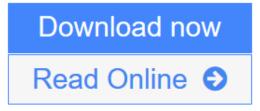




The Sex Club

L.J. Sellers



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When a bomb explodes at a birth-control clinic and a young client turns up dead, Detective Jackson is assigned both cases.

But are they connected?

Kera, the clinic nurse who discovers that the girl's Bible group is really a sexual free-for-all, thinks they are. But confidentiality keeps her from telling the police, so she digs for the truth on her own and becomes the bomber's new target.

Soon another girl is murdered. Can Jackson uncover the killer's shocking identity in time to stop the slaughter?

The Sex Club Details

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Author : L.J. Sellers

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From Reader Review The Sex Club for online ebook

Patricia says

The Sex Club – 5 Paws L. J. Sellers Spellbinder Press, 2007, 347 pps. ISBN No. 978-0-9795182-0-1

A bible study class has turned into a sex club for young teen-agers. A religious zealot is making bombs to bomb Planned Parenthood. A young girl is found naked and suffocated in a dumpster. Are these incidents connected or just separate tragic incidents?

Detective Wade Jackson is trying to discover the answer to these questions. Although bound by confidentiality issues Kera Kollmorgan wants to help him find the answers.

Kera is a clinical nurse at Planned Parenthood. She was present when a bomb went off at the clinic. Kera's last patient had been a girl named Jessie who was obviously sexually active. Jessie had just left the clinic when the bomb went off. When Kera got home and checked her email she had received a message from Jessie. The message was not signed but Kera was sure it was from her.

Jessie is the girl that is found dead in the dumpster the next day. She was naked and had been suffocated. Detective Jackson started following up leads and some of the leads pointed to a man in a high position in the city.

While Detective Jackson follows up leads in the murder, Kera reviews files at Planned Parenthood trying to connect the patients at the clinic with the participants in the sex club.

The Sex Club is a very exciting read with a tragic ending. Detective Jackson and Kera Kollmorgan are great characters and I hope to read more about them.

Helen says

In The Sex Club, L.J. Sellers leads you through fourteen days in the lives of nurse Kera Kollmorgan and Detective Wade Jackson. It starts with a bang, literally, and takes you through the twists and turns of a case involving murder, secrecy, and twisted reasoning. Each new incident pulls you along and keeps you reading. It's the underlying, unsaid, questions that keep you thinking, like: How does a "good" person get so rigid in their beliefs that they become worse than what they hate? It also begs the question, Is this radicalization the way terrorists are born?

But Sellers never becomes preachy, nor tells you how to think. This is left up to the reader. What she does if tell a fast-paced, unique tale of lives intertwined in unwanted murder and intrigue.

I especially liked this book because it took me beyond just the story.

Julia says

On the same day that a bomb explodes at a Planned Parenthood clinic, a local teenager is found murdered. Are the two crimes connected? Detective Jackson has his hands full as clues begin to point in politically unfavorable directions. Kera, a nurse at the clinic who is constrained by confidentiality, begins a little investigating of her own and discovers that the local teen bible study group isn't quite what it appears.

The Sex Club has enough intrigue and suspense that you won't want to put it down, and it's a quick read. My complaints are few: Although Ms. Sellers would find me a friend on the same end of the political spectrum, even I had a hard time swallowing the big fat agenda being stuffed down my throat while trying to remain engaged with the story. It's not subtle. Sellers' primary "villain" is painfully 1-dimensional. It's hard to believe that someone with such intense compulsions could have a genuinely successful semblance of a normal life. Finally, as others have mentioned, the chat room scenes are wholly unbelievable, for so many reasons.

Kimberly Hicks says

This is the first book I've read from L.J. Sellers and I'm so glad I chose it. It's hard to believe that young teens are doing the things they do today, but this book clearly demonstrates that.

Kera Kollmorgan is a planned parenthood counselor and she finds herself in a whirlwind of mess with young teens in a sex club. And knowing that confidentiality is the key to keeping her job secure, she finds herself in a huge bind when she meets a young thirteen year old named Nicole.

The connection that Nicole has to this case is something that Kera could not possibly fathom. So, when Nicole abruptly leaves the clinic after a session with Kera, to only find herself a corpse in a dumpster short hours later.

Now enters Detective Wade Jackson, who has the skill and know how to get a case done, but not without his fair share of problems, from corruption in his department and a huge leak that fuels the media frenzy.

When all the pieces of the puzzle come together, what the reader discovers is a sad case with a great ending. This story was weaved well and it will definitely keep you turning the pages. A great thriller indeed! I can't wait to delve into more of the Detective Wade Jackson series.

Miles says

I have to admit, this book surprised me! I am rather passionate about American Crime Fiction and when "The Sex Club" by L.J. Sellers arrived I attacked it with gusto, uncertain of what I'd find between the covers - I certainly wasn't disappointed. It's great to get the chance to review an Indie title – I have to make time for more if this is the quality waiting to be read. Available from Amazon.

Forgetting that this is her debut offering, L.J. has without doubt hit the ground running - an intelligent and

well delivered plot, a taut narrative and natural dialogue throughout. The novel had me guessing right to the end and despite taking great pride in usually guessing how a book will end; I didn't get everything right with this one!

Introducing Detective Wade Jackson, the lead character for "The Sex Club", L.J. Sellers brings us a fallible but likeable cop. He's not perfect, has little control over his life and has a hard time opening up to people – that is until he meets Kera Kollmorgan, a registered nurse and Youth Outreach Coordinator at Planned Parenthood – a birth control clinic. Slowly but surely he changes.

I found Jackson refreshing and I warmed to his character immediately. He has enough to worry about - estranged from his alcoholic wife and a teenage daughter he doesn't see enough of, he's married to his job and works all the hours God sends.

The story begins at a frenetic and powerful pace - A pipe bomb explodes outside the clinic, sending Kera crashing to the floor and while she loses consciousness a patient fights for her life when a piece of glass is imbedded in her neck.

When thirteen year old Jessie leaves the clinic in a hurry, narrowly missing the explosion, and turns up dead in a dumpster just hours later, it brings about unwanted attention to a young Bible Group. Patient confidentiality raises its ugly head and Kera is torn between doing the right thing and respecting her young, but dead, patient.

Full Review on my blog http://www.milorambles.com/2010/11/06...

Naomi says

I wrap this up tomorrow, so I can go ahead and review it today!

First off, this book is really well written. I went into this book with a ton of trepidation because this author was doing a donation for tornado victims and I purchased her next two books in the series, sight unseen..not even knowing if I would enjoy her writing. This one I was able to get through my library. This book flowed smoothly and sucked me in really quickly.

If I had to criticize it, I would say that my criticisms would be centered around the storyline, which focused around insane far-right Christians(allegedly, there are no other kinds) and poor Planned Parenthood as the victim in all of it..Let's not forget to throw in a Republican Mayor involved in a scandal...Just for once, I would love to see a fiction author go outside the bounds and show a Democratic or Liberal politician embroiled in a scandal(I do know I am asking alot!)...To be totally honest, I also felt the book had tinges of cramming "liberal propagandized love causes" crammed down my throat.

Now..will that stop me from checking out the author's other two books..No! Will it make me wear my BS monitor as I am reading her next set of books! You bet! Will I buy any more of her books if it is present in the next two books? Haell No!

Lourdes Venard says

From the title, you might expect some tawdry book, but this is a crime novel with some important points to make. The "sex club" refers to a group of middle-school kids, 13 to 15 years old, who get caught up in sex games that turn deadly when the body of one girl is found naked in a dumpster. Det. Wade Jackson knew the girl -- she was a friend of his daughter (Sellers paints a nice portrait of him as a separated dad trying to raise a teenage daughter). He's helped by Kera Kollmorgan, a nurse at a Planned Parenthood clinic, who has begun to notice trends among the teen patients and formed her theories -- but patient confidentiality prevents her from telling Jackson everything. To add to the tension, the clinic is bombed by a religious fundamentalist, also the mother of one of the sex club members. Soon, the mother is targeting Kera herself -- for death. There's a somewhat predictable ending, but before she gets there Sellers weaves in some issues to think about, such as the importance of sex education in schools. And that high school may already be too late to start discussing these issues with kids.

David Highton says

The title of this book rather put me off, but I guess it was just a bit sensationalist to attract attention to a debut novel. In fact, it is quite a decent police procedural set in Eugene, Oregon, and the first in The Detective Wade Jackson series. The narrative had a bit of pace and momentum and I will definitely read the next one.

Carrie Laben says

I got to flash the title The Sex Club and the arresting cover all over the subway, which I think only added to my indefinable air of sheer class. So already, the book was one up with me!

Ok, ok, you want to hear about the text.

The Sex Club is a solid, well-paced mystery that combines whodunnit, thriller, and procedural elements to good effect. I was initially attracted by the plot, which pits a Planned Parenthood nurse and a sympathetic single-father detective against a clinic bomber who may or may not have also murdered a 13-year-old PP client. It's a solidly pro-choice book but it never lapses into preachiness - with the disclaimer that I, like everyone else in the world no matter how they protest, have a slightly higher tolerance for preachiness with which I agree. There's a little light romance, but never excessive or cloying.

Sellers is by no means a writer's writer, and she has the occasional As-you-know-Bob moment, but the book doesn't contain painful sentence-level clunkers. Her style seems heavily influenced by her journalism background, and those who find wordplay and complex sentences to be distractions will probably see it as a plus. To me, it was lacking at times, especially in places where emotionally-charged events seemed glossed over by straightforward narration. This became more noticeable in the wrap-up, where a scene with the detectives chatting over lunch was used to resolve a number of subplots a bit too quickly.

While I'm normally not a person to be impressed by characterization, Sellers does acquit herself very well on that score. The main characters are attractively practical, sincere, and well-meaning, even when they're wrong. They're not happy about discovering that 13-year-olds are having orgies, but they deal with the facts

on the ground. (The book has attracted some predictable whining about the fundamentalist Christian characters, because that portion of the cast lacks the obligatory "but they're not all bad!" sincere, lovable plaster saint. Guess who I don't miss?)

BEYOND THIS POINT THAR BE SPOILERS!

Precisely because the characterization was so good, it irked me when a well-trained PP nurse seemed more shocked by (relatively safe) girl-on-girl sex than by (highly risky) unprotected anal. And I doubt that any otherwise reasonable police detective, especially one with a teen daughter of his own, would pity a statutory rapist who suicides when accused of abusing the murdered girl because it turns out he was abusing, not her, but a completely different child.

Deeper, though, were my concerns on the thematic level. It's peculiar to note that the book, while explicit about how much the traditional narrative gets wrong about which young women have sex and why, does reproduce one of the most ingrained conservative teen-sex narratives of all: All the teenage girls who have sex and enjoy it end up dead or in jail. All the boys, and the one girl who repents, are spared.

On the whole, while I can't see this book as a contender for my best of the year, it has enough strengths to make an enjoyable commute read and shows potential for better things in Sellers' future.

A note about the publisher: Spellbinder Press appears to be a self-publishing venture on Sellers' part. I applaud her, because in 2002 she published a book with PublishAmerica, so she's moving in the right direction, and also because the book was physically a nice object (although the margins were a bit narrow.) I found the cover design enjoyable in a deliberately lurid way (as previously mentioned,) the type was well-chosen, and the copy-editing was thorough.

Karen says

To get the obvious out of the way up front - the title isn't quite as sinister as it first seems. Whilst this is a book which has some unsavoury elements to it, the point being made is more about the nature of peer pressure and the unfortunate consequences of denial.

When I was lucky enough to get a copy of THE SEX CLUB for my ereader I wasn't really too sure what to expect. The potential sexual elements of the book were certainly not an issue for me, but combine that with a fundamentalist Christian subplot and I became a reluctant reader. But I'm very glad that I was talked into putting my reluctance aside and found, once I started reading the book, I was very quickly engaged.

THE SEX CLUB combines the two main threads - the bombing of the Family Planning Clinic and the death of Jessie. Whilst some elements of the perpetrator of the bombing are known up front, there is less revealed about the murder. This means that the reader watches as, under pressure and under threat, Kera and Jackson must resolve everything - the bomber's identify and motives, the murder's identity and motives and whether the events are connected. And they must do all of that in time to stop any further bombings or murders. It's a well developed methodology, and the storytelling makes the interweaving of these threads believable, complicated but not complex, and engaging.

This book is a debut book and as an opening salvo in getting to know, in particular, Detective Jackson (who has his name on the ongoing series) it was a good start. There was a lot explained about both Jackson and

Kera's backgrounds. Both characters do suffer a little from overtly damaged pasts (leading to much scope for mutual understanding and noble intentions), but overall Jackson, in particular, is an interesting character juggling the challenges of a demanding job and single-fatherhood to a teenage daughter. Of the supporting characters, perhaps the least successful is the perpetrator of the bombing - in whose head the reader spends a fair amount of time. It could be that the character was somewhat unconvincing, having said that, as I write this review I'm aware that it could also very well be that somebody that fanatical is.. frankly... completely offputting and impossible to understand.

In the main, THE SEX CLUB is a book that tackles issues that some readers are going to find contentious. For what it's worth, I thought that each of the difficult aspects were handled with sensitivity, although I should imagine that a slight tendency to "lecture" on some aspects might annoy some readers. Having said that, the sheer tackling of these issues alone is undoubtedly going to annoy some readers. On a personal level I was quite surprised that something built around perpetrators with viewpoints that I would normally leave to other readers worked as well as it did, and I'm looking forward to reading the next books in the series.

J.F. Penn says

Full video review here => http://mysterythriller.tv/the-sex-clu...

* The book has a story that you care about – opens with bombing at a sexual health clinic – that also performs abortion – topic that many people have strong views on.

* Character of Ruth, the religious right-wing bomber – we see scenes in her head as she justifies her violence – interesting to see her point of view.

* The sex club is a group of teens who are using a bible study group as a chance to experiment sexually – and many of them are going to the clinic to be seen for medical reasons.

* Against this we have the murder of a young girl, part of the group, with links to the mayor of the town and the investigation of this by Detective Wade Jackson, whose own daughter was friends with the murdered girl. We see a family man, wanting to protect his daughter but also aware that she's growing up. He also wants justice and we see him pushing for this even though his own career is jeopardized.

* Character of Kera was interesting – someone whose beliefs about helping women and girls put her life in danger repeatedly. She continues to risk herself to help others and it was interesting to see how hard it must be for people working in those clinics when threatened.

* What keeps you reading: Mystery of who killed the young girl, the suspense of whether the bomber will be able to strike again and target one of the main characters, Kera. You are rooting for her all the way through – she is really hammered in the book from all sides, it doesn't let up. I cared about story in itself, it was compelling to read, and there are two distinct investigations and storylines going on at the same time. I wanted the mysteries to be solved as well.

Maria Clara says

La verdad es que la historia me ha sorprendido! No espera mucho de ella y, en cambio, me ha mantenido pegada a sus páginas hasta el final. Sólo he echado en falta algo más de pasión o sentimientos entre los protagonistas y, no sé, el final es correcto pero no memorable.

Jim says

This had some great twists, turns, & more than a few lessons. Confidentiality was on overriding theme that was handled very well. Planned Parenthood was featured well; its work & the perceptions of it by conservative groups. While they believe it is nothing more than an abortion clinic that promotes sex, the reality is very different. Most of its work (97%?) is dealing with contraception & health issues with a shockingly small amount of resources. I was especially touched by the theme of how much more parents influence their kids by their actions rather than what they say to them & how these can be twisted. The problems the police & those who know the victims face were also well done.

The dialog was well done & never felt forced. There was just the right amount of action & it was well narrated, too. The characters were well drawn &, while there were a fair few for this sort of book, they were all memorable & easily distinguished. I could easily imagine my cousin in the role of Kera, the PP nurse, & some of my neighbors as part of the Conservative Coalition of Christian (something? I can't recall the exact name.) They were cast as the complete bad/clueless guys, so if you're a conservative Christian, you'll want to skip this book. I'm not, but the liberal bias was a bit much at times.

There were a few problems, but they weren't huge.

- It was very female-centric. The teen boys (if you read it, you'll know which ones) were pretty much ignored.

- Kera's concerns about the sex didn't ring true. I'm no expert, but (view spoiler)

- The fact that the mayor got elected in the first place didn't seem terribly believable, but I rolled with that one. He must have been up against a real loser, though.

This is pretty much a beach-read, but one of the best in the class. Considering that this is a debut & possibly self-published novel, I'm seriously impressed. I'm looking forward to listening to the next one.

Cheryl says

This is an engrossing reminder that kids are no longer innocent. If they ever were.

From the time a pipe bomb goes off in a birth control clinic, to the ending I almost didn't see coming, this held my attention.

Supposedly Jackson, the detective, is the protagonist but it's really Kera, the nurse at the clnic who notices several young girls coming in for help with different problems like genital warts. Some say they're from the high school, but she recognizes several from the middle school.

When one of them is found nude in a dumpster, Kera wants to confide what she knows to the police but the confidentiality laws prohibit her.

Several characters besides Kera and Jackson have viewpoints, including the fundamentalist mother of one of the girls and the girls themselves. A Christian Teen Talk group becomes the focus, a place for kids to have sex and boast about it on private chat rooms that Kera gets access to.

Upsetting read for parents who may not realize how jaded a thirteen-year-old is in today's society.

Karen Syed says

L.J. Sellers offers readers a vivid and well-displayed look into a very disturbing and all too real trend. The style and dramatic flair of this author lend a wonderful edge to the book.

When an abortion clinic is targeted by "God's Messenger," one woman could hold the key to all of it, and she doesn't even know it. She's had enough loss in her life, so when her patients, young girls, begin dying all around her it takes its toll. Things really get complicated when the entire thing gets "political." What exactly does the Mayor have to do with a teen "sex club" operating under the guise of a bible study group?

Can a team of devoted detectives led by a single father get to the bottom of things before any more die?

THE SEX CLUB immediately brings the readers into the lives of the characters and offers the kind of suspense readers of the genre expect and crave. L.J. Sellers has a wonderful talent for telling a story and doing it well. I will definitely be reading more by this author, of that I have no doubt.