



I is for Innocent

Sue Grafton

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Read by Judy Kaye

When David Barney was acquitted in the shooting death of his wife, Isabelle, a good many thought that justice had not been served - including Kenneth Voight, Isabelle's former husband. Now, five years later, Voight is the plaintiff in a civil suit in which Barney stands accused of Isabelle's wrongful death. The stakes are high - Isabelle's estate is worth millions - but time is running short: the statue of limitations will cut Voight off in only a matter of weeks. Enter sexy, savvy ex-cop turned P.I. Kinsey Millhone, brought in by Voight to gather the necessary damning evidence. It doesn't take long, however, for Kinsey to find that while a lot of people hate David Barney, a lot more hated Isabelle. Suddenly a simple civil case becomes a deadly hunt for someone who once got away with murder . . . and may again . . .

I is for Innocent Details

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From Reader Review I is for Innocent for online ebook

Beth says

Originally seen on my book blog!

I started this book last month but then forgot it at home while I spent a few weeks at my boyfriend's house. Once I got back home and started the book again, it was a little confusing because I'd read so many books in between that I forgot what the book was about. Luckily it was easy to jump back into and it turned out to be a really good book with an interesting story.

When someone dedicated a character to 26 books (one for each letter of the alphabet) there are going to be some that are just kinda meh or just aren't as good. Some book series' get boring and redundant. This book was not either of those. Kinsey lost her job after her last case and is now working for someone else at the moment. A colleague recently died of a heart attack so she took his workload for him and is working on a case for a lawyer. Kinsey hasn't done this before and it was interesting seeing her in this type of setting.

Five years ago someone killed Isabelle and the number one suspect was her husband David Barney. The jury didn't think he did it and he was acquitted of the charges. Ken Voight, Isabelle's ex-husband is not so sure Barney is innocent and is suing Barney for the estate. Kinsey is going through all of her former colleague's information that he had before he died and is finding interesting information or lack thereof.

I love Kinsey as a character. She's funny, independent, kinda risky, and isn't afraid to break laws if she needs to. This book series is set in the 80s and through 23 books, 5 years or so have passed. Kinsey is hardly any older now than she was in the first book. She hasn't changed much either and I'm glad about that. She's one of those characters that could stay the same for 26 books and still be an awesome character. Grafton is great at writers characters.

There is something that I've picked up on that I find interesting: Grafton always, always, always describes new characters. If Kinsey is meeting up with someone, she will describe their meeting place:

"The place was so small, I could tour without moving far. The furnishings were antique: a crude pine table, two cane-bottom chairs, a corner cabinet with wavy, blue-tinted glass panes, a brass bed with a patchwork quilt, white on white. The bathroom was small, the only portion of the house that was fully enclosed."

While I read this, I could picture where they were. She also describes who she is interacting with:

"I judged her to be in her late thirties or very early forties. She was slightly shorter than I with wide shoulders and a stocky build, which she managed to minimize by the clothes she wore. Her hair was a reddish blond, a fine flyaway shade much darker at the roots, cut shoulder length and crinkled from a perm. Her face was square, her mouth wide."

"The outfit she wore was black and white geometric print, a washable silk jacket over a long black tunic top, her long loose skirt brushing the tops of her black suede boots."

I can now picture what the house looks like and who she is talking to. I know that some people find this annoying, but I like to imagine things while I'm reading and if she just mentioned "I'm in a small house with a lady" I would probably picture this lady in a blue dress and looking like Alice from Alice in Wonderland.

Grafton does a good job of describing Kinsey's surroundings but not in a way where it's all descriptive things because that just gets annoying. No one needs thirteen adjectives in one sentence. (Someone tell that to E.L. James)

The things I liked most from this book was that it was different than what Kinsey usually does. She's still doing PI work, but this time she wasn't hired by someone on the street and she's working something that someone else already worked. If someone got bored with her doing regular PI work, they should read this book and get a break from what Kinsey usually does.

This whole book I was going back and forth on if David Barney really killed Isabelle or if someone else did it. Even though there was a 50/50 chance that I knew the answer, I was still very surprised and I think it was a good ending. Grafton has a few books that end with such action that it's nearly impossible to put the book down until the end. The last 10 pages or so were filled with so much action that I did not look away from my book until I was done, and that's how you know it's a great ending.

At times, the book was a tad bit boring and it seemed that it veered away from the plot until all the pieces came together and it all made more sense. I love this series and am excited to see if she ever gets her job back at California Fidelity. Another thing that I'm not a huge fan of is how many characters she puts in the book. I've learned to write down names and relationships to other people so I don't lose track of people. Other than that, Grafton's books would all get 5 stars from me.

Things I got out of this book: Kinsey could definitely be a PI for a lawyer. I wish I had a house like Kinsey's. A lot of people kill for money which is a scary thought.

Sara says

This was neither the best nor the worst detective/PI novel I have ever read. It was easy and fast-paced, but fairly formulaic. I did not warm up to Kinsey Millhone, and truly liking the investigator is almost required for enjoying these kinds of books. By the same token, I did not figure out the "who done it" before the end, which is a plus.

Not being a big fan of this genre, I am probably not the best person to judge how effective this series is. Obviously, a lot of people love it, or it wouldn't be a national bestseller and I wouldn't see multiple copies of these books on all the used bookstore shelves. I don't think I will read any more of the series, however, since it just wasn't the right fit for me.

Denise says

So glad that there are 26 letters in the alphabet! A light, fast read with likeable characters. 3.5 KUYH's 2016 challenge

Quenya says

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.

Obsidian says

I really love my Kinsey Milhone mystery novels. A really good thing is that Sue Grafton has evolved the series and I know that there is a split between fans on the way that the series has gone but I really do love re-reading the older novels. It's like being wrapped up in a warm hug.

I is for Innocent follows the events of H is for Homicide, with Kinsey finding herself fired from her previous job working with an insurance company. Struggling to make ends meet, Kinsey takes a case from her attorney and friend looking into the murder of Isabelle Barney that happened six years previously. The previous private investigator on the case is one that trained Kinsey for her to obtain her license decades earlier. The investigator having died, leaves Kinsey starting at square one with the case.

The writing is very good and we have some oldies but goodies (Kinsey talking about her favorite sandwich and fast food) as well as Kinsey just doing straight investigative work looking to find out who killed Isabelle Barney. One reason why I like the Kinsey Milhone mystery series is that since these novels take place in the 1980s we have Kinsey doing a lot of leg work and having to use her brain on what steps to take next. There are no fancy devices, no social media, and Kinsey doesn't fit the role of a femme fatale role.

After this comes J is for Judgment which opens up more backstory into Kinsey's family past which I really enjoyed. I definitely recommend!

Tanisha Peck says

I took a break from this series several years ago, but decided to pick it back up because a friend of mine read through the series in a matter of weeks. She really seemed to love it, so I thought I'd get back to the alphabet. ****If you're looking for ONLY the summary of the book, please scroll down to the section below the break in the page****

While reading, I started to remember why I put this series down in the first place. The abundance of inconsequential detail.

First, Grafton describes Kinsey's parking EVERY time she goes any where. We find out how long it took

Kinsey to find a spot, where that spot is in distance and sometimes time, why she chose that particular spot, and whether she locked her car. You may think this is minor, but consider how often Kinsey travels to and fro as a private investigator.

Second, the scenery. I enjoy visualizing character's environment; it's part of the imaginative art of reading. But, there is such a thing as too much detail. I find myself glossing over the many paragraphs of Highway 101 description, and even getting exasperated. I wonder if Grafton is trying to prove that the area really does exist, and what better way than to describe as much detail as possible?

Also, while reading I remembered why I enjoyed the series as well. The characters.

Grafton does an excellent job inventing characters. I become attached and emotionally involved with some characters. For instance, if Henry were to pass away, I think I would cry. Also, Grafton does an excellent job manipulating my feelings. A malicious and cruel character I'm hoping will get his well deserved justice later becomes an endearing and misunderstood victim. It's a wonderful, and much appreciated, skill Grafton possesses.

The plot is another of Grafton's skills. I have only been right once when guessing which character was the criminal. This doesn't say much though, because there were many guesses before that.

Where does this leave me? Will the characters tip the balance and keep me going? Does the "throw away" details outweigh my joy for the characters and plot? I was able to get through 8 books before the negative outweighed the positive. I wonder how many it will take me this time? Right now, the characters redeem the inconsequential details, so I will continue.

Now, to this particular book.

Isabelle was shot through key hole 5 years ago and her ex-husband is sour because he wanted her money, but instead it went to her current husband, the suspected killer. He was declared innocent, but ex-husband is taking him to civil court where he will get all her money if they can prove current husband was the killer. Enters Kinsey because previous P.I. is dead. Kinsey actually solves 3 cases which include: who hit and killed an escaped elderly man from a nursing home, did previous P.I. really die from a heart attack, and who really killed Isabelle.

From the beginning, I was never convinced that the previous P.I. died from a heart attack. I was pretty sure I knew who killed the old man, and I was completely wrong regarding who killed Isabelle.

Now, jumping into book 9.

Mark Baker says

Five years ago, Isabelle Barney was murdered on the day after Christmas. While her estranged husband was acquitted of the crime, her ex-husband is now suing him in civil court in a wrongful death case. Kinsey has been hired to help the lawyer win the case, taking over from a PI who just died. His notes were a mess, so she is completely retracing his steps. But as she goes, she begins to wonder just who committed the murder. Is she helping the court case, or hurting it?

Kinsey is back in top form in this book. The plot twists all over the place before coming to a perfectly logical

climax. Henry and Rosie are involved in a very fun sub-plot that provides some laughs. The suspects are strong, and we meet a couple of new supporting characters since Kinsey has had to move her office.

Read my full review at Carstairs Considers.

Linda says

A great mystery series.

Scoats says

After a disappointing H is for Homicide, Sue Grafton returns to form.

Another great read from her. It's a good mystery, that unfolds at the perfect pace. The regular characters are back with the addition of Henry's fussy brother William. Kinsey's friends appear at good points in the story to keep things interesting.

Even with the book being 25 years old at this point, Kinsey's cynical observations are still pointed and fun.

Una Tiers says

Interesting plot with a lot of characters, sometimes hard to keep straight. Grafton brings in another old friend of Kinsey and continues the storyline with her landlord and his family.

In a 2015 re-read, I wonder, does Grafton stereotype managers in motels?

Charlotte Smith says

Started off slow, not the usual fast past till half way though but I still really enjoyed this one. I want to see what the next book is like

Marleen says

I read some of the alphabet series a long time ago and they always seemed like solid investigative reads, which is the kind of reads I enjoy. Here, in I For Innocent, Kinsey Milhone takes a bit of a left turn as her contract with California Fidelity Insurance was abruptly terminated in the previous book (which I have not yet read) and now works for a law firm, taken over from a Private investigator, Morley Shine, who died from a heart attack, only a day ago.

I will not get into the plot of the civil case for which Kinsey Milhone is looking for evidence, suffice it to say that there are a lot of players and while Kinsey's trying to untangle the notes of the deceased P.I. and talking

to witnesses again, she gets more confused than ever.

Overall, it wasn't the suspenseful read I'd expected, but the author succeeded in spreading doubt of who the real killer was until the very end. As for the ending, I thought it was simply too sudden. I would have liked to have a better wrap-up in the epilogue.

There's one question I have, and maybe it escaped me, but in what year do the alphabet books situate themselves? There are no cell phones and there's no mention of internet. So I'm guessing we are in the eighties?

James says

Book Review

4 out of 5 stars to I is for Innocent, the 9th book in the "Kinsey Millhone" mystery series, written in 1992 by Sue Grafton. Innocent is a great example of why this is a good book series to read. Kinsey is funny but not silly. She is real, but flawed. The book is split into thirds, covering different angles of the case. Another example of Kinsey taking a case trying to determine what happened many years ago. But this time, she's partnering with another detective, then taking it over. She's got two husbands on different sides, fighting over the deceased's inheritance. How will she get herself thru this one? With good detective skills, some charm and a little ingenuity. That's what these books are all about. Part luck, part smarts, Kinsey always solves the case. Sometimes she gets hurt, but often she comes out on top with little damage.

About Me

For those new to me or my reviews... here's the scoop: I read A LOT. I write A LOT. And now I blog A LOT. First the book review goes on Goodreads, and then I send it on over to my WordPress blog at <https://thisismytruthnow.com>, where you'll also find TV & Film reviews, the revealing and introspective 365 Daily Challenge and lots of blogging about places I've visited all over the world. And you can find all my social media profiles to get the details on the who/what/when/where and my pictures. Leave a comment and let me know what you think. Vote in the poll and ratings. Thanks for stopping by. I appreciate it.

Diane says

I enjoyed this book...as most of Kinsey Millhone stories!

Dawn Davies says

it started off slow, but about half way through it picked up pace and became the Kinsey we know and love.
