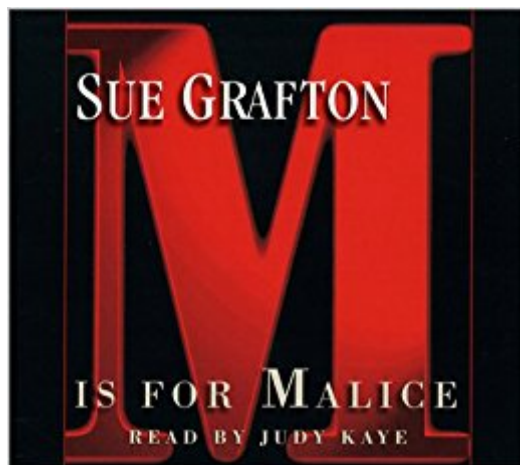


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M Is For Malice (Sue Grafton)



Synopsis

4 CDs 4 hours Read by Judy Kaye "There are few writers able to sustain the solid mixture of detection, narrative energy and cultural observations that one finds in Grafton." -- Washington Post Book World "M" is for money. Lots of it. "M" is for Malek Construction, the \$40 million company that grew out of modest soil to become one of the big three in California construction, one of the few still in family hands. "M" is for the Malek family: four sons now nearing middle age who stand to inherit a fortune - four men with very different outlooks, temperaments, and needs, linked only by blood and money. Eighteen years ago, one of them - angry, troubled, and in trouble - went missing. "M" is for Millhone, hired to trace that missing black sheep brother. "M" is for memories, none of them happy. The bitter memoirs of an embattled family. This prodigal son will find no welcome at his family's table. "M" is for malice. And in brutal consequence, "M" is for murder, the all-too-common outcome of familiar hatreds. "M" is for malice . . . and malice kills.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Every investigation has a nature of its own, but there are certain shared characteristics," explains private eye Kinsey Millhone in her 13th alphabetic outing. "Here's what you hope for: a chance remark from the former neighbor on a skip-trace, a penciled notation on the corner of a document, an ex-spouse with a grudge, the number on an account, an item overlooked at the scene of a crime. Here's what you expect: the dead ends, bureaucratic bullheadedness, the cul-de-sacs, trails that go nowhere or simply fade into thin air, denials, prevarications, the blank-eyed stares from all the

hostile witnesses. Here's what you know: that you've done it before and you have the toughness and determination to pull it off again. Here's what you want: justice. Here's what you'll settle for: something equivalent, the quid pro quo." All of the above are on display in Grafton's latest entry in her increasingly popular series set in a thinly-disguised Santa Barbara, as the virtually ageless Kinsey finds and loses a missing heir and gets back an old lover. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Approaching middle age warily, PI Kinsey Millhone of the Southern California coast is mildly depressed, romantically vulnerable and in the process of reassessing her family ties. Yet, when it comes to her professional abilities, she's at the top of her form, as this deftly plotted and absorbing novel (her 13th appearance, after *L Is for Lawless*) proves. Bader Malek, a local industrial tycoon, has died, and his four sons now stand to inherit a substantial fortune. But one of them, Guy, has been missing since 1968. A drug addict, ne'er-do-well and all-around miscreant, Guy had been disinherited by his exasperated father shortly before he vanished. But that particular will has disappeared, and Kinsey has been hired by the family to find out if Guy is still alive and thus in line to collect his original portion of the estate. She quickly succeeds in locating him and brings back a sweet, guileless and totally reformed man. But is he? The three other brothers? a truly devious, arrogant and greedy lot? are deeply ambivalent about Guy's return. A murder in the family leaves the surviving Malek kin as prime suspects. This is a subtle and swiftly moving novel, pleasantly unpredictable, with an agreeable overlay of smoldering romance, as fellow PI and former lover Robert Dietz reenters Kinsey's life. Grafton's heroine? more introspective, yet still feisty and surefooted? leads this finely tuned and at times electrifying tale to a thoroughly satisfying conclusion. 1,000,000 first printing. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I've always found, for the most part, Ms. Grafton's alphabet series with Kinsey Millhone fast, light, and enjoyable reads. This one is no different. After reading most all the series books, Kinsey's character and quirks are extremely well developed. As a character, I find her enjoyable and real. With usually only one murder, Ms. Grafton develops her stories around them pretty well. Here, the everyday PI runs across a snobbish, in-fighting wealthy family. Many families have a black sheep. This one is no different. Who's lying and who's truthful? There are some twists. One really can't figure who did what until close to the end. As is typical with others in this series, Ms. Grafton, at times, becomes too involved in descriptive details. Other than that, I enjoy the series. "M" is, I

feel, worth your time

This is among the best so far. Running through the plot is a subplot about family and relationships. Robert Dietz's return presents Kinsey with an internal dilemma. Great read!

This is a very aptly named book for at the heart of the mystery and the entire book is the issue of malice. When a wealthy man dies it turns out that the Will disinheriting his black sheep son is nowhere to be found, giving him a share of the inheritance. But nobody has seen him since he was a teen and nobody knows where he is living, or even if he is still alive. Kinsey's cousin is the lawyer dealing with the estate, so she hires Kinsey to find out. This is one of those mystery books where everybody "knows" what the situation is, who the good guys are and who the villain is - until the investigation starts. Not just an interesting and well-constructed mystery, this book is a study in how the "facts" people take for granted and build their lifeview upon can be distorted, misinterpreted or outright wrong, and how easily it happens. I am a fan of the Kinsey Milhone series overall, which are all well worth reading. But I think this particular book in the series is one of the standouts. You do not have to read previous books in the series to understand what is going on - Sue Grafton is a master at inserting just enough background information to let new readers know where they stand - so you can read this book as a standalone. But the series as a whole is well worth reading from the start and I recommend that you do so. Just keep in mind that this series is set in the 1980s, a time when personal computers and the internet were not established - the computers at this time were primarily used by government departments and big business.

I thought I had this one figured out but that wasn't the case. The ending was a complete surprise. I enjoyed this one very much. On to "N"

I find most of Grafton books entertaining! I especially like the "easy read" quality; when you haven't much time..or you like to read at bed time!

We've read almost all Kinsey P.I. books. This ranks as good as any we've ever read. It is enjoyable & a typical readable book for all.....Tom

The last few novels in this series seemed to take a detour, and Kinsey was a little detached. In this one she applies her dogged tenacity to bring truth to light, to right old wrongs, and to speak for the

underdog. She grows to genuinely care for someone simply out of compassion; her commitment to this case is beyond her usual sense of justice. I have come to think that Kinsey is a metaphor for the author's own life: When we first met her she was fiesty and proudly independent. With time she came to trust a handful of people, on her terms, of course, and then came the devastating news that she had family! Eeks! But good for Kinsey: However resistant she may appear to be when it comes to change, she is at least willing to consider a different point of view. She is willing to grow, albeit begrudgingly, and her story is delightful.

In general, I enjoy Grafton's alphabet series (after all, I've gotten to know her), but this is not one of my favorites. It has all the usual Millhone-mysteries elements: a carefully crafted plot that introduces an interesting array of believable characters, all narrated with Kinsey's unrelenting descriptions of every person, room, house, yard, road, and town she encounters. My disappointment with this member of the series is that very little happens until three quarters of the way through when the, by then predictable, crime takes place. The final chapters, as the list of suspects is systematically narrowed and a modest surprise at the end is revealed, were a good read, and I was glad I didn't give in to my temptation to give up on the book half way through. If you're going to give this series of mysteries a try, don't start with this one.

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