



The Splintered Paddle

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Author : Mark Troy

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From Reader Review *The Splintered Paddle* for online ebook

Jack Goodstein says

Well done thriller, with a heroine, Ava Troy, who is destined to become a kind of female Jack Reacher, although not the proverbial loner.

Laura says

Ava Rome can't help everyone, but she tries. As a Private Investigator on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu, she takes the Law of the Splintered Paddle seriously and tries to live by it. According to the Honolulu Police Department website, the Law was "... decreed by Kamehameha I, circa 1782, to protect travelers from wanton attack" (<http://www.honolulupd.org/departments/...>).

When Jenny Mordan, a well-known working girl, seeks out Ava's protection she doesn't hesitate or judge her lifestyle even though she doesn't necessarily agree with it. Jenny is being blackmailed by a cop who thinks he is above the law so Ava takes the case. Unfortunately, this cop has more going on than his underhanded dealings with Jenny. The deeper Ava gets into the case, she realizes that Jenny's life is at stake and maybe her own.

Enter a Goth want-to-be teenager of a former client. Cassie Sands needs a parent that is going to pay attention to her. Unfortunately, her father thinks she is just acting out. He calls upon Ava to help him with Cassie. Reluctantly she agrees, possibly because she sees a bit of her younger self in Cassie.

While all of this is going on, Norman Traxler, a man Ava put in prison ten years ago while she was an MP in San Francisco is out and looking for Ava. This man is a killing machine that won't stop until he teaches Ava a lesson about messing with the wrong person. He is watching and waiting to make her pay in a way that will hurt her more than death.

Ava has a lot going on. She is trying to keep Jenny safe, Cassie on the straight and narrow and herself from being killed. The list of people out to get her is growing much faster than her bank account. Will making a trip to the mainland to confront ghosts in her past hurt or help her at this point? Ava needs to decide.

Fast paced and full of danger, *The Splintered Paddle* takes the reader to places in Hawaii most visitors will never see. There is a dark side to the Islands and Ava is in the eye of the storm.

This novel isn't all sinister; there are bits of humor – teaching a petulant teen how to drive is funny no matter how you slice it. And the bits of Hawaiian culture are interesting. I loved when the characters enjoy a lunch of Moco Loco; it looks and sounds nasty, but tastes fabulous! Troy does a great job blending the stories and solid believable characters with Hawaiian culture. Adding Ava's past enriches the mix and pulls the readers closer to her, I'm keeping my fingers crossed for a sequel.

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after my review.

Kevintipple says

Private Investigator Ava Rome has no idea in the beginning that she is being hunted. She has no idea at all a man from her distant past is in the islands watching her every move. Fantasizing over and over again what he is going to do to her once he finally gets her alone. His name is Norman Traxler and he is coming for her--- after he eliminates whatever she cares about a chess piece at a time.

Ava's latest client, sent by Moon Ito, is a young woman named Jenny Mordan. Battered and assaulted by a corrupt cop named Ron Nevez she wants and needs Ava's help. The fact that Jenny is a freelancer in the world's oldest profession is not a factor for Ava Rome. Jenny is defenseless and Ava's business is to protect the defenseless as it was under Kamehameha the Great before the annexation of the islands by the United States in 1898. That first law of King Kamehameha, the law of the splintered paddle, is still ingrained in the islands and its people and serves as the very personal mandate of what Ava Rome does each and every day. The defenseless will be guaranteed from harm--period. Using your badge as a weapon is considered official suppression and Ava's isn't about to put up with that.

That issue isn't the only thing she isn't about to put up with in this complicated mystery featuring multiple story lines. Written by Texas author Mark Troy who spent a number of years in Hawaii before moving to Texas, this new series features an intense take no prisoners heroine committed to solving mysteries from the past and present despite the many complications involved with both. Ethical and principled, willing to go it alone if and when she has to, Ava Rome always advances and never retreats. That might be something that comes from her family and the way she was raised.

Featuring a strong and interesting cast of supporting characters, this complex read features four separate and distinct story lines that gradually interweave as readers are slowly filled in on Ava's often difficult past. A past that has driven many of her choices through her life. Choices that have created at least some of the increasingly dangerous situations she now finds herself in today.

Second place finisher at the 2012 Claymore Awards at Killer Nashville, *The Splintered Paddle: An Ava Rome Mystery* is one of those rare books that pulls you deep inside a world far from home right from the beginning. It isn't all sundrenched beaches, cool waters, and happy days in paradise. Ava, also seen in the very good novella *The Rules*, knows something about the dark undercurrents at work in the 50th state in the union and is more than ready to protect the defenseless.

The Splintered Paddle

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<http://marktroywriter.com/>

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Kevin R. Tipple ©2014

Gina says

I received this book as a first read. It's a fast paced thriller. The characters are well developed. You're instantly sucked into the story. It's a beautifully written and dark tale of revenge. Really enjoyable read.

Lance Wright says

This crime novel features a good, solidly developed storyline but one that isn't helped by its oddly executed and overly complicated narrative structure, and features a generally smart lead character, but one who acts and reacts far too emotionally and is hard to make a connection with. Read our full review, here: <http://www.mysteriousreviews.com/myst...>

Shelbi says

The Splintered Paddle - helping the defenseless. This is everything that Ava Rome stands for. Set in beautiful Hawaii, this novel address some not so beautiful crimes. Ava Rome gets tangled in a web of three people, each wanting her dead for a different reason. The one common factor - Traxler. Ava must fight the police, her enemies, and her past, in this in-captivating mystery. Get ready for a roller coaster, and enjoy the beautiful weather in Hawaii b
