



Paloma

Kristine Kathryn Rusch

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As a Retrieval Artist, Miles Flint helps the Disappeared, saving the lives of those oppressed under the Earth Alliance regime. He owes his livelihood, and his very sense of honor, to a woman known as Paloma. It was she who was responsible for setting him on this path—and now she has been murdered.

Summoned by Paloma's desperate call, Miles reaches her apartment too late. She is already dead, and a seemingly indifferent police force wants no part of Miles's offer of assistance. So he undertakes his own investigation and uncovers a link between Paloma's death and the Moon's largest law firm. The executives there are known to be ruthless—and they have a secret they are clearly willing to kill to protect...

Paloma Details

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Author : Kristine Kathryn Rusch

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From Reader Review Paloma for online ebook

Lois says

Ah the revealing of Paloma. I like Paloma. When I first read this book and the next book, The Recovery Man, I felt very betrayed and disillusioned by Paloma. Yet as I continued on in the series I found myself liking Paloma again. As I reread this as my husband reads this series I find Paloma 's character more real. Miles at times feels too perfect. He doesn't always feel organic, in the later novels Talia helps. Paloma feels real. Her choices, while not ideal feel organic and real. They feel desperate. Miles actions always feel hollow in a way. Paloma and Noelle always feel more authentic with their flaws and inconsistencies.

Marion Hill says

How well do you know someone?

If you find out some damaging information about someone you admired and respected would that change your view of that person?

Is justice a zero-sum game?

These questions get answered in a surprising fashion from Paloma: Book 5 of the Retrieval Artist Series by Kristine Kathryn Rusch. I have decided to read and review the entire series here on the website and I must write it has been an absolute pleasure following the adventures of Miles Flint, the Retrieval Artist and various characters that make up this series.

This novel opens up with a murder. Flint discovers the dead person is his mentor, Paloma. Paloma taught him everything he needed to know in order to become a Retrieval Artist. Obviously, he takes her brutal death hard.

Moreover, Flint receives an inheritance from Paloma of some valuable items that include a ship and information about her past. He reluctantly decides to dig into the information he received from the inheritance and learns that Paloma might not have been the woman he believed her to be.

Paloma's family, led by her son, Justinian, wants the information Flint inherited and will do anything to get it. The Retrieval Artist gets caught in the cross-hairs of Justinian's determination to get his mother's inheritance and the police's investigation into her death. Flint finds out how blind justice can actually be now that he is on the other side of the law.

Paloma is my favorite book of the Retrieval Artist Series so far. Rusch does another excellent job (as she has done on the previous books in the series) of combining a detective story within a science-fiction setting. The world building of this series has captivated me and fans of both the mystery and science fiction genres should add these books on their to-be-read list.

Ray says

this series just keeps getting better

Tbfrank says

I am a fan of this series and enjoyed this installment for its fast pace which helped obscure the fact the entire novel spanned perhaps a day and a half (as in several others of Ms Rusch's books). Other than the physical descriptions of the environment, there is little to give a real sense the tale takes place on the moon. The story would be feel less complete without prior knowledge of the four main characters so reading one or two of the previous volumes is recommended.

BobA707 says

Summary: Another really enjoyable murder mystery hard core science fiction romp. Great atmosphere, fascinating universe, culture, aliens etc. I've given this book 5 stars, its not significantly better than the others in this series, but 4 stars doesn't really do it justice

Plotline: Fantastic stuff. We have to relearn everything about Paloma after her brutal murder, and the whole plot is brilliantly thought out and executed

Premise: A fascinating possible future, a great universe with more to learn

Writing: Descriptive, logical, simple ... excellent throughout

Ending: Justice hopefully is done

Pace: Never a dull moment

Joy says

The plot thickens!

Janet says

I read the short story "The Retrieval Artist" first, and though I don't usually read series books out of order, I tried this one. I thought it was dull, really. Too much unnecessary description, too much repetition. I can't even remember the name of the cop investigating Paloma's murder, but he reminded me of Inspector Javert from "Les Miserables", bound and determined that Flint is the chief suspect even though there's very little evidence of his involvement that isn't circumstantial. As for the Wagner family, the most interesting thing about them was their names. I kept getting them mixed up. And I felt the ending was really unsatisfactory. I will be reading more of the series, but this one was disappointing.

Sarah (CoolCurryBooks) says

Paloma is the fifth installment in the Retrieval Artists, a science fiction mystery series following former detective Miles Flint. The series starts with *The Disappeared*, but since each book is a stand alone mystery, you could theoretically read them independently.

Miles Flint used to be a detective working for the police force of Armstrong, a domed city on the moon. Then he bought a business from a woman named Paloma and became a retrieval artist, someone who goes looking for people who've gone into hiding due to alien laws at the behalf of relatives or others who don't want them to be officially found. Since becoming a retrieval artist, Paloma has acted as a mentor and an adviser for Miles. At the start of the book, he receives an emergency message and arrives at her apartment to find a crime scene. Paloma has been murdered. Miles always looked up Paloma, but with her death he's finding out that she's not the woman he thought he was. Paloma had a dark side.

One of my favorite things about this series is when it includes aliens and alien cultures. For trade reasons, humans have entered an alliance with other human species that means when humans break a law in alien controlled space, they are liable to prosecution and punishment under alien laws. And given the vast differences between humans and alien species, what aliens consider a crime is not always fathomable to humans. To escape alien justice, people hire a Disappearance Agency who gives them a completely new identity somewhere else. Aliens and alien cultures don't play a large role in this installment of the series, but the details of the situation are a part of the mystery. While I miss the inclusion of aliens, the exploration of Paloma's past made up for the lack.

Since the very first book, the series has also included sections from the POV of Noelle DeRicci, who was Miles's partner when he was on the police force. No longer a detective, DeRicci's role in the series feels uncertain. She had less page time than ever before, even if she did still have a presence. The two other POV characters are a current detective and a reporter. I think I remember them from prior books, and it'll be interesting to see if they remain in future ones. I do wonder if all of these sections were necessary. While I like Noelle DeRicci, did she really have a part to play in the plot? Same goes for the reporter. It's possible that Rusch wanted to keep them fresh for future installments, but I don't know what they were adding to this one.

With Paloma's death, the only real friend Miles has left is Noelle, and that connection looks like it may be growing tenuous. Additionally, the revelations regarding Paloma may warn him off from trusting too many other people. I want to see where this goes, even if it takes me forever to track down the next installment in the series. My pacing for this series has been about a book a year, but I'll see if I can speed it up.

I consider *The Retrieval Artist* to be a criminally under-known science fiction series, and if you have any interest in a mystery science fiction series, I encourage you to give it a try.

Originally posted on [The Illustrated Page](#).

PCress says

A very challenging mystery. I love her writing!

K. says

Plot: Miles Flint is a Retrieval Artist, living on the Moon and helping to find the Disappeared who've been forced into hiding by the Earth Alliance regime. When his friend and mentor, Paloma, is brutally murdered, Flint takes it upon himself to investigate.

Thoughts: Once again, I've managed to jump into the middle of a series. And once again, this has left me a little confused about certain things (especially The Disappeared, considering Flint doesn't spend any time working as a Retrieval Artist in this book). That said, I liked the characters and it was a well paced mystery, so I definitely liked it, despite the occasional moment of confusion. I'll be trying to track down some of the other books in the series, as I'm curious about The Disappeared and the work of Retrieval Artists!

Rain says

As others have mentioned, this 5th book in the series is also my least favourite of the series so far. Nonetheless, it does progress the continuing evolution and development of the main characters and hence remains important to the whole series. Paloma was never a major person of interest to me in the earlier books, and did not become interesting after her death in this one - she was just a plot device for poor old suffering Miles to deal with yet another betrayal. Meh. I hope this isn't the beginning of the end and the next books pick up again.

Bookmole says

My least favourite so far, including book one. But it shifts the story of Miles Flint along nicely, and gives Noelle some romantic interest, so it's not all bad.

Once you have started the series, you cannot miss one. None of these books can be considered stand-alones - if you've missed one, you've missed something important.

So read it anyway.

Just I never really liked Paloma.

And this book doesn't make me like her any better!

Richard says

Starts off with a bang but eventually gets talky. I enjoy the futuristic world of the "Retrieval Artist" and Miles Flint is a sympathetic if uncomplicated hard-edged detective. This novel, fifth in the series, has less of an alien presence than the first four, however. It eventually reminded me of the cheap 1950's SF movies where, where due to budget constraints, you don't get to see the monster until the last two minutes.

Kalyn says

I liked this book in the series more than some others because the characters, Miles especially, seem to be more comfortable in their new roles and are starting to act accordingly. This means the story makes more sense in how it plays out because the characters' actions are more believable (for them as characters). It also concentrates more on the actions of humans rather than aliens, and the human actions probably will not surprise anyone.

I didn't even mind, as a lawyer, that it made lawyers out to be some pretty nasty people for the most part (though there is an exception to that rule). The story was tight and well-written. I'm looking forward to finishing this series.

Glen U says

Another great book in Rusch's "Retrieval Artist" series. This is the 5th book in the series and her writing is taut, her characters engaging and the plot is compelling. It is the best science fiction/mystery series that I have ever read. She continues to amaze me with her creative skills in keeping the stories fresh and not trite in a somewhat limited setting. A wholly enjoyable read that is hard to put down, at least for the SF fan. I look forward to her next effort.
