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Lisa Scottoline

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Grace Rossi is starting over after a divorce, and a part-time job with a federal appeals court sounds perfect. But she doesn't count on being assigned to an explosive death penalty appeal. Nor does she expect ardor in the court in the form of an affair with the chief judge. Then Grace finds herself investigating a murder, unearthing a secret bank account and following a trail of bribery and judicial corruption that's stumped even the FBI. In no time at all, Grace under fire takes on a whole new meaning.

Final Appeal Details

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From Reader Review Final Appeal for online ebook

Linda says

[Grace Rossi is the career lawyer in the chambers of Federal Circuit Court judge Armen Gregorian, workin

Marleen says

What a disappointing read. If I had known, I would have spared myself the cost and the time. Unfortunately, with author Lisa Scottoline, it's often hit or miss. Here, I felt no affinity with the characters, who all acted, and interacted very weirdly with each other. The dialogues felt less than real. As for the plot, it was also quite thin. I felt no connection with anything this book was offering.

The author should really take it out of circulation, it is that bad.

Lia Rock lantz says

A good law mystery. Only 226 pages of good reading. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and love this author. Happy Reading!

Dyana says

This was Scottoline's second book. I found it to be a boring no depth legal thriller with not much legal or thriller involved. I'm glad she has matured as a writer, and I have enjoyed her later books. That said, this one is about Philadelphia lawyer, Grace Rossi, who finds a part-time job with the federal appeals court after a divorce. She is assigned a high profile death penalty case (which is a background sub-plot that is not developed) by her boss. They become romantically involved one late night while working, and the next morning Grace finds out he committed suicide after they parted. Because of their night spent together, Grace suspects murder instead and proceeds to investigate which leads to lots of suspects and attempts on her life. My favorite characters were Shake and Bake, a homeless man; and Bernice, the dog - Scottoline is always tongue-in-cheek humorous. One highlight of the book for me was that her divorce and single mother-hood do not play a prominent role - no cliches.

J says

I DON'T HIDE MY REVIEWS, BUT THEY DO HAVE SPOILERS.

Yay! I found another Scottoline "lady lawyer" tale that I hadn't yet read. (The only two I'm still looking for are "Dirty Blonde" and "Moment of Truth.")

A divorced, single-mom attorney named Grace is the lead character in this book. She's been on staff to an

elite federal judge, when the judge suddenly dies. Initially everyone thinks it was suicide -- but Grace. She and the judge had just had a mutually-desired intimate encounter; she can't believe that he was depressed.

Turns out she was right. The judge was murdered -- by a law clerk who also tries to do in Grace, after she figures out what happened.

The young male attorney is about to stage Grace's suicide, too. He tries to force her to jump from a highrise window at night, but she puts up a fight. When he realizes his plan has gone awry, he jumps out the window himself. Suicide over disgrace. (He'd just been accepted as an aide to the U.S. Supreme Court, with the recommendation of a different federal judge, who turns out to be doing unethical-criminal wheeling and dealing.

Scottoline wraps up the package with a bow -- the seemingly scuzzy and mental street man who hangs out around federal court, and goes by the name "Shake and Bake," turns out to be a handsome undercover federal agent. He and Grace exhibit the hots. Curtain drops.

(It seems a bit cheap that Grace, who was so taken with the judge, can get over the death quickly enough to demonstrate the attraction to Shake-Bake.)

I way prefer Scottoline's stories about lady lawyers cracking wise to her latest two books about "civilians." One's got a sensitive and sleuthing reporter who's single with an adopted son, the other's about a sensitive and sleuthing married mom of a picked-on grade-schooler.

Renee says

A fine finish.

J.S. says

I must admit that I didn't finish the book. After the first three chapters, I gave up and tossed it across the room. All I found in three chapters was a bunch of legal people hanging out acting like children. Then there was a gratuitous sex scene in chapter three and still no discernible plot. That was my scream moment.

I was looking for a new favorite author...this was not the one.

Amanda says

2.5 stars

I found my mind wandering frequently while listening to this. It wasn't a bad story but definitely not one of her best.

Cindy says

I enjoyed this thriller, although some of it is a little dated (it *was* written in the mid-90s). It starts off with a bang and leads the reader through plenty of twists and turns. The characters were fun - I especially liked Eletha and Shake-and-Bake. In fact, the subplot involved Shake-and-Bake was definitely a lot of fun. This was a good legal thriller.

Francis Osentowski says

Nice legal thriller

I enjoyed this well written and engrossing legal murder mystery thriller. Manages to combine murder, family drama, and a touch of romance in a multilayered drama.

At times, it seems to dwell on the family drama too long when I wished the emphasis would get back to the murder mystery theme. And what happened to the main character's assignment to save the man scheduled for execution? That mini story got dropped like the old hot potato. Darn...it was interesting.

The complicated murder thread seems to wrap up a little quick leaving simple explanations that are hard to accept.

But I still recommend this book.

Kris - My Novelesque Life says

3 STARS

"Grace Rossi is starting over after a divorce, and a part-time job with a federal appeals court sounds perfect. But she doesn't count on being assigned to an explosive death penalty appeal. Nor does she expect ardor in the court in the form of an affair with the chief judge. Then Grace finds herself investigating a murder, unearthing a secret bank account and following a trail of bribery and judicial corruption that's stumped even the FBI. In no time at all, Grace under fire takes on a whole new meaning." (From Amazon)

A good legal thriller but not my favourite of Scottoline's...the suspense is a bit scattered and starts to fall apart a bit (It was one of her first few novel).

Laurel-Rain says

Grace Rossi, single mom to six-year-old Maddie, is starting over again. Divorced, she no longer works as a trial lawyer. Instead, she works part-time in the appellate court in Philadelphia, for a judge she admires. This aspect of the job probably makes it all worthwhile for her. She is attracted to her boss, but doesn't think anything will happen between them.

A death penalty case is up for appeal and time is running out. Grace and her boss, Judge Armen Gregorian, believe his sentence should be reversed. There are plenty of others who do not. The two of them spend long hours one night working on the case; they take their attraction for one another to the next level and have sex;

and words of love are uttered by Armen to Grace.

Hours later, she learns that he is dead. Shot, presumably a suicide.

But Grace does not believe it. Not after their time together...and not after the love note she found in her coat pocket afterwards.

"Final Appeal" is a little bit convoluted, as we try to sort through the various suspects and motives for a murder. There is no shortage of people who might have reason to kill the Chief Judge, and motives that are numerous.

In the end, I was stunned by the reveal. None of the pieces came together in a logical fashion for me. I did enjoy aspects of the story, however, and my favorite parts were the interactions between Grace, her daughter, and her co-workers. An undercover FBI agent was also an intriguing character to add to the mix. 3.5 stars.

Paula says

This was kind of a letdown after the last book I read by this author. Grace Rossi is working part-time after her divorce and taking care of her young daughter Maddie. She has a crush on the judge of a large case that she it to help with and one night they have a romantic interlude. The next morning he is dead. They rule it a suicide but she believes it was murder and sets out to find the killer.

It was an ok listen and I will read more by this author.

Patrick says

Good read about the dangers of excessive ambition and the pleasures of dysfunctional family members. A true legal thriller.

Jeannie says

I recently found a Lisa Scottoline book at a yard sale - loved it. I then proceeded to purchase all of her books from half.com and am working my way through them. I have found that she starts with a bang. She grabs you in the beginning and holds you throughout the entire book, this is a rarity. If you're a fan of crime / lawyer / suspense you can't miss with Scottoline.
