



## Rescued: An Andy Carpenter Mystery

*David Rosenfelt*

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In *Rescued*, David Rosenfelt again delights his readers with the charm and wit they've come to expect. Even the most fervent fans of the sardonic Andy Carpenter and his team will be enthralled by this latest case, where the stakes have never been higher.

Defense lawyer Andy Carpenter is reluctant to take on any more cases. He'd much rather spend his time working for his dog rescue organization, the Tara Foundation, than find himself back in a courtroom. However, when a truck carrying over seventy dogs from the South to the rescue-friendly northeast turns up with a murdered driver, Andy can't help but get involved.

Of course Andy is eager to help the dogs, many of whom come to the Tara Foundation while awaiting forever homes – it's the man accused of murder who he has a problem defending. The accused just happens to be his wife Laurie's ex-fiance; her tall, good looking, ex-Marine ex-fiance. Even though he acknowledges having argued with the victim, he swears that he is not a killer, and though he would rather not, Andy has to admit he believes he's telling the truth.

For Andy, even with dozens of successful cases behind him, this case that his wife insists he take may prove to be his most difficult.

## Rescued: An Andy Carpenter Mystery Details

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Author : David Rosenfelt

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## From Reader Review Rescued: An Andy Carpenter Mystery for online ebook

### LJ says

First Sentence: It wasn't the presence of the tractor trailer that caused John Paxos to take notice.

Attorney Andy Carpenter keeps trying to retire but when his wife's ex-boyfriend, ex-cop and ex-private investigator Dave Kramer, is accused of murder, he has no choice but to agree to defend him. It won't be easy since Kramer admits to having killed the victim. But with no witnesses, other than a truck trailer full of dogs, and no second weapon, how you do prove it was self-defense.

Don't be fooled by the puppies on the cover. Although the book may appear "light," the bad guys are truly nasty, which is accentuated by not knowing who they are, other than their names, or how they fit into the story until things begin to fall into place. And if one is looking for a scene which is incredibly chilling, Rosenfelt delivers. The fact that it is only one page long makes it even more so.

The story is set up very well. One certainly knows who, what and when. He then goes on and introduces most of the characters, who are fully-developed and interesting each in their own right, in a very straightforward, uncomplicated way which immediately draws one in. It is very nice having a protagonist who is not super-macho—"Laurie believes I would have trouble defending myself in a contentious Girl Scout gather, and while I pretend otherwise, he happens to be right." The author has a very readable voice and uses humor well—"I hate visiting clients in jail. Maybe I should have thought of that before I became a criminal attorney, because jail is where most of my clients hang out."

The plot links that are made are clever. It's a twisty road down which we are led. Although one hopes elements of the plot are improbable, the author creates well-crafted puzzle pieces, joining them together, one-by-one, so they make sense while still hiding the complete picture from the reader. His explanation related to the stock market is nicely done and simplifies that which some may not understand.

There are coincidences and connections to conveniently-talented people. Sometimes the plot does stretch credulity a bit but, it is fiction and it's enjoyable. And there are dogs.

"Rescued" includes courtroom scenes which are as exciting as are scenes of physical danger. Although the outcomes of the story's threads were slightly anticlimactic, they were still very satisfactory.

RESCUED (Legal Thriller-Andy Carpenter-New Jersey-Contemp) – Good  
Rosenfelt, David – 17th in series  
Minotaur Books – July 2018

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### RO G'ma says

Rescued is the seventeenth book in David Rosenfelt's Andy Carpenter Mystery series. Sufficient background information is provided to allow this great book to be read as a standalone. This is a cozy, with a humorous

hero, who has a happy home life with his human and canine family. There is some adult language in this book, but no graphic violence or adult situations. I enjoy this author's writing style and witty dialog. Mr. Rosenfelt has written a fast paced, well thought out, interesting and complex mystery, with a good story line, excellent character development, fun and quirky characters, and twists and turns that keeps the reader engaged. I highly recommend this book to all cozy mystery fans.

Andy Carpenter is an independently wealthy defense attorney who runs the Tara Foundation, an animal rescue organization, with his friends, Willie and Sondra Miller. Andy lives in Paterson, New Jersey with his wife, Laurie, their adopted son, Ricky, and two dogs, Tara and Sebastian. Andy gets a frantic call from Ralph Brandenberger, the director of the Passaic County Animal Shelter, and since Laurie isn't available, he calls Willie. When they arrive, Andy talks to his friend, Pete Stanton, the captain of the Paterson Police Department's homicide division and they learn that there's a truckload of dogs and one human murder victim. Ralph tells him the dogs, over sixty of them, are rescues.

The next call Andy receives is from his wife ... get home now! When Andy arrives, Dave Kramer, Laurie's ex-boyfriend, is waiting for him. Dave wants to hire Andy to represent him for the murder of the truck driver, Kenny Zimmer, and admits he killed him, but claims it was self-defense. Andy doesn't want to represent him, but Laurie wants him to, so he ultimately agrees and Laurie rounds up their team. The team consists of Andy, Laurie, former cop and investigator licensed to carry a gun, Edna, the self-proclaimed office manager who does as little work as possible, Hike Lynch, a fellow lawyer and doomsayer, Sam Willis, an accountant and computer genius, and Marcus Clark, a scary guy who protects Andy when necessary. The Bubalah Brigade, a group of octogenarians, Sam has trained in the art of computer hacking aren't called in yet.

Dave, a former cop and private investigator, says Kenny, who he has a violent history with, attacked him with a knife and he shot him. The main problem for the defense team to overcome is that when the police arrived, there was no knife at the scene. As Andy and his team conduct their investigation and trial prep, a pattern of conspiracy, murders, and terrifying actions come to light.

I received an Advance Reader Copy of this book from NetGalley and voluntarily reviewed it.

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### **Lisa Denton says**

July 17 update: This book is now available!

Every book in the Andy Carpenter series by David Rosenfelt is a prize. Rescued is the latest book in this series. You can read the book by itself (rather than as part of the series), and I guarantee it will make you want to grab all the other books in the series as well!

Andy Carpenter is a sarcastic, witty, dog-loving defense attorney, who only takes on clients he knows are innocent ... until now! Dave Kramer is accused of murdering a man who had been driving a semi truck filled with rescue dogs, and Andy Carpenter and his team are going to need to gather a lot more information to figure out what really happened and why.

Reading David Rosenfelt's books, I always feel like a good friend is telling me the story. The writing style is open and friendly; the characters are quirky and real. I know you will get drawn into and enjoy this latest Andy Carpenter tale.

Thank you to author David Rosenfelt, publisher St. Martin's Press, and NetGalley for the privilege of reading an Advance Reader Copy of Rescued in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Sandy says**

Everyone's favourite lawyer/smartzass Andy Carpenter is happily avoiding his career when he gets 2 phone calls. First, it seems there's a truck containing 70 dogs & 1 dead driver parked at a rest stop. Second, get home now.

Andy arrives home to find his wife chatting with Dave Kramer. Or as Andy thinks of him, "Laurie's-tall-dark-and-handsome-ex-fiance" Dave Kramer. And he has quite a story to tell. Yes, he was in the truck & yes, he killed the driver. But he swears it was self defence & wants Andy to represent him. And to Andy's chagrin, he believes him. Damn.

Ok, it seems pretty straight forward. But then we meet Rodgers & Brady. And suddenly there's nothing clear about what happened, who did it or why.

Aaaand...they're off. Much to "Office Manager" Edna's disgust, it's time to get the team back together. Hike, Sam, Willie & of course, Marcus...the scariest dude in New Jersey. As always, there's a smart mystery with plenty of twists in the pages ahead as the case takes off in directions no one saw coming. And you'll finally get an answer to that age old question: what do a robotics CEO & a donut king have in common?

It's a wild ride as Andy tries to figure out what the hell is going on while setting aside time to annoy cop/buddy Pete Stanton. In this outing, we catch a rare glimpse of the deep bond between these 2 men :

Pete: It's the third time I helped you on this case.

Andy: \*nods\* I know.

Pete: If you tell anyone that I did, I will chop you up into little pieces & feed you to rabid coyotes.

Andy: That's beautiful, Pete. I've never felt closer to you than I feel right now.

And that's what makes these books a guaranteed great read. It's the winning combination of smart & funny that this author rolls out each time. The laughs help you catch your breath as the tension rises in the final pages. The conspiracy that unrolls here costs lives but what's really alarming is how deceptively simple & conceivable it is. It's an entertaining & fast paced read that's sure to be a hit with fans of this series.

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### **Brenda says**

This was a typical Andy Carpenter book. All the familiar characters are mentioned, and there are lots of dogs. Andy was more mellow and relaxed than usual, but the attitude was still there. His client was Laurie's old boyfriend, who was charged with murder, but Andy's cases are never that simple. This one evolved into something larger, and I learned a couple of things about the stock market. I always like the courtroom action in these books; it's never dull or boring.

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## Judy Crudele says

3 1/2 stars. Some of Andy Carpenter's sarcastic comments are wearing thin. Although I liked the book, there was a big leap to a conclusion at the end. I didn't feel that it was explained how Andy figured it out, even though the reader had the facts.

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## Hobart says

★ ★ ★ 1/2 (rounded up)

*This originally appeared at The Irresponsible Reader.*

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At an early age, Andy Carpenter discovered that he couldn't hit a curve-ball and therefore had to give up on his dreams of playing in the majors and fall back to following in his father's footsteps and becoming a lawyer. His father, a lifelong prosecuting attorney, probably wished for something else, but for the many people that he's defended in court, they wouldn't have it another way.

This is the seventeenth novel in this series -- I've talked here about nine of the previous sixteen. There's part of me wondering just what I could possibly have to say about this one that I haven't said at least once before.

Andy Carpenter is called to a nearby rest area -- a truck containing sixty-one dogs was discovered with the driver shot. Andy and Willie were called out to help the police retrieve the dogs and care for them. The police are really not happy to see him there -- Andy Carpenter at a crime scene? Not a welcome sight. But then he's called away, there's a prospective new client waiting for him at home.

Not that surprisingly, the potential client was also at that rest area earlier in the day. He actually tells Andy that he shot the driver -- in self-defense, mind you. Sure, there's a history between the two -- Kramer (the client) had assaulted the victim and threatened to kill him, in fact. But that was years ago, and he had no current reason to. He just needs some help with the inevitable arrest. Andy believes him -- he has to. Kramer is Laurie's ex and she vouches for him -- so much so that Andy pretty much has to take the case for her sake.

Honestly, Andy really isn't that interested in helping tall, hunky and dangerous Kramer -- ex-Military, ex-police, ex-licensed investigator. But it's not long before he starts to believe that there's something more afoot. And what was the deal with all the dogs?

All the regulars are along for this ride -- Pete Stanton brings the law and order, we get a little more about the fun side of Hike that was introduced in the last book, Sam and his hacking crew dig up plenty of information, Marcus is his typical imposing self, Tara is as loyal as ever -- and Andy gets a lot of courtroom time in. There's a new prosecuting attorney for him to face off against -- I liked her, and would like to see her against Andy again.

I don't think it's much of a spoiler here, because it's pretty much the default in this series, but there's a conspiracy behind the murder and the men behind it have decided to frame Kramer. This is one of the better -- or at least one of the more grounded -- conspiracies featured in these books. Up to a point, some of it was pretty hard to swallow -- it just went a little over the top for my taste (but many of them do in this series). Also, this one features the best code names this side of **Reservoir Dogs**. Still, it was one of the more clever solutions that we've been treated to lately.

A thought about the series as a whole at this point: I would appreciate it if Rosenfelt would shake things up a little bit -- I'm not talking about killing Hike or splitting up with Laurie or anything -- just dial down the super-criminals a bit, maybe spend some more time with the client again. But there's little reason for him to do that -- the series moves like clockwork and is reliably entertaining. I only say this because I'm a fan -- Rosenfelt is in danger of becoming a parody of himself (at worst) or just putting out cookie-cutter books (at best), I don't want Andy Carpenter to become a Stephanie Plum.

This is not to say that I didn't enjoy the book -- because I did. Andy, Sam, Pete, Vince, Laurie, Tara and the rest are old friends that I enjoy getting together with every few months. Rosenfelt's latest demonstrates what's been true for years -- this series is at the point where you can reliably count on each book for an entertaining read, a puzzling mystery, some good comic moments, a nice dog or two and maybe even a tug on the heart strings. They're still charming enough to win over a new reader (and any of the books serve just fine as entry points) as well as satisfying the long-term reader. **Rescued** delivered just what I expected and left me satisfied -- satisfied and ready to read number 18.

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***Disclaimer:** I received this eARC from St. Martin's Press via NetGalley in exchange for this post -- thanks to both for this, it was a real pleasure.*

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## **Teena in Toronto says**

Andy is a criminal defense lawyer who doesn't want any clients. Because of the money his father left him, he is able to not work and spend his time with his friend, Willie, running the Tara Foundation, a dog rescue that he and Willie formed. He is married to Laurie and they have an adopted young son, Ricky, so he is enjoying his life.

But when Dave, an ex-boyfriend of Laurie's, is arrested for murdering a truck driver, Andy can't say no, despite not wanting to defend him. Dave doesn't deny killing Zimmer. They'd had a past history and Zimmer had wanted to meet up in a parking lot as he was passing through town. Dave said he killed Zimmer in self-defense ... but the evidence proves otherwise. As Andy investigates, he discovers a much more complex situation than he thought and he has to convince the jurors.

Meanwhile, Zimmer was on his way to deliver a lot of dogs to a rescue. Andy and Willie take the dogs in and keep them at the Tara Foundation until they can find out which rescue.

This is the seventeenth in the Andy Carpenter series (I've read them all). I enjoyed this book and am really enjoying this series. I find with most series that by the time an author has come this far, the series isn't good and the author is pounding out the books just to get a paycheque. That's not the case with this series ... the author is able to keep this series fresh and fun.

The story was interesting and there were some twists and turns along the way. Even though it is part of a series, it works as a stand alone (so you don't need to have read the ones before it to know what is going on). I like the writing style of this author as it was funny, sarcastic and amusing. It was written mostly in first person perspective in Andy's voice but is sometimes in third person perspective when the focus is on the bad guys.

I like Andy ... I think he would be a hoot to be around and he's quite generous with his time and money (his

two best friends continue to take advantage of his tab at their favourite bar). He loves his dog, Tara, and thinks she's the best dog in the world. He also has another less lively dog named Sebastian who came with Ricky. Part of Andy's team is Laurie, his wife and former police officer and now his investigator. Hike is his associate who is the most depressed and pessimistic person ever. Marcus, an investigator with persuasive reasoning skills, continues to provide protection when it's most needed (which is often since Andy is a self-professed coward). Sam is his accountant who is also a computer hack leading a team of elderly hackers.

Blog review post: <http://www.teenaintoronto.com/2018/06...>

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## Carol says

### **RESCUED.....Its a Winner!**

If your an animal lover, you'll love David Rosenfelt's Andy Carpenter series too for there is **nothing** Andy hates worse in the world than "animals being hurt, injured or abused."

Oh, and Willie, "If there is a human identified with abusing a dog, and Willie is in proximity of that human, it can get very ugly, very quickly." Willie is a past death row client of Andy's....conviction overturned....who now works for him at his Tara Dog Rescue Foundation. His expertise in karate....that's a bonus.

Back to Andy....besides being the animal lover that he is, he is married to the love of his life, Laurie....retired police officer (*long story there*) and noted to be an absolutely brilliant defense attorney. Independently wealthy from inheritance (*and lucrative cases*) Andy has a witty, smart ass, funny as hell sense of humor....(*that I personally love*)....is a royal pain in the ass to those who get in his way and utterly enjoys long walks....and long conversations with golden retriever Tara who he touts as "the greatest dog in the history of the universe."

This series has a great cast of crazy-good repeat characters (*don't worry, won't list them all*) but I must mention Marcus...scary Marcus...tacit Marcus... avoid if you want to remain in one piece Marcus. One of my favorites!

**RESCUED** is a good one with literally a truck load of dogs and a client Andy would have preferred to have **never** met! Dam near read this in one sitting!

Many thanks to St. Martin's Press via NetGalley for the arc in exchange for review.

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## Jill says

When the real world has become more or less unbearable, what a delight it is to be able to relax inside the wacky world of Andy Carpenter. This is book #17 of this stand-up comedy/mystery/dog-related legal procedural crime series. I have not read all of them, but it's not a problem to follow the plots no matter which book you pick up.

Andy is a lawyer who hates to work and has enough inherited wealth to avoid it, but somehow cases keep falling into his lap. In this instance, his wife Laurie asks Andy to defend her ex-boyfriend, Dave Kramer,

who has been accused of murder. Dave admits he shot the victim, but claims it was in self-defense. The problem is, the weapon allegedly used by the attacker is missing from the scene of the crime.

Laurie insists Dave is not a killer, and that he is telling the truth. Andy is aided in his investigation not only by Laurie, an ex-cop, but by a group of eager and talented computer hackers. These aren't your average computer geeks: as Andy explains, the youngest among them is probably eighty. But they are smart, persistent, and besides, they bake treats.

Before long, Andy, with his witty repartee disguising a razor-like legal mind, figures out what's really going on, which is of course nothing like what it initially appeared to be. He uncovers a pattern of financial misdeeds that involved Dave only because Dave, a private investigator, was getting close to uncovering them by accident. But the case is coming to trial, and Andy isn't close to proving what he suspects.

One of my favorite lines: Andy is looking into Dave's former clients for clues about who might want to set him up. He goes into the office of a midsize office products manufacturer to speak with the manager.

“So you manufacture office furniture?” I ask. ‘Because I don’t see any manufacturing going on here.’

She replies:

‘This is just where the back-office stuff is done. If you want to see our manufacturing plant, you go out the front gate, make a left, and go seven thousand miles.’”

**Evaluation:** This book (which can be read as a standalone) is clever and humorous, and had me laughing out loud. And yes, dogs play a role, but only in terms of being walked and petted. It's just the thing if you're looking for a lighter crime novel.

**Rating:** 3.5/5

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### Cheryl says

I have not read many books in this series. In fact, I turned my one friend into a true fan of this author's. She has raved about his series and author for quite a while now. So, I finally decided to jump in and read this book. It was like I had been a reader for years. Instantly, I connected with Andy, his wife, Laurie, and the rest of the characters. It is easy to see why Andy is so successful as an attorney. He is smart, has good instincts, but he is also very personable.

Mr. Rosenfelt writes with ease. I read this book in one sitting. It was like I picked up the book and before I knew it, I was already half way done with the book. For me the characters were new but I was able to keep them all straight. It didn't seem like there were any secondary characters. You could say that I was "rescued" by this book. I plan to go back and read the other books in this series.

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### Joy Smith says

I like the premise; and the background of the dog shelter and the hero's dedication to Tara Foundation--named after Tara, his golden retriever--is well done. Andy Carpenter, a lawyer, doesn't have to work (believable setup), but he has a fantastic investigative team to back him up when he takes a case and needs help, and then there's Laurie, his wife and a former police detective. They're a good team too. I enjoyed the humor, and though I'm not fond of stories written in the present tense, it works. The truckload of dogs is an intriguing mystery. (Where are they going and why?!) And trying to prove Dave Kramer's innocence will be difficult because he admits he did kill the victim, but in self defense. (No proof.) Good characters, including the prosecutor, and I appreciate the fact that the hero doesn't do all the heavy lifting himself; he knows whom to call.

The short chapters keep you turning the pages, and they're interwoven with brief hints of what's happening behind the scenes, which adds more suspense. The writing and humor reminds me a little of Robert Parker, one of my favorite authors; and I'd like to read more in this series.

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### **Liz says**

When I read an Andy Carpenter book, I know I'm good hands. This week we had to say goodbye to Murphy, our 12-year old Newfoundland dog. There is no other book that I could have read while simply trying to get from one day to the next, adjusting to this new life without him.

*Rescued* is an enjoyable and well-paced addition to the series. Rosenfelt is an author who infuses his stories with humor and light-heartedness, and most importantly, his unabashed love of canine companions.

A gentle read for troubling times.

***"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us."* -- Helen Keller**

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### **Joey says**

Unfortunately, I finished it. Now I have to wait for the next one. Ugh! Loved it, though. Wonderful characters in the series, they were all there. Sometimes I wonder how he comes up with these plots. Definitely keep you on your toes as you read. Don't even try to figure out what is going on, most of the time you won't be able to. The end is always something unexpected. Great book, great series, great characters. He could have done more with the dogs, though. I get my "dog fix" thru Andy Carpenter. Highly recommend the entire Andy Carpenter series.

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### **Liz says**

I needed this book! I've had a bad run of several mediocre books. I needed fun! And Andy Carpenter always delivers. These books just possess a sardonic wit that I really enjoy.

What should be a simple case of self defense goes awry when a key piece of evidence is missing. Of course nothing is ever simple in an Andy Carpenter book and this one is no exception. There are all sorts of theories as to what might have taken place, but is any of what they find going to be considered admissible?

I have to give major kudos to David Rosenfelt. He has a wild imagination in addition to his own unique voice. I love when there are twists I don't see coming and that's the case here.

My thanks to netgalley and St. Martin's Press (Minotaur Books) for an advance copy of this book.

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