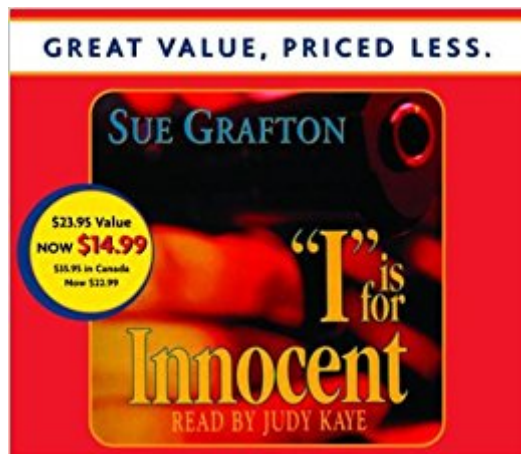


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# I Is For Innocent (Sue Grafton)



## Synopsis

A Kinsey Millhone Mystery. . . Fired by the insurance agency for whom she investigates, Kinsey is forced to take on a last-minute murder investigation in which the ex-husband of a murdered artist claims that David Barney, her current husband, is guilty as sin. Barney gets to Kinsey and insists he's innocent. But if he is, who's guilty? In trying to learn who's been getting away with murder, Kinsey may be courting her own....

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After the pace and invention of "H" Is for Homicide, Grafton sets Kinsey Millhone on a quieter, more cerebral path in the ever-appealing PI's newest abecedarian adventure, again set in Santa Teresa, Calif. When fellow PI Morley Shine dies of a heart attack, Kinsey takes over the task of gathering evidence for a local lawyer who is prosecuting architect David Barney. Six years earlier, Barney was acquitted of murder charges in the still-unsolved death of his wealthy estranged wife Isabel, killed by a bullet fired through the peephole of her front door. Now Isabel's first husband, Ken Voigt, hoping to strip the architect of the fortune he inherited, is charging Barney with Isabel's wrongful death in a civil court, where less stringent evidence is required for conviction. Quickly finding holes in Shine's investigation, Kinsey uncovers a slew of suspects in Isabel's murder, including Voigt's second wife, Barney's first wife, Isabel's less attractive twin sister and even her best friend. Kinsey determines that Shine's death was not straightforward, solves the mystery of another years-old death and comes under direct fire herself before she finally, nearly too late, figures out who is the threat.

There's much to enjoy here as Kinsey's octogenarian landlord Henry endures a visit from his fastidious older brother and romance blooms for neighborhood tavern owner Rose. But Kinsey may be voicing fans' hopes for "J" when she reflects midway through this case: "I wanted to feel like the old Kinsey again . . . talkin' trash and kickin' butt." 300,000 first printing; Literary Guild and Mystery Guild main selections. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

California's formidable p.i. Kinsey Millhone ("A" Is for Alibi, etc.), fired from her comfortable berth with Fidelity Insurance, now rents office space from busy Santa Teresa lawyer Lonnie Kingman. His usual outside investigator Morley Shine has died of a heart attack, and he hires Kinsey to take over the case that Morley was working on. It involves the upcoming trial of David Barney, acquitted of the six-year-old murder of his wife, Isabelle, but now being sued for wrongful death in civil court by Isabelle's first husband, Ken Voigt. Voigt, represented by Lonnie Kingman, is sure that Barney killed Isabelle and wants to keep her considerable fortune out of his hands. Lonnie thinks he has a strong case, buoyed by damning new evidence from drifter Curtis McIntyre. But what Kinsey finds as she begins to probe is a surprising number of people with reasons to hate Isabelle--among them Voigt's second wife, Francesca, and Isabelle's business mentor Peter Weidmann and his overprotective wife, Yolanda. She also uncovers curious gaps in Morley's files and begins to question his "heart attack," as Lonnie's seemingly solid case collapses bit by bit, with her own life on the line in the gritty finale. A sober, resolute Kinsey, romanceless at the moment, and a clever, meaty puzzle--for which the publisher plans a 300,000 first printing. Rack up another winner for Grafton. (Literary Guild Split Dual Selection for July) -- Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I couldn't decide how much I liked or didn't like this book which left me a 3-star rating. I know I didn't love this book and that is for several reasons. The suspect was obvious from the get go based on their actions that were so intent on keeping Kinsey engaged in the case. Also, this book had a very small population of characters with a lot of connections with some of those connections seeming like Grafton just threw them in. The book was saved though by the final confrontation between Kinsey and the suspect. Great action, tension and a very realistic scene Grafton truly brought to life with her writing. I did like seeing Kinsey moving on and working through a new organization, Lonnie Kingman's law firm. Lonnie is a great new character with a large personality that doesn't overwhelm the rest of the

book. He has a great chemistry with Kinsey. It will be great to see how this dynamic adds to the series. I don't know what else there is to say about Judy Kaye as a narrator for this series. She is amazing and her ability to create different voices for each character book after book is phenomenal.

What can you say about Sue Grafton other than she is a great mystery writer. Kinsey Milhone is an ex-cop and has her own detective agency and never much of a sex life if that's what you're looking for, go elsewhere. This is a traditional gumshoe story with action and danger for our heroine. After some spotty success writing books, Grafton changed to writing screenplays for TV and movies. With the success of her first Alphabet series book 'A is for Alibi' in 1982 it has continued to date. I first discovered her books when I came across 'G is for Gumshoe' (pub 1990) in a recycle center in 2000, I proceeded to local bookstores and to acquire all of this series up until the current at the time 'O is For Outlaw'. It's always great when you come across a great series in progress as it's a joy just reading book after book from a great writer. Much like 'binge watching TV series on Netflix nowadays. Only problem with an ongoing series is waiting for the next book. Grafton has done only a couple of yearly books and mostly every other year since 'P is for Peril' in 2001. It is now up to just plain 'X' in 2015 and will end with 'Z is for Zero'. I'm hoping she has Y & Z completed as she is 75 now and I'm 70 and don't want to miss the conclusion of this great series.

I enjoyed this Grafton book. It had some good twists in it and unusual characters. However (and this is partially my fault for reading it amidst other distractions, I'm sure), I had trouble keeping straight the various ex-spouses of the major characters. Too many divorces in this one! Reading it on Kindle made it easier, as I could search for the first mention of each character.

So glad to reconnect with this author's books. I enjoyed them when I was in college, but lost touch with them when I started working. I enjoy every single one of her books.

I read this out of letter sequence but it didn't matter. Such great writing and I love how Kinsey is flawed and exhibits traits like a REAL person. I am reading Grafton's books in between writing my second and third novels. I'm influenced by her work for sure. And, I'm inspired. Another EXCELLENT novel by a great person and terrific author.

As usual, this is a fun, fast read by a very skillful writer. The reader is always right beside the

immensely likeable heroine, PI Kinsey Millhone. This one even has an extra happy ending. Grafton's descriptions of each California coastal setting are always carefully, almost lovingly done. This one in the series is my favorite so far. Other readers are way ahead of me, but I have a lot to look forward to!

Sue Grafton is a fluid writer, making her book easy to read. She is a discerner of human nature and looks beneath the surface of each individual. Grafton sets her backgrounds up, without dwelling on them too long, and then moves on. Her character has a good sense of humor, and I like the individuals that are connected to Kinsey, like her landlord, Henry, and Rosie, the restaurant owner, and some of the policeman who help her on her cases. She keeps me interested in the mystery because she knows how to navigate her story smoothly, as I stated before without dwelling too long on the set up (which is very clear) and then moves on. Great Read! Wife of the Fly Fishing fanatic.

I love Sue Grafton's books. They are well written and every book is different enough to keep my interest. Sue Grafton writes with a sense of humor and there are times I laugh when Kinsey talks about her life. Highly recommend all the books in this series.

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