



# Denial

*Keith Ablow*

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**Denial** Keith Ablow

He's in deep.

A series of grisly murders has forensic psychiatrist Frank Clevenger on the case of a lifetime and the fight of his life against a brutal killer with a horrific trademark and his own howling demons of sexual compulsion, self-destruction, and...*Denial*.

## Denial Details

Date : Published June 15th 1998 by St. Martin's Paperbacks (first published 1996)

ISBN : 9780312965969

Author : Keith Ablow

Format : Paperback 368 pages

Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Fiction, Crime, Suspense

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# From Reader Review Denial for online ebook

## **\_speedy says**

*...some people hurt so much they can't take what they need, even when someone wants to give it to them.*

This book just wasn't for me. I like flawed characters, I really do, but they need to have something human/good in them. But Frank Clevenger was just some lame excuse for a man. He was abused when he was little, and you would think that alone would make him want to help people, but he just ends up hurting them even more. He has a nasty cocaine habit, problems with intimacy and of course enjoys rough s\*x. What a cliché.

If you were to base your opinion on women based only on this book, you would think they were weak, whiny, possessive and like to be degraded by men.

The book is classified as a psychological thriller but it was really just a mediocre story about some fucked up individuals.

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## **Dorie says**

If you take all the things I don't care for in a character, roll them into a ball, and wrap it up with an attitude towards life that I equally don't care for.....this novel would pop out. You can skip sections at a time and miss nothing. ....this is just plain crappy writing, and for me, worthless. I am really hoping this is not the same attitude of all his novels, because I have looked forward to reading this author, from friend suggestions and reviews on here. For me, it is hard to take a sex and drug addict seriously...esp. one borrowing money from his mother to buy enough drugs to make it to the next stripper bar....if sex, porn and drugs are your thing, this is for you. But it's not written well or engaging.... just blunt and boring.

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## **Delilah says**

I was slightly disappointed in this novel. When a forensic psychiatrist writes a crime thriller, I expect a level of introspective intensity in the characters that I just didn't see demonstrated by Mr. Ablow. There were elements of cleverness that kept me reading this otherwise mediocre story; I appreciated the raw raunchiness and the thoroughly unlikable protagonist. At the same time, I wanted the author to step up his appeal to both my visceral love of the macabre and my ability to read above a junior high school level, and I didn't feel satisfied when it was through.

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## **Carl says**

Recommended by my friend Chris Tran. Very graphic in the sexual scenes and no holds barred in the depiction of a doctor on a down spiral of drugs, sex and alcohol. Not for the squeamish, but well plotted.

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### **Tara Kable says**

Well, not really sure quite what to say about this book! It was a real page turner, but in the same effect as a train wreck...You just can't look away! Frank is totally messed up, his girlfriends are totally messed up, and the book was beyond graphic with the sex scenes. Definately not for the squeamish or faint of heart. I definately recommend reading these in order, as there is a lot of back story on Frank and why he is the way he is. A great book, but definately not "light" reading.

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### **Nicole says**

I learned that people are not what they seem on the outside and you should try to find something that is deeper and hidden in that person who seems shy on life.

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### **Debbie says**

So many dysfunctional characters, short bursts of raw sex (no romance). About 50 pages into the book I was ready to quit because I couldn't deal with the characters that lacked my respect and had no self control. But I plodded on and the story did suck me in.

With things coming to a conclusion, I was ready to give this 4 stars. But the end was just ridiculous.

Characters that are narcissistic, emotionally immature, have no self control, and no social skills.

I wish I hadn't wasted my time.

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### **Connlou Ross says**

Serial killer on the loose and the search is on. The main character Frank Clevenger is a forensic psychiatrist who helps to find the killer. Clevenger fights his own demons and personal struggles and this makes for an interesting read. As a reader I found it with so much twists and turns that the killer at the end of the book was so shocking and took me by surprise.

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### **Alyce Rocco says**

Reason I gave up on Denial by Keith Ablow ~ I could not muster up any feeling of caring what happened to main characters. The story started out interesting: women found murdered, breasts cut off, homeless man calls police telling them he killed a virgin.

From there it turned into porno, S&M scenes, perverted doctors and the women who loved being degraded by them. I kept wondering when the story would get back to the deranged homeless man, determining if he did indeed kill the women.

By that time I truly stopped caring if the psych doc would go into drug rehab, and win back his lady. If I say anymore I would need to add Spoiler Alert.

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### **James Fitzgerald says**

When I started to read this book I didn't realize that this was the first fiction novel for this author. So I was critical about the writing of this mediocre story. However I did not give up on it and continued. the main character is not likable he is a psychiatrist who has a few bad habits cocaine, gambling, drinking, and chasing women. Thru half the book you come to understand where Frank Clevenger has evolved from. At that particular point you start to connect to the good Doctor and appreciate where he is in this mixed up world. The base line of the story is about a serial killer that mutilates the bodies of his victims. They arrest a homeless man that is at the scene of the murder and need the Doctor to verify that he is able to stand trial, rather than going through the motions he believes that he did not commit the murder. Shortly after another woman is found killed and brutalized the same way. I enjoyed the book was it the best book I ever read. No! Did I want to find out what happens next YES! I believe the writer will become more proficient as he continues writing fiction.

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### **Vickie says**

It took me a little while to get into this one, the main character is flawed flawed flawed. Then I realized why he is the way he is and I kept learning more as I continued to read. Frank Clevenger is a forensic psychiatrist and is in need of a therapy himself. He treats himself with cocaine and alcohol and anything else he can think of further damage himself. He does care about his patients and that is what won me to his side. I really don't think I'd like him as a person, but I'd want him as my therapist. What life has thrown at Frank, lets him empathize with other damaged souls. I will be reading more of this series and in sequential order. I don't normally do this.

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### **Ella says**

The ending seem abrupt and stupid.

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### **Tony Rello says**

I found the constant gratuitous sex distracting.

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### **Stephanie says**

This was a poor example of American literature. I expected a mystery novel, similar to the Criminal Minds show, and all I received was the story of a cocaine addicted psychiatrist who couldn't keep it in his pants. Not something I would ever pick up again.

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**Ken Schloman says**

This is the first volume of the Frank Clevenger series about a criminal forensic psychologist. I have to say I first read #4 of the series and wanted to go back and get more of the protagonist's back story. While the story line is about a series of grisly murders, to me the novel is a character study of a very flawed and really unlikable "anti-hero". As the novel develops , you can see how messed up Clevenger really is and how he tries to fight his demons. In that regard the novel succeeds. As to the solving of the murders, the solution reminds me of a made for cable TV movie. It doesn't grab me and just doesn't seem to work well. Still a decent read.

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