



T is for Trespass

Sue Grafton

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A miser and a hoarder, Gus Vronsky is so crotchety that after he takes a bad fall, his only living relative is anxious to find him some hired help and get back home as soon as she can.

In an effort to help, Gus's neighbor, private investigator Kinsey Millhone, runs a check on an applicant for the job, Solana Rojas. Social Security, driver's license, nursing certification: It all checks out. And it sounds like she did a good job for her former employers. So Kinsey gives her the thumbs-up, figuring Gus will be the ideal assignment for this diligent, experienced caregiver.

And the real Solana Rojas was indeed an excellent caregiver. But the woman who has stolen her identity is not, and for her, Gus will be the ideal victim...

T is for Trespass Details

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Amanda says

I am really loving the Kinsey Millhone alphabet series. I love mysteries in general, and I was fortunate enough to stumble across Sue Grafton's amazing contract deal (seriously, 26 books guaranteed!) at about L or M. I zoomed through A to there, and now I'm with the rest of the world, waiting painfully for each new installment. I had trouble with S in that I couldn't jump right back into that world. I kept confusing Kinsey's life with elements from other mysteries I'd read, and I worried that would happen again. Fortunately, I was able to launch myself headlong into her world this time and scream through this thriller of a story. It was kind of almost too scary at times, but Grafton's often are. Anyway, not sure if my difficulties with S were due to the quality of S or my attention span at the time, but I really enjoyed T...and now just have to get back in line for U. Unemployed? Umbrella? Umbilicus? Underwear? Oh, please, let it be Underwear.

Zoey says

I really enjoy all the Kinsey Millhone stories, but I think this one is definitely one of the better ones (at least for a while)

In T is for Trespass, Kinsey gets caught up in a case of Elder Abuse when her crabby old neighbour (No, not the amazing Henry) takes a fall & is in need of an in-home carer & we meet Solana Rojas (or that's who Kinsey thinks she is, even after doing a light background check on her). Not your usual criminal/bad guy but certainly evil. Will Kinsey be able to prove her suspicions or has she actually met her match this time around with this cold & cunning sociopath.

I loved that Henry played a big role in this book, he is a great character & I missed him from S is for Silence, but a bit disappointed her & Cheney seem to have fizzled out. But you never know what may happen in the next Kinsey instalment, maybe he will be back. Looking forward to V is for Vengeance

James says

Book Review

4 of 5 stars to T is for Trespass, the 20th book in the "Kinsey Millhone Alphabet" mystery series, written in 2007 by Sue Grafton. A great addition to the thriller series with this release. And a few things begin to change. Grafton introduces some updates to the format, including a different perspective and point of view by introducing the thoughts of the villain. A very timely book too, focusing on elder care and the abuse that happens once people start to need assistance in order to live or survive. I was pleasantly surprised with this book and enjoyed reading it from beginning to end. It was the last book in the series I've read, and once I finish catching up on a few reviews of the older ones, I plan to dive back into this series. I'm hoping the voice change is here to stay... not in an overwhelming capacity, but enough to carry us thru the final 6 books in the series. Kinsey is an amazing character. You rarely tire of her as she grows a bit with each book, shows up how her job impacts her life, but it's never too drastic. I'm curious how it will all end...

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. *Note:* All written content is my original creation and copyrighted to me, but the graphics and images were linked from other sites and belong to them. Many thanks to their original creators.

Christina says

"T" is for Tiresome. "T" is for Tedious. "T" is for Tried to finish it, but just couldn't. I have read all of Sue Grafton's mysteries and, while I can't remember all of them, I've always had a general feeling of satisfaction upon completing her books. I hated this one. One-third of the way through, no discernible action had yet occurred. I skipped the entire middle, read the last part of the book, and didn't feel like I'd missed a thing. The book was loaded with unnecessary detail. Do we really need to know every appliance on every counter space in every room she ever enters?? This was so disappointing.

Jacqie says

Originally I was going to give it two stars, but let's be honest. I didn't like this book at ALL.

The only other Grafton book I've tried was A is for Alibi, so I am not a fan. And I think you have to be a fan to forgive all the silliness that went on in this book. I was not charmed by Kinsey. She seems to want to be alone in the world except for her two almost-ninety year old friends, even though she's only 37. And although she's all of 37, she still only likes to eat quarter pounders with cheese or artery-clogging Hungarian food with lots of sour cream and starch. Although at least she does try to run three miles per day- what is that, a little more than half an hour of running?

So, her quirks did not charm me. Neither did the dialogue. At one point Kinsey says "Wasn't it a hoot?" about breaking into a house and stealing back one of her geriatric friends. That phrase makes her sound about 90 years old herself. Does anyone talk like that? Who's not 90 years old? Then, in the climactic scene of the book, the bad guy (or girl) speechifies in a way that is great for exposition, but not at all how any real person would talk. And you guessed it, Kinsey's OTHER 90 year old friend is being held hostage by this woman. The evil temptress lured him to a hotel room by claiming that she had Kinsey hostage and claimed that if he called the police, she had a tap on his phone, so she would know. Did I mention this book takes place in 1987? How the hell is a random criminal (on the run, yet) going to get a tap on your phone? Well, I guess senior scamming works well enough, because then Kinsey has to save the old guy. She has a fight with a 52 year old woman who almost kicks her ass. Probably Kinsey needs to run more than 3 miles a day and eat more veggies if she wants to hold her own. But all's well that ends well, I guess.

No mystery, except why the author makes the choices she does. The book is far too wordy. In one paragraph, Kinsey tells you that she got up, had cold cereal for breakfast, washed her bowl and spoon and put them away, and then went running. Do we really need all these mundane details about her life? I don't care if she washes her silverware immediately after use or not. There are many, many of these paragraphs detailing mundanity that don't further the plot, character development, or anything except word count.

And that's all I have to say about that.

Lisa Vegan says

I think that I mostly enjoy this series because I love the character of Henry Pitts so much. He's never got as big a part as I'd like, but he's in each book enough that I get my "Henry fix." (He turns 88 in this book.)

This book felt a bit darker than most in the series, with topics such as identity theft, elder abuse, etc. But I always find this series and its characters a comforting read. Maybe this one slightly less comforting, but it was interesting and I really liked it. Intend to read the entire series. 20 down, 6 to go.

Una Tiers says

This book has a hidden message about preying on the elderly using the court system. It is not limited to individuals but extends to government agencies. It also highlights the need to monitor caregivers and to watch for isolation.

Jeanette says

This is your average Kinsey. It's rather long. For me the pace was a bit plodding. Every third or fourth chapter was done in the mind/narrator of the perp who with identity theft entry was also taking a housebound Senior's wealth and property. Crabby and mean Gus, who lives next-door to Henry. Quite quickly were the profits moving out, at that. On a whole, the ending portions went over the top, IMHO.

There was an accident case quite separate as well, and lots of nosy neighbor work by Kinsey amid investigative searching for different witness testimony. Henry had Christmas and a quarrel with his maybe Charlotte. And because of this real estate slant she brings into the group, a bunch of CA equity issues became noted and approached here. A decent read and quite a window into fraud that is committed each and every day against those aged invalids or people with other conditions who need home help care and are virtually housebound without that help.

Terry says

I have been reading this series since the early nineties because I love female detective mysteries and I especially enjoy this character. I continue to read it despite my disappointment, as the series has become more and more thin and tedious. "S" was the most disappointing with a confusing and improbable ending.

However, "T" has redeemed the series for me. It offers a fresh perspective (viewing from the villain's point of view as well) and two separate mysteries to keep the reader engaged. Grafton's overuse of descriptive detail is meaningful and not superfluous here, adding instead of distracting from the story. (Normally I find myself skipping paragraphs wondering if she's trying desperately to fill the book on her way to "Z".) Kinsey's nemesis in this story is truly creepy, and she's fleshed out in a way that makes her more believable

(and even creepier).

Grafton is also making a worthwhile statement about the lackluster care of the elderly in our country, juxtaposing Kinsey's vital friend Henry to their ailing next door neighbor.

I hope Grafton keeps the series as fresh and engaging as "T" for the last six books.

Darinda says

An elderly neighbor of Kinsey's has a fall and needs in-home care. Kinsey is tasked with running a background check on the woman hired. The woman seems like the perfect fit to care for the elderly man, but Kinsey senses something is not right.

The 20th book in the Kinsey Millhone series. This one was a little different than others in the series because we get some chapters from the villain's viewpoint. A good, quick read, but a little dark. The topic of elderly care was a central theme.

Skye Skye says

T is for Trespass is most likely Grafton's best work to date. I have been enamored with this series since A is for Alibi, and consider her books easy and enjoyable reads. Ms. Grafton creates a diverse assortment of colorful characters surrounding her main protagonist/ private investigator. Kinsey Millhone. However, this novel grapples with issues far more serious than the dangers of a quarter pounder or falling in love with the wrong man. Grafton plunges the reader into the dark world of identity theft, insurance fraud, pedophilia, and elder abuse ---- for the purpose of self-gain and committed with no remorse; my comfy reads turned into dangerous territory, and Grafton peppers this book with elements of suspenseful twists, turns and more than a little violence and danger. I found it to be a page turner and remarkably well written.

Addendum:

Grafton's writing style has improved over the years; oftentimes I follow specific authors and experience disappointment when they begin to lack a special spark; not so with Ms. Grafton. This particular novel adds several new dimensions: we are introduced to a diabolical character and reminded that the world is currently filled with similar socio/psychopaths. A technique I found interesting is that for the first time throughout this series, Grafton gives us a glimpse of Kinsey through another character's eyes. First person is Grafton's chosen point of view, but she is also masterful in shifting personas with ease. We know about Millhone through Millhone, but now we are given another perspective.

Malevolence is presented along with the eternal theme- "man's inhumanity to man.' Kinsey juggles three separate cases at once and it becomes clear her inborn altruism shines throughout as well as her wit.

Marlyn says

Kinsey Millhone is back. It seems a long time since I've last seen her. I looked up the pub date of S is for Silence,

and found it was released in December 2005, so I guess I was right.

It's 1987, and Kinsey's elderly neighbour Gus Vronsky has had a fall and been hospitalized. Kinsey manages to track down his great-great-niece who lives in New York. She flies out to Santa Teresa and hires a home-aide, charging Kinsey with the responsibility of checking her references, telling her that only a basic check is necessary.

Busy with other cases, Kinsey does as she's asked. But Solana, the woman they've hired, turns out not to be as expected.

Great characterization here. Kinsey's life, while never boring, is particularly action-packed in this installment. I was a little disappointed with the ending, but that may just have been because I read the whole book in one day, and it was so enjoyable that having to stop was a let-down.

Julie says

Favorite quote: "In my experience, the urge to rescue generates aggravation for the poor would-be heroine without any discernable effect on the person in need of help. You can't save others from themselves because those who make a perpetual muddle of their lives don't appreciate your interfering with the drama they've created. They want your poor-sweet-baby sympathy, but don't want to change."

AMEN!

Sue Grafton is in my standard cannon of authors. I enjoy her books but not so much that I have to buy them. (Maybe that should be the rating system -- would you buy this? Borrow this? Check it out from the library?) Anyhow, I read her books, but they are "check out from the library" caliber, not "buy them."

This one was quite good. I could hardly put it down, the last 50 or so pages. We readers know from the very beginning who the "bad guy" is, and Grafton does an exceptional job (I think) with painting the picture of what a sociopath is truly like, not just the more typically written "Hollywood" type of sociopath. Slowly, very slowly, Grafton amped up the anxiety levels until I couldn't put it down and had to finish it, even though it was well past midnight. I thought it was great.

On a personal note: I used to know a person just like "Solana" and, other than not being homicidal (not to my knowledge) I totally recognized her in this character. I'm sure my own experiences made "T is for Trespass" all the more alarming.

(Also, as a side note, I really recommend reading "The Sociopath Next Door" which is not fiction, and not by Sue Grafton, but a book on how you can recognize these conscious-deprived aberrations that all too often walk among us, making the lives of those around them a confusing misery. It is also a good read.)

Kristy says

Perhaps the only thing that disturbed me about this book is that I read too many reviews before starting that warned that I would be reading Grafton's "most disturbing" novel to date -- I therefore kept waiting,

worriedly, for something to horrible and awful to happen. Many bad things happen, but nothing quite to the magnitude I thought... perhaps I've read worse. But that's certainly not Grafton's fault. This book departs from Grafton's usual style of letting her protagonist, Kinsey, tell the entire story and goes back and forth between Kinsey and the other main character. It's an interesting, thoughtful, page-turner, as most Grafton novels are. I certainly recommend it and am sad at the thought of waiting another year, or more, to read the next installment.

aPriL does feral sometimes says

WOW! How does Sue Grafton do it? I am in love with the character Kinsey Millhone all over again.

The Millhone series begins with A is for Alibi and each book thereafter is titled after a letter of the alphabet. 'T is for Trespass' is definitely one of the best of the series.

Once again we are reading about Kinsey's 1987 life in Santa Teresa, 95 miles north of Los Angeles, California. She is a 37-year-old private detective, living in a building behind her landlord, 87-year-old Henry Pitt. Her parents died when Kinsey was a young child, so she was raised by a diffident aunt whose childrearing taught the child Kinsey independence and toughness. Her aunt is dead now, too, but Kinsey has more or less adopted Henry as a surrogate grandfather, and he thinks of her as an independent granddaughter. Henry used to be a baker, although he now is retired, but he still is dating and getting into soap opera mischief.

Down the street is the restaurant and pub called Rosie's, owned by the before-mentioned Rosie and her husband William. William happens to be Henry's brother. Kinsey and Henry often stop for dinner. These three characters often have Kinsey's back, which is a good thing. She is cautious and well-trained, having once been a cop; however, she also finds danger exciting, so sometimes she leaps before looking. Despite a taste for pushing the envelope, she avoids violence as much as possible. She has a fantastic memory for detail, but she seems to have one fault - an incredibly nosy nature.

Currently, she has three cases - two paying jobs: one from a local insurance company and another from a lawyer, but one job is personal when her elderly neighbor Gus, always irascible, has a fall. He is one of the most cranky and difficult of her neighbors, but his injuries and age brings Henry and Kinsey to his rescue despite the fact Gus did not want it. Kinsey discovers who his only living relative is, and after she contacts his niece, the two arrange for a nurse to help Gus around his home.

When Kinsey meets Solana Rojas, she realizes there is something wrong with Rojas despite her stellar nursing references. Kinsey doubts her own senses because she personally investigated the woman. The nurse has had much experience working with the elderly, and there are no complaints of elder abuse. There was nothing to indicate the 64-year-old woman standing in front of her has any issues. But Kinsey's spider sense is tingling.....

I loved 'T is for Trespass'. It starts off slow, but soon suspense builds up from increasingly dangerous confrontations. Grafton's mysteries are almost cozies because there are charming characters and filing, but there are killers and near-death action as well.
