



Unreasonable Risk

Karen E. Hall

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Hannah Morrison's place of business might as well be a bomb. Nearly everything inside the fence is either flammable or explosive-and somebody is trying to blow it up. Hannah's friend and mentor has already died, and though she knows it's sabotage, she can't prove it. With the help of photojournalist Noel Keller, Hannah uncovers suspect after suspect as the stakes mount for the refinery, its neighborhood and the entire city. Determined to avenge her friend's death, Hannah works to identify the saboteur before he decides: WHO WILL BE THE NEXT TO DIE? Combining elements of mystery, thriller and romantic suspense, UNREASONABLE RISK will keep readers awake long into the night, and make them think hard the next time they drive past an industrial facility. Are they safe? Really?

Unreasonable Risk Details

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Author : Karen E. Hall

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From Reader Review Unreasonable Risk for online ebook

Carl Brookins says

South Dakota author Karen Hall brings a good deal of professional expertise and knowledge to her debut novel. She's a trained environmental engineer. She understands, presumably, the considerable advantages of the industrial complex that powers the nation. She also understands the risks inherent in the concentration of volatile materials in a place like an oil refinery.

Hannah Morrison understands the risks and rewards all too well, as well as the unwelcoming mostly male environment of this particular refinery on the edge of the Mississippi River in Minnesota, where a big part of her job is to oversee environmental controls. Fires at oil refineries are not unknown and when a fire emergency results in serious injury of her fire-fighting partner, she is emotionally devastated. To add to her troubles, there are repeated suggestions that sloppy maintenance caused the fire and fingers are pointing in her direction.

Digging into the cause of the fire and some other related information leads Hannah step by step into the realization that somebody is bent on sabotaging the refinery. Now it becomes a race between Hannah and her adversaries as she tries to unmask the killers before they murder her and destroy the refinery.

This thriller is a carefully crafted, smoothly written debut about an environment that has largely escaped the attention of crime fiction writers. Our protagonist is a well imagined bright woman with normal strengths and fears, yet one who perseveres in ways we hope we would too. Hall knows her stuff and is a good writer. I recommend this thoughtful gripping novel.

Charline Bonham says

Good mystery. The author knew about the risks in an oil refinery. It got a bit technical at times but added to the story. Didn't figure out the culprit until the end.

Rhenda Strub says

Karen Hall hits the ground running with the release of her first book, a fast paced thriller. Using her experience as a chemical engineer in an oil refinery, Hall creates a new landscape for thriller fans to explore. While I love a good Sandford cop romp or a Grisham lawyer chase as much as the next thriller fan, I really enjoyed joining Hall's environmental engineer, Hanna Morrison, in the unexplored world of oil refining.

Of course Hanna is smart, she would have to be to work as an engineer in a refinery, but she's also has insecurities and frustrations that she manages to keep in check to get the job done in a world built for and by men. In short, she's a real woman in a real industrial job who is tough without being a man hating shrew.

I'm already waiting for the next "Hanna Morrison Mystery" and I'm so happy to have found my new favorite author, Karen Hall.

Nikki says

I read this book quite a few months ago and apparently failed to review it (or at least to post the review!) in any of my usual places. I read this as the Minnesota entry in my A Mystery for Every State project. It's set at an oil refinery/tank farm much like the one in Rosemount, south of the Twin Cities. The protagonist is a sort of risk manager for the refinery -- she's an engineer, but her main concern is making sure nothing awful happens. One of her problems is that a local NIMBY group is up in arms about the refinery (which was already there when they built their houses). Another is that she's fairly new in town and lonesome. And then, things start going wrong, and she believes it's sabotage. Plus, someone is sending her unpleasant messages. Into all this comes an engaging TV reporter -- can she trust him or not? And oh ya, you betcha, it's winter in Minnesota with all that that entails. There are plenty of thrills, some scientific learning, and a bit of romance in this book, and the Minnesota setting is well-done (says one who lived there for 30+ years). Recommended.

Ronda says

Smart mystery with lots of twists and turns. Had me suspecting almost everyone up until the very end. Scary scenario. Look forward to other books by this author.

Michael says

In writing Unreasonable Risk, Ms Hall has provided us with an outstanding, and frighteningly plausible, mystery with a strong, likable character. I'm hoping for many more Hannah Morrison novels for many years to come.

Kimberly says

I love the strong gutsy Hannah, met her in book and had to check her other stories out. She works at what is traditionally thought of as a mans job, and works tirelessly to prove she's deserves it.

Can be read out of order but you will understand her better if you read in sequence.
