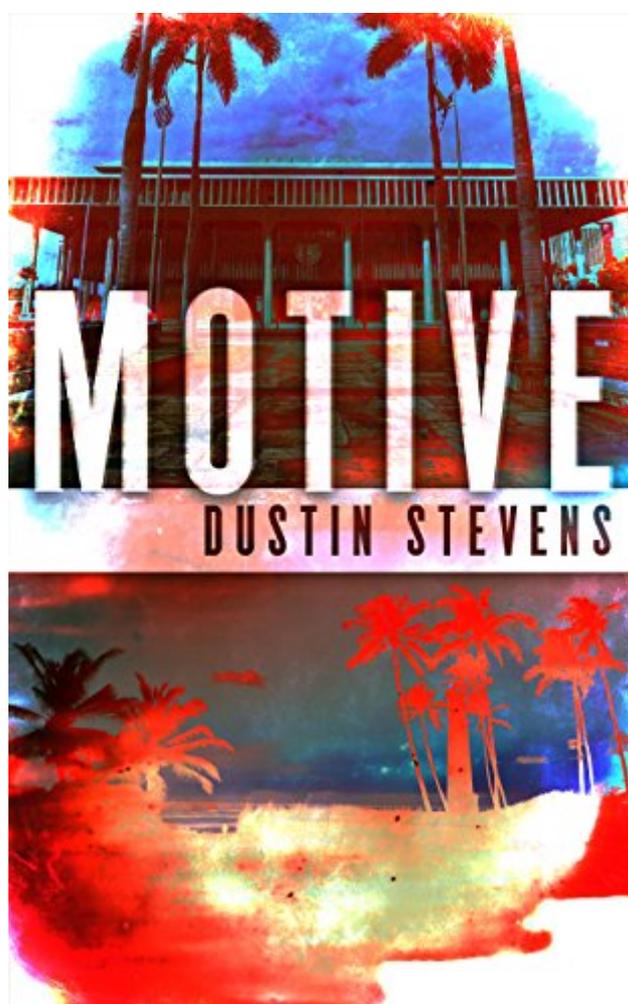


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# Motive: A Thriller



## Synopsis

Just months before Hawaii's gubernatorial primary election, a body is found on the floor of the open air capitol, a macabre scene specifically manipulated to draw attention to a sitting governor with waning political support. Frantic, he calls on the Honolulu Chief of Police Walter Tseng, demanding that the perpetrator be brought to justice as swiftly and silently as possible, fearful a scandal might destroy whatever chance he still has at gaining re-election. Blackmailed into complicity and unable to draw from his active force, Tseng calls in Kalani Lewis, a young detective three months off the job. Still battling her own demons from an investigation that resulted in the death of her partner, Kalani is forced back into action, pulled into a life she isn't certain she still wants to be a part of, a family friend that was once a military policeman and now a full-time surfer as her only support. Inch by inch they work their way through the investigation, navigating mounting crime scenes and intense bureaucratic pressures as the election looms ever closer, the killer growing more emboldened by the day.

REVISED EDITION: PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED UNDER THE SAME TITLE, THIS EDITION INCLUDES EDITORIAL REVISIONS.

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## Customer Reviews

I like this author and don't enjoy giving 2 stars but there was too much minutia. Every time a character changed location we were inundated with every single thing they past. When they arrived at a new location the only items not mentioned were the dust mites. When a new character was introduced the only information of their past was how much they weighed at birth. The plot and story line was good but due to the massive amount of minutia I had to skip every two to three pages. In the end the author admits to making it about his memory of Honolulu. Had I read this first I would not read the book

As always Dusting Stevens has written a story that in itself is amazing and the visual description of Hawaii makes the story all the more compelling. The beauty of the islands contrasts sharply with the horror of man's cruelty toward humanity. Mr. Stevens has woven the perfect story of what could happen in the harvesting of stem cells, with a cast of characters that are focused on their own agendas and moral values. The story shocks you from page one to the very end. A great read that also makes you consider all that could be possible man's interaction with stem cell technology.

I'm a huge fan of the Hawaii 5-0 series with Alex O'Loughlin, which is what initially drew me to the book. This novel is its own thing, a straight shooting political action thriller slash detective story without the humorous asides and banter of Hawaii 5-0. But asides from that, I imagine fans of the TV franchise should accommodate to this writer quite well. I won't recap the plot, as the blurb does an excellent job of that. What I will say is there are additional subtleties and dimensions to the storytelling, including various points of intrigue that a blurb cannot do justice to. I found the writing very professional and entirely in keeping with this genre. The pacing was excellent. I also enjoyed the dynamic between the lady detective and the chief of police; both characters were easy to empathize and identify with, and were believably drawn. The author also ably sidestepped what for me is the number one drawback of this genre, one-dimensional bad guys, that by being all bad, don't seem real; they just lack the nuances, complexities, and contradictions of real people. In *Motive*, by contrast, they're quite fascinating and entertaining in their own rights. The local Hawaiian atmosphere adds a travel-lit dimension for folks who enjoy exotic locales. Due to the vivid descriptive writing, it's easy to see the film play out in your head. Considering this is a very over-written and highly competitive genre, I was impressed with what the author brought to the table. He has his own distinct voice and without question I look forward to future titles from him.

I really enjoyed this book and I want to emphasize that because mysteries are not something I naturally gravitate to. This book has an interesting twist because while you have a fairly good sense of "who-done-it" early on, it's difficult to determine who that person really is and it's the WHY you are on the edge of your seat to figure out. Stevens did a great job with the investigation integrated with the backdrop Hawaiian culture. Kalani is the main character and I found her intriguing. She is still recovering from a traumatic event with her former partner and is forced to face her fears. My one complaint is that I would have liked to learn more about her surfer partner or have seen if there was a future for the two of them. Randle (the governor) is deliciously detestable and I enjoyed the scenes that included his ridiculousness. All in all this was a great mystery that I would not hesitate to recommend. Warning: Contains some graphic descriptions (murder victims). Please note: I received a free copy of this book in exchange of an honest review courtesy of the author. Rating: 4 stars! Who should read it? Mystery fans looking for a different twist!

Average detective story that takes place in Hawaii, otherwise there isn't much else that makes this book memorable. The story is slow-moving and plods along with very little action, and the main character, Kalani, is about as interesting as watching paint dry. I get the author's reason for making her so pensive and somber (from an earlier on-the-job event), but her ultra low-key persona just doesn't make for an exciting read. I've read six other books by this author and thoroughly enjoyed them, so I kept reading hoping this one would elevate itself to match those others, but it never did. Although the last 60-70 pages made for an interesting climax, getting there was a chore. Not his best effort, IMHO.

Without repeating the entire plot, I am happy to say that this book kept me turning the page..... Some people look for books that challenge their intellect, while others simply read books that entertain. Somewhere in the middle are books that are well written, without challenging our mental capacity so we can simply enjoy a fast moving story. While I have read books that have held my attention better than *Motive*, it was still a satisfying experience. It was entertaining, albeit a little predictable. Overall, I am glad it filled a couple of hours of my spare time.

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