

# The Musher Man



By Kevin Hostbjoer

Reviewed by Elena S. Smith

I once went book shopping with a friend who had an unusual method for choosing her reads. She would flip straight to page 78, read a few lines, and then decide whether the book was worth buying. “It never fails,” she told me. Perhaps that’s a clever trick for most books—but *The Musher Man* is an exception. You don’t need to wait until page 78 to know it’s extraordinary; the strength of Kevin’s storytelling is evident from the very first page.

Kevin is a master of suspense and tension, drawing the reader in with prose that is both gripping and intelligent. What impressed me most, however, was his remarkable use of perspective. By allowing each chapter to be told through a different character’s eyes in the first person, he creates an intimate connection with the reader—bringing to life not only the characters’ voices, but also their emotions and inner worlds. This is the mark of a writer with rare empathy and skill, one who can translate human experience directly from his imagination onto the page.

The story itself is clever, layered, and wholly engrossing. I found myself utterly absorbed, unable to set it down until the final page. Kevin has delivered a novel that is not just a page-turner, but a testament to his talent as a writer.

Bravo, Kevin—*The Musher Man* is a triumph.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

*The Musher Man* begins with Denny, a Marine, coming home four years after the worst day of his life. He is part Haitian American like his mother and part Kootenai Indian like his deceased Marine father. Denny and his mother live in the Montana woods where his mother sets up shop in the large kitchen of an old farm house, selling her voodoo concoctions, mostly to women in the area. Denny has a dog sled and loves his nine dogs, especially his lead dog Pixie.

The author lets each character, including a serial killer and his victims, tell their own story as it relates to the main story, which is very creative and the reader gets to know each of these characters well.

This is a good read. It is well-written and has a satisfying ending. I recommend this book for one and all, especially if you like to read about Montana, dog sledding, the Marines, a plane crash, and much more. Plus, it has a great cover.



*Page revised 11/05/2025 dam*  
©2025 [www.spokaneauthors.org](http://www.spokaneauthors.org)