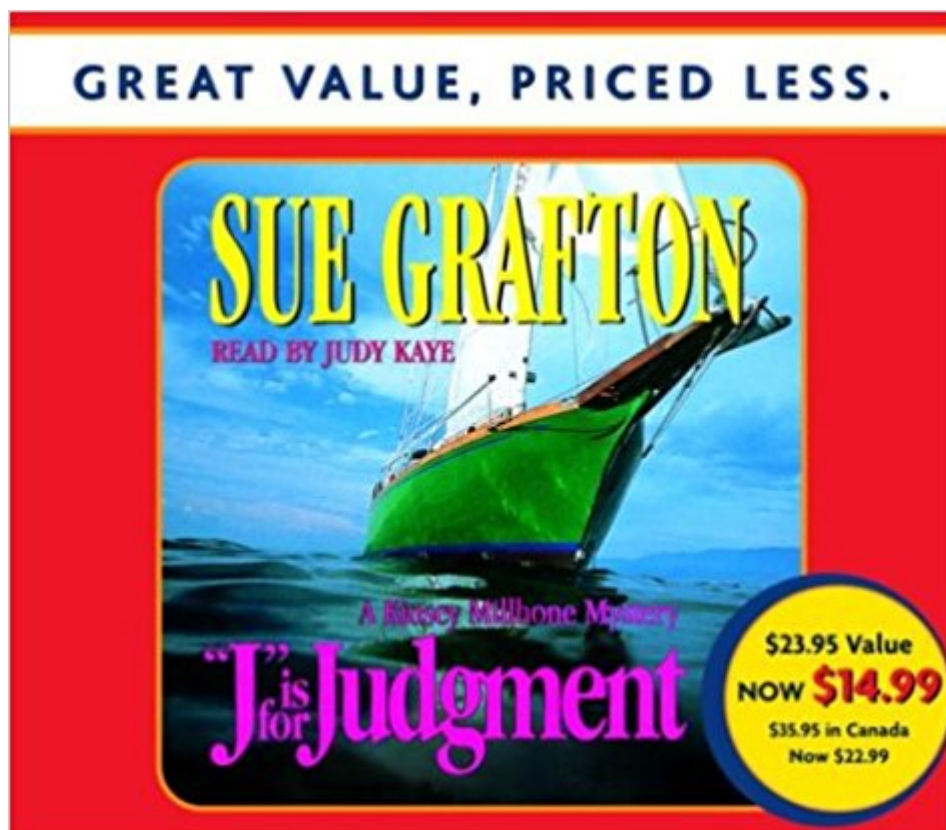


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J Is For Judgment (Sue Grafton)



Synopsis

Once again, Kinsey Millhone, America's favorite female P.I., embroils herself in a complex and entertaining Alphabet Murder Mystery. When Wendell Jaffe, mastermind of a real-estate scam, disappeared at sea, nobody was found. Now, five years later, he's declared legally dead and California Fidelity has to pay up on his life insurance policy . . . to the tune of half a million dollars. Soon after, the tune slides off-key when Jaffe is spotted in Mexico - and Fidelity hires Kinsey Millhone to sort things out. Oddly enough, Kinsey's investigation of the con man's past triggers a surprising inquiry into her own family history,. And, as the two stories intertwine, our favorite P.I. finds herself facing dangerous consequences.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In her 10th alphabet adventure, southern California PI Kinsey Millhone is working again for California Fidelity, navigating her way through a plot-driven tale that will remind readers of her earliest appearances, despite Grafton's deft introduction of new material. Shady financier Wendell Jaffe has recently been decreed dead, five years after his real estate empire collapsed and he disappeared from his beloved 35-foot ketch off the coast, an apparent suicide. California Fidelity has just paid his widow \$500,000. But then Jaffe is spotted in Mexico with another woman. Kinsey's investigation lands her in some tough spots--such as a drunken stranger's hotel room where she pretends to be a hooker--gets her shot at and leads to a dramatic resolution at sea. It also introduces her to a genealogist who requires Kinsey to revise her notion of herself as an orphan alone in the world.

While maintaining full control of her plot's variously colored threads, many of which are tied to Jaffe's family (his 18-year-old son is on the lam from a murder charge), Grafton weaves such familiar characters as Kinsey's octogenarian landlord Henry, his older brother William, and Rose, the neighborhood bar owner. But the spotlight remains on Kinsey who, without a love interest to distract her, sticks to the case at hand and tries, with limited success, to assimilate the existence of a not too distant family, whom readers will likely learn more of in "K." 500,000 first printing; major ad/promo; Literary Guild selection; author tour. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Private investigator Kinsey Millhone, the author's tough, tenacious, California-based heroine, has taken on a freelance job for her ex-employer, California Fidelity Insurance. One of their agents, on vacation in a small Mexican hotel, is sure he recognized Wendell Jaffe, a hotshot businessman who'd vanished from his boat at sea years before, leaving behind a suicide note, a clutch of cheated investors, a penniless wife, two young sons, and a partner, Carl Eckert, who wound up in jail. Five years later, just a few months ago, with Jaffe now officially dead, wife Dana had collected a half million from Fidelity. They'd like it back.... Kinsey flies to Mexico and finds her quarry, who's now living with a woman named Renata and is calling himself Dean DeWitt Huff--and who disappears again almost at once. Kinsey's certain the recent widely reported criminal acts of his son Brian have pulled Jaffe back to the US. In California, Kinsey's on the trail again--talking to Dana, to Carl Eckert, now out of jail, to police detectives involved in the original investigation, and to Renata, who, it turns out, owns a waterfront house near Kinsey's home base of Santa Teresa. Even as she chases clues in the present, chunks of Kinsey's own family history intrude, threatening her hard-won loner persona. Jaffe surfaces for the last time in the slightly hokey finale. A tangled, rambling story that's constantly in motion but generates little passion, heat, or tension. Solidly readable but minus the compelling edge of Grafton's best. (First printing of 500,000; Literary Guild Triple Selection for July) -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

What can you say about Sue Grafton other than she is a great mystery writer. Kinsey Millhone 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 book, and i am enjoying catching up with the series. The plot has sensible twists without being predictable, and the characters are interesting. I am looking forward to reading the rest of the series.

This novel had a lot of twists and turns. Just when you think something will come out to clear things up a bit it twists again. It keeps you guessing til the end.

I find some in this series very good; others to be so-so. This is one of the latter. No matter what alphabet letter, I like Kinsey Millhone. As a PI she's very real, not a superwoman. As a person, she's enjoyable. In "J" she's hired by her former employer, an insurance company to find if a certain man is dead or alive. He's a tricky little sucker, having committed a Ponzi scheme, then vanishes. The company has paid out \$500,00 to his wife. Is she really widowed or not? Along the way, we have one of their sons, who is in legal trouble, his ex-partner, a girlfriend, an older ex-cop. Some of the characters are developed, others not. We also come across a good deal of dialogue involving Kinsey's lost cousin & family matters. All which have nothing to do with the story. I felt this entire section need not be in the book. The story didn't really have punch for me. The beginning was fine, the middle bogged down to the point wherein I almost did not finish this one. The ending was fine & leaves the reader wondering, which can be fun. The character of Ms. Millhone helped this book to survive till the end more than the story

I love Sue's alphabet books !!!!! Don't skip any.... you'll have to come back to get the whole picture.
Thanks, maggieblue

"Everyone must follow the rules except me," should be the subtitle of this installment. In the

decades-long course of writing a novel for each letter of the alphabet, Grafton changes. This is the book where she begins her descent from the youthful and rebellious rule-breaking author we fell in love with (*A is For Alibi*), and starts to evolve into the moralizing, self-righteous social hypercritic (*U is For Undertow*). This is the first of her books that will make you question whether it's worth it to stick with Kinsey Millhone as she goes after the bad guy, and whether she really ought to just take a deep breath and try to put it all in perspective. California Fidelity, an insurance company, paid a claim on a life insurance policy to a single mother when her husband disappeared and was for all intents and purposes dead. We the readers are expected to sympathize with the insurance company and side against the single mother, as Kinsey does. For starters, it's just hard to work up sympathy for an insurance company, and harder still to imagine how the mother is going to scrape together a half a million bucks. In the course of her investigation, Kinsey illegally breaks into motel rooms, private yachts, and automobiles and STILL can't gather enough evidence to solve the case, much less grasp the irony of what she is doing as she insists that others follow every rule to the letter. Resolution of the story depends not upon real detective work, but confessions, as suspect after suspect breaks down and spills the beans. In two cases, people actually cry as they pour their hearts out to Kinsey. We wonder why they would do this, as there seems to be no payoff, and Kinsey is not a terribly warm person (to say the least). This is also the book in which pages and pages devoted to Kinsey's personal life start to become a burden rather than a delight, as they have been in previous books.

Great book with plausible but not predictable twists. The ending is not the finale; I expect to hear from them again.

Good book in this artful series of A-X with Z probably on its way. The J book was a little predictable. I am presently reading the K is for Killer book and it is making up for all that somehow was lacking in the J is for Judgement book. All in all I believe all of the books are well worth the time and I recommend everyone to complete the series.....also one after another works fine and in fact keeps the context flowing.

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