her life with nowhere to hide and no one to trust, Sabrina knows her next step could be her last....

Whitewash Details

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Author : Alex Kava

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From Reader Review Whitewash for online ebook

Nicole says

This is not a good book, from an author I usually really like.

I mean it started with an intriguing premise. I've never seen this kind of book tackle an environmental focused plot. There's props for originality I guess.

The main problem was that they had a POV character that was a total douchebag that I could barely stand. He was awful (and his political views were far too reminiscent of what I see in the news these days, which ugh. That's not completely on the author, but it didn't help). This book was full of jerky characters, and I was so done with them all by page 100.

It's too long and takes WAY too much time to get to the point. It goes nowhere for most of the book. Things just happen that are vaguely connected and then don't get to the point of why they're important until the book is over half wat done.

And what was with the random terrorist plot? Like it would pop up every once and awhile, but I'd forget about it in the meantime because it was so separate from the main story. It felt not only tacked on, but it amounted to nothing and should have been it's only book.

Paul says

I enjoyed it. Here's the description. Bestseller Kava takes a break from her Maggie O'Dell FBI profiler series (A Necessary Evil, etc.) with a fine topical thriller involving terrorism, government coverups and toxic waste. Sabrina Galloway, a young Chicago professor, becomes a hands-on scientist in Florida with EcoEnergy, a company that specializes in TCP—a process that converts refuse and other waste material into oil. EcoEnergy's CEO is angling for a \$140 million military government contract, but after Sabrina's boss mysteriously disappears and Sabrina discovers a reactor processing something it shouldn't, her life becomes as endangered as Florida's waterways. She hits the road in a '47 Studebaker with Miss Sadie, a gutsy 81-year-old African-American neighbor, to find help, while Middle Eastern terrorists plot a nasty surprise for an upcoming energy summit. Engaging supporting characters include Leon, a funky hit man losing his touch but not his heart, and covert operative Natalie Richards, "a black Emma Peel." Kava lightens the seriousness with some deft touches of humor. Genre fans weary of serial-killer fare will find this a refreshing read.

Marina Mcmaugh says

Love this author, amazing story teller.

Lynn Spencer says

This thriller started off interestingly enough. Scientist Sabrina Galloway has what appears to be her dream job working for EchoEnergy in Florida, where she is helping to develop alternative energy sources. However, it appears that something is awry at the plant. Sabrina's boss has mysteriously disappeared and there are hints of sabotage.

Another thread of the story picks up with Jason Brill, chief of staff to a senator with an interest in the EchoEnergy project. As an international energy summit approaches, Jason starts finding things that make him uneasy as well.

Sabrina's story and much of the political intrigue travel along separate tracks - or at least they did for the portions of the book that I read. Presumably, things will come together in the end but I just can't stick with this book. The plot meanders and for a thriller, there's an awful lot of nothing happening. I keep feeling like vast chunks of this book could be cut without inhibiting the story.

The characters don't help much here either. I'm fine with characters not being likable; I just want them to be interesting to read about. However, Sabrina, Jason and most of their compatriots fall into neither category. Jason is particularly awful because in addition to being somewhat dull, being inside his mind exposes one to casual xenophobia, racism and other stereotyping. In this respect, he sounds very much like several Hill staffers I've known from both parties, but that doesn't make him great reading.

Between the unlikable characters and the wandering plot, I just couldn't get very far into this book.

Sue says

On a mission to read the Alex Kava books that I missed...always a good read!

R.W. Lang says

Good ending.

Richard says

Far Fetched and Fractured!! Written by Alex Kava, and published by MIRA Publishing in 2007, this book is supposed to be about an attempted terrorist attack on an energy summit in Florida. Oh, wait! I think it is about an attempt to assassinate the President of the United States with a poison mixed in with Parmesan cheese on his food at a banquet. Perhaps, on the other hand, it is about a new technology for recovering oil from chicken guts, but that is releasing dioxins into the river that are poisoning children and bottled water. Maybe it's really about the profits that are to be made along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico by removing waste and debris left behind by the area's many hurricanes, and by turning it into oil. Or maybe it's about a United States Senator who is secretly gay, and who murders his gay boyfriend and blames it on his chief of staff. No . . . That's not it, either. Oh, wait! I've got it! It's about all of these things! Simultaneously!

Reading the first half of the book is akin to watching paint dry. We are introduced (sketchily) to a number of seemingly-unrelated people in Florida, and in Washington, D.C. What is going on? Who knows?! One

presumes that the fractured threads of a plot line will, eventually, come together into a single cord. And it does — kinda. The plot cord does terminate rather abruptly, however, with an unlikely ending to the story.

EchoEnergy is the company that has developed and now controls this new oil extraction technology. The company has built a plant that is in operation in rural Florida. Leon is a hit man hired to kill the chief scientist at the plant, and also the number two scientist, Sabrina. If there is a single protagonist in this story, I guess it would be Sabrina. Parts of the story are told from her perspective. Leon just kind of disappears at the end of the story, as does Sabrina's generous neighbor, Sadie. Loose ends abound at the end of the novel, which is really not very well written.

The first two attempts to murder Sabrina fail, and she soon becomes suspicious. Who is trying to kill her, and why? Is it William Sidell, the CEO of EchoEnergy? All indications point to him. Is it one of her co-workers? What role does her brother, Eric, play in all this? Who has called the sheriff and blamed Sabrina for the death of her co-worker and competitor to replace missing Chief Scientist Dr. Dwight Lansik? Will the police find Sabrina?

This is not a good story. It is neither realistic nor entertaining. Reading it was painful. You will probably not enjoy reading this novel. I can't really recommend it. Feel free to skip this one.

Kristin says

Alex Kava's books are always fast paced and pull me in. This was the first book of hers I've read that didn't feature Maggie O'Dell, but I feel that some of the characters in 'Whitewash' could continue forward in their own series. Kava takes the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and merges that tragedy with a bit of political sabotage and emerging advances in the quest for alternative fuel sources to craft an intriguing story. Still reeling from her mother's death, scientist Sabrina Galloway relocates from Chicago to Florida both to get a fresh start and be near her father, whose reaction to the loss of his wife lead to a psychiatric breakdown and long-term stay at a mental hospital. Galloway's new job is at a large chemical plant that converts byproducts of the poultry industry into oil, but she gets suspicious when her immediate boss, Dwight, disappears and she is asked to give a tour to some high-ranking politicians, something normally done by her boss and an unlikely task for the newest scientist in the department. While walking around the campus, Sabrina notices activity in an area of the plant that according to Dwight is non-operational, as it was designed for processing of Class 2 waste, which is strictly regulated and not yet approved for operation at the company. Investigating this further leads Sabrina into trouble for which she'll need help from a variety of unlikely sources.

I enjoyed the entire story involving Sabrina and her research into the chicken processing plant. What I didn't care for was the political angle. I could not keep track of who was working for who and the roles of these people. Often times, Kava simply referred to 'his boss' or 'her boss', without really saying who the boss was or what that person did in Washington. Even people who were named, I found to be vague and hard to follow, and while in the end, I understood some of Kava's vagueness, she could have done a better job of getting her readers to connect with this group of characters.

As mentioned, there were definitely characters whose stories seemed left unfinished, and I'm trying to recall if any of them have appeared in the Maggie O'Dell series, but I don't believe so. I suppose if she tires of Maggie, Kava has built a foundation for a new series of books.

Betty Day says

Still don't like Washington manuvering . . . rather "clean" actions for all their lethality . . . secret good guys . . . movie script ending . . .

Patt says

The short chapters in this book make it easy to follow the switches in action between Pensacola, Florida and Washington D.C. Sabrina Galloway is a scientist at Echo Energy, a plant that converts pig guts into energy. Are they really only processing pig guts or is there something sinister happening there. The action is fast moving and there are some gruesome murders that take place. Sabrina flees for her life after she witnesses a murder and with her brother's help is able to solve it.

Maddy says

There are a few reasons why scientist Sabrina Galloway is has chosen to work for EcoEnergy in Tallahassee, Florida, instead of pursuing more lucrative adventures. First of all, EcoEnergy has been lauded for its efforts at developing alternative fuels. They have taken a waste product (chicken guts) which they convert into oil. Secondly, her father, formerly a scientist, is a mental patient at a nearby institution and she is now able to visit him frequently.

But those dream jobs do have a way of turning sour, don't they? It all begins when Sabrina's boss, Dwight Lansik, disappears. Sabrina is extremely suspicious about this turn of events. As she checks things out, she uncovers some very unnerving situations occurring at the EcoEnergy plant and finds herself in danger as a result. There's an environmental disaster of the highest magnitude about to occur, and already toxic waste is flowing into Florida's waterways. She flees to her estranged brother, Eric, in Pensacola, who has his own secrets. Ultimately, working with a group of people that Eric has befriended, they unveil corporate corruption and a huge environmental scandal. Separately, a senator's aide in Washington, DC, is finding a government conspiracy around the EcoEnergy contract that points to the highest people in power.

Kava builds the layers of suspense one upon another. Sabrina and Eric's group of cohorts infiltrate the EcoEnergy plant to obtain the evidence they need to uncover the facts around the environmental damage being wrought by the company, with someone profiting to the tune of millions of dollars. There's an especially exciting scene involving Sabrina, a hit man and one of the company's other scientists. At the same time, Jason Brill, the senator's aide, is finding there is more than meets the eye to the senator's business and relationships. It all culminates in a wham-bam finale that almost literally explodes off the page.

The characters are fairly stock with the exception of Sabrina's neighbor, Miss Sadie, an 81-year-old black woman who steals the scene every time she appears on the page. For example, the hit man is watching Miss Sadie's home and planning to do whatever he must to extract information about Sabrina from her. As he sneaks into her back yard preparing to enter her home, Miss Sadie calmly calls to him from her rocker: "What took you so long?" Suffice it to say that Miss Sadie defies all stereotypes about little old ladies and manages to negotiate a quite unexpected outcome with the hit man. The hit man is also a character that has some unusual characteristics.

Whitewash was a solid book, nothing flashy, that I found hard to put down. I am very tired of thrillers that focus on some loathsome serial killer. It was really refreshing not to have that element in this book and that made it all the more enjoyable for me. Unlike Kava's series books, Whitewash features ordinary people caught up in extraordinary circumstances. She succeeds admirably in creating a unique and fast-paced thriller.

Marnie Krüger says

A good friend of mine suggested to me reading the **Maggie O'Dell** series by Alex Kava . My brilliant judgment kicked in on one of my many book shopping trips, ending with me purchasing Whitewash. *"For anyone reading this review and don't know me – The brilliant judgment part was sarcastic!"*

So kill me now - or send me all the hate mail you want - but this book was tortures!

Overall thought - constantly filling my head - When does the good part start?

First: 2 page chapters (this being long chapters)... Scary! I'm a King fan meaning chapters with-in chapters and not one being less than 2 to 3 pages. But never the less, I'm trying this book.

Second: HELL! Will this book ever become something!

And finally: is there going to be a point where all this characters will eventually merge? Well at least that part did happened, way, way at the end like in the very last 3 (2 page) chapters.

Again I will say! **TORTURES!** As my first Kava book – NOT GOOD!

I will still give the **Maggie O'Dell** series a try, just to be fair. (Well the first book at least – not torturing myself like this ever again!!!)

Chris Noel says

Sabrina Gallows moves to Florida to be near her father, who has dementia. She has a great job with a company that is converting organic waste to oil. Things are too good to be true. Corruption, Washington politics, and hit men all enter the picture. Soon Sabrina is on the run, accused of murdering a coworker. The book shifts among several characters in short chapters. This stand alone book was not as good as the Maggie O'Dell books, but was interesting enough to keep reading.

Linda Klages says

Lots of twists, turns & more turns. Very easy to read as the chapters are short.

Otis W. Doss III says

Fast paced, fun read.
