

ReviewTheBook.com - RED FLAG WARNING

In this book by Kurt Kamm we find fire captain and investigator Jim Kendall smack dab in the middle of what he knows is going to be an intense season of forest fires. With conditions in the area dry as never before and temperatures in the danger range, Kendall knows that it is just a matter of time before fires intentionally set, accidental, or those started by lightning strikes will break out and just how much damage will ensue is anyone's guess. He is preparing himself for the worst, but he has no idea how bad it's going to get with a serial fire lover on the loose.

This fire bug is not only destroying wildlife and homes, but he is killing people in the process and is growing bolder by the fire. So bold in fact that the reader is quickly drawn into the life of the arsonist and the fire investigator as well. Kendall knows that unless he finds out who this fire lover is and soon, he is possibly going to face a fire he cannot contain.

The arsonist known as NiteHeat leaves a destructive path in the darkness, busy setting fires, staying one step ahead of investigators from the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Arson Unit.

The character of Kendall is one of an investigator set in stone, unstoppable in his quest to find NiteHeat and put a stop to this destruction. While the character NiteHeat lingers in the background, taking center stage in this drama with cleverly planned fires, but also quick and savvy enough to stay ahead of Kendall, the tension grows.

The fire fighters as the reader sees them at work are realistically portrayed with a tough exterior and a determination that shows a dedication to a deadly job. The reader soon finds out it takes a special breed of person to be a firefighter, a mix of fearlessness, determination, skill and dedication mixed with compassion and near super human abilities to go where others flee. This depiction of firefighters is spot on in it's human touch and the writer has brought to life extremely well the inner workings of those who fight fires.

While the reader, like Kendall tries to understand and figure out NiteHeat, we soon discover that this is no amateur fire setter. This fire bug is one that obviously knows and loves fire as much as a mother loves her child. And fire is like a child to NiteHeat whom we find in the end in an amazingly surprising ending, is one that if met on the street, would be the last person thought to be NiteHeat.

Red Flag Warning is the type of book that keeps your attention from start to finish and although there are those who criticize and comment that the characters are not believable,

I beg to differ. My uncle was a firefighter in Arizona in the early 1960's and he fought the same sort of fires depicted there. I remember his stories well. So well that over 50 years later, I remember with trepidation watching lightening striking in the hills and waiting for him to be called into action. That and having friends who are present day firefighters made this book come to life for me and remind me in all too clear ways what a dangerous job we as mere citizens often take for granted.

A firefighter is like a police officer. It takes a special breed to do the job and to do it well. It takes part daredevil, fearless in facing what might be around the next corner and it takes a person of determination to help ones fellow man that cannot be imitated. It is an inborn personality trait that makes the best firefighters the ones that last and the ones that give their lives for their fellow man.

I highly recommend this book for those who love a good action packed, suspenseful book full of believable characters which keeps them on the edge of their seat. It is a book you will find yourself in the dead of night reading with a flashlight in your own quest to find the identity of NiteHeat. And when you do find NiteHeat, it will be an experience you will never forget in its intensity and unbelievable scene set by talented author Kurt Kamm.

Reviewed on 06/19/2010 by ReviewTheBook.com Member Susan Pettrone