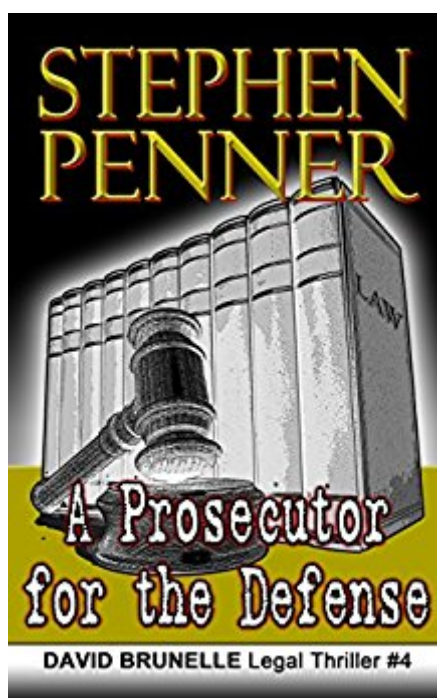


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A Prosecutor For The Defense: David Brunelle Legal Thriller #4 (David Brunelle Legal Thriller Series)



Synopsis

Seattle homicide D.A. David Brunelle has spent his entire career prosecuting criminals. But when his girlfriend, medical examiner Kat Anderson, asks him to go to California to defend her ex-husband on a murder charge, he just can't say no to her. Brunelle has to fight not only his prosecutorial instincts, but also a smooth-talking D.A., an unhelpful detective, and--worst of all--a client who won't give him a straight answer. As the evidence piles up and the case unfolds, Brunelle waits for the other shoe to drop, but this time the shoe is on the other foot.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A well written book which is number 4 in a series. The story will grab your attention and hold it until the epilogue. The court room antics, by both lawyers, are brilliant. My only regret with this book is that I have not read the others in the series. You will not be disappointed if you are a fan of legal thrillers. I have rated this book 4.5 stars. I obtained this book from in Kindle format.

Stephen Penner has written a series of legal thrillers with a somewhat unusual twist: his hero is David Brunelle, a career prosecuting attorney, who has to figure out a way to make sure that justice is served, despite what roadblocks the legal system, tricky defense lawyers, and scummy

defendants might throw in his path. However, sooner or later, every creator of a series character wants to do something different to keep readers interested. In "A Prosecutor for the Defense," Penner comes up with a fascinating twist, one that the title aptly describes. However, by having Brunelle act as a defense attorney in this one case, Penner hasn't just come up with a gimmick for its own sake; instead, the structure of this novel allows him to provide insight into the legal process that he couldn't otherwise give readers during the course of the various books in which Brunelle acted as a prosecutor. Brunelle is an assistant district attorney in Seattle, but for this one case, he travels to San Francisco to act as defense counsel for the ex-husband of Brunelle's girlfriend. The man, a plastic surgeon, is accused of killing his second wife and burning down the yoga studio she ran (with her inside). The physical evidence seems to point to the man's guilt, but Brunelle's girlfriend is convinced her ex (who's also the father of her child) is innocent and that he won't be able to retain as good a lawyer as Brunelle. So, Brunelle takes a leave of absence from his job in Seattle and moves down to San Francisco temporarily to work on the case. "Prosecutor," like all the Brunelle books, is written in the third person but from Brunelle's point of view, so readers are privy to his thought processes, which allows author Penner to explain lots of fine points of the legal system to readers. Like Brunelle, author Penner is a prosecuting attorney in Seattle, but, unlike Brunelle, he has considerable experience as a defense attorney before becoming a district attorney. So, readers of the Brunelle series get a good understanding of both the law in criminal cases and the mindset that shapes a prosecutor's strategy. However, when Brunelle acts as a prosecutor, readers are pretty much shut out of seeing how the defense prepares for the case. In "Prosecutor," however, readers get the benefit of Brunelle's (and Penner's) expertise on both sides of the case. Brunelle is able to explain how the district attorney is probably preparing his case, while at the same time, trying to figure out the best defense for his client. The case is suitably complex, because, like many clients, Brunelle's client isn't being straight with him. Brunelle knows he's lying but he still has to get through his client's lies and attempts to muddy the water before he can figure out the best defense. Plus, it's not just professional pride that's at stake... if Brunelle loses this case, the daughter of the woman he loves will see her father go to prison for the rest of his life. Penner is better at creating interesting plots than creating interesting characters, and, truth be told, none of the secondary characters in the book are all that interesting. However, the insights readers get about the legal process in nearly every chapter are often fascinating, such as how to conduct depositions of police (hint, don't try to prove they are wrong in a deposition or preliminary hearing; that just gives them a chance to correct their mistakes before going on the record at trial). The case itself doesn't require Perry Mason to solve, but it is reasonable tricky, with a few decent suspects, and Brunelle

gets a rare opportunity to pull a rabbit out of his hat, Perry Mason-style, while a key witness is on the stand. "Prosecutor" is the second Brunelle novel I've read, and it's a considerable improvement on the first. It's far more streamlined, concentrating on the case and the legal details instead of struggling with complex characterization. The result isn't a great legal drama, but the book is a fast paced, highly interesting thriller that also provides considerable insight into the legal and the criminal prosecutorial process without seeming like a lecture. Having Brunelle work this one case as a defense attorney is a clever tactic by Penner, affording readers a highly unusual and extremely interesting perspective. David Brunelle may or may not win his case, but Stephen Penner has definitely created a winner here.

Fast paced realistic legal thriller with a pleasant light touch of adult romance alluded to but not described. Enough romance to attract readers who find purely hard boiled legal thrillers too cold, but not enough to put off most of the fans of legal thrillers, who can quickly pass over the short references to Brunelle's feelings for Kat Anderson, the medical examiner in the city where Brunelle is an assistant district attorney.

I really enjoyed this storyline. I've read all the others in this series...and liked this one best. That said all the others were super. I just think that as the characters have developed as has my connection with them. I liked that Brunelle was in uncharted waters in this story, in a bind with his girlfriend and the favor she requests in defending her ex husband on murder charges. I just couldn't see how there could be any good conclusion to this story. But the author always has a trick up his sleeve!! Definitely kept me on the edge of my seat.

Good twist of roles for Brunelle. Final turn of events cleverly presented. Loved interaction of characters. Editors get one star. Have never seen more misspelled words and missing words in all the hundreds of books I have read. Am sure the author was not happy about this

Another freebie for my kindle from . Give me free books, and I will gladly send a review-- 1 star or 5 stars. I will tell the truth. Penner, an attorney, wrote a very good legal thriller. Having worked for our state attorney many years ago, I have seen attorneys "switch sides." Interesting. The story was fast moving, and well written, but it did have quite a very spelling errors. Please find a better editor Mr. Penner. I admit, I did have it figured out pretty early on. Frequent use of the "F" word and the misspelling kept me from giving this book 5 stars.

Had many twists and turns. Unexpected ending but satisfactory solution to murder trial. Interesting mixture of characters and intertwined relationships.

It threw the prosecutor into a whirl wind to be a defense attorney for someone he not only didn't like, but also did not believe his innocence. A promise kept that he made with his girlfriend. He often thinks how he would prosecute this case rather than defend her ex-husband. Twists and turns that keeps you guessing. I enjoyed this book right to the very ending.

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