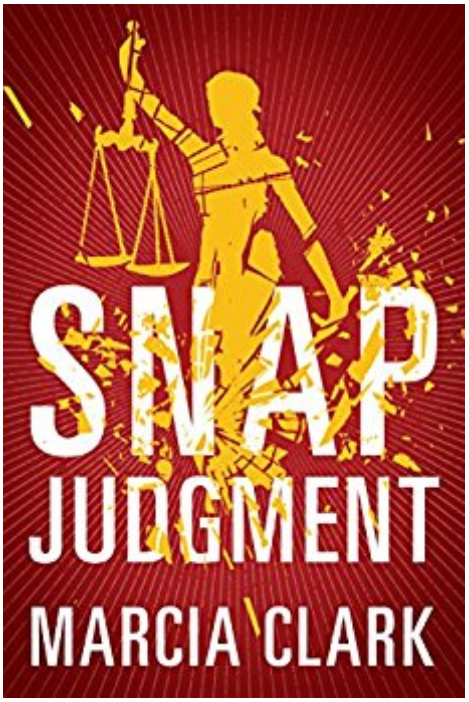
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Snap Judgment (Samantha Brinkman Book 3)



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Synopsis

In the third installment of Marcia ClarkÃ¢â ¬â„¢s bestselling series, attorney Samantha BrinkmanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s investigation into a familyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s deadly secrets is compromised by a threat from her past.When the daughter of prominent civil litigator Graham Hutchins is found with her throat slashed, the womanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s spurned ex-boyfriend seems the likely suspect. But only days later, the young man dies in what appears to be a suicide. Or was it? Now authorities are faced with a possible new crime. And their person of interest is Hutchins. After all, avenging the death of his daughter is the perfect reason to kill. If heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s as innocent as he claims, only one lawyer has what it takes to prove it: his friend and colleague Samantha Brinkman.ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s SamÃ¢â ¬â„¢s obligation to trust her new client. Yet the deeper she digs on his behalf, the more entangled she becomes in a thicket of family secrets, past betrayals, and multiple motives for murder. To win her case, sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s prepared to bend any law and cross any boundary that stands in her way. Sam has always played by her own rules, and itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s always workedÃ¢â ¬Â¦so far. But this case cuts so deep and so personal that one false move could cost her everything.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book kept my attention and moved at a decent pace and even though it left me a tiny bit disappointed I don’t hesitate to give it a 4.5 star rating. Maybe it was because I was looking forward to a courtroom drama and there was none. It read much more like a detective mystery. And a very good one at that! Fingers crossed the next book has Sam spending some time in the courtroom!

Marcia fictional writing is excellent and a good read. I could hardly put the book down because one doesn’t know what will develop next.

I’ve read all of Marcia Clark’s books. This one may have been the best yet. Can’t wait for the next one!!

Just like its two predecessors, I loved this book. So much, in fact, that I really hope the author reconsiders the three-book series and brings readers more tales about super-cool but flawed attorney Samantha Brinkman.For those thinking about diving in, I will say the water will be more comfortable if you start at the beginning ("Blood Defense" followed by "Moral Defense"). I had no trouble following the goings-on in any of the books including this one, but I’m also sure I got far more out of each one just because I read the one that came before. And lest I forget, many thanks to the publisher, via NetGalley, for providing me with an advance copy in exchange for an honest review (as was the case with the first two books as well).This one begins as college freshman Alicia, daughter of well-known attorney Graham Hutchins, is murdered. Not long before that, she dumped her abusive boyfriend Roan - and apparently he retaliated by posting online extremely personal photos she’d taken of herself for his eyes only. Nothing screams payback more than a spurned lover, so it’s not surprising that Roan is considered the prime suspect. But then Roan is found dead - an apparent suicide. His mother insists he was murdered, though, and the coroner’s report is inconclusive. Alicia’s father had every reason to avenge his beloved daughter’s death, so he suddenly finds himself in the crosshairs of the police.Samantha, better known as Sam, knows Graham; when he calls for help, she agrees despite not really wanting to get involved in the case (he’s a well-heeled customer and she’s having a tough time paying the bills, so she can’t afford to say no). Soon enough, she and her tech-savvy, hunky investigator Alex are up to their eyeballs in pot-smoking college students, secret lives of the rich and famous and pulling out every trick in their

bags (some legal, some not so much) to ferret out evidence sufficient to get their client off the hook. In fact, one of the most interesting components of this series is being privvy to the legal goings-on inside and outside a courtroom - told through the eyes of someone who knows (we all remember the infamous trial of former NFL star O.J. Simpson, at which the author was the lead prosecutor, don't we)?As if that weren't enough, Sam gets a very unwelcome visit from a big-time gangster from her past (and from past books in this series). He's privy to one of Sam's big secrets, and he's not above calling in a chit now and again when it suits his purpose. This time, he wants Sam, with help from her police officer father Dale, to locate the only witness to a murder committed by one of his relatives. Sam is convinced that her success will mean certain death for the witness, who's set to spill the beans at that relative's trial. But if she refuses, it just as certainly will mean her own death - so saying no just isn't an option.Can she juggle both cases and come out a winner (or at least still alive)? Everything is resolved in the end, but of course I won't reveal how it all plays out. Now, the only question for me to ask is can we have more of Samantha? Please?

If you thought a fiction novel by an attorney would be stale, dry, and unappealing, then look again. Yes, Snap Judgment is by "that" Marcia Clark and she has a winning title in this third of the Samantha Brinkman series.In this novel, Samantha, better known as Sam, must come to the aid of her colleague, civil litigator Graham Hutchins. His USC freshman daughter, Alicia Hutchins, has been found with her throat slashed shortly after she tried to end a disastrous affair with a college companion, Roan Sutton. When it appears Roan retaliated by posting "revenge porn," and is found in a suspicious suicide shortly after, the law naturally looks to her father as a person of interest.Sam is an independent criminal defense attorney and could really use the bucks. The staff is composed of Michy, an old childhood chum/office manager, and Alex, an ex-client but brilliant computer hacker. Both characters are well fleshed out.Sam has been around the block; she is a complex character and not new to the game. She has tread on some pretty thin ice between legal and maybe not so much and tends to push her luck. She's street smart and edgy and she gets what she wants; definitely knows how to play poker.A crime boss's knowledge of her maneuvers leads to a sub-plot intended to force her to find a murder witness in a case involving his nephew. Involved in the sub-plot is her police detective formerly estranged father, Dale Pearson, with whom she has managed a major coup--and far reaching reputation.Sam manages to devote serious amounts of shoe leather talking to witnesses, gleaning facts and names, alternately managing the cases of the murder of Alicia and the syndicate boss's case along with her lesser cases and court appearances.Clark's years in the legal system are obvious in the way her knowledge and

terminology seeps into decisions and directions of either major case. Dialogue with her office assistants is personal and real. She never talks "down" to them, but seems to genuinely love her staff and is aware she cannot put Alex at legal risk with his recent history. Really, he’s a good guy and excellent computer nerd. Michy is just trying to keep her boss afloat.A rather lengthy investigation follows both cases, unraveling more details but only creating more questions. You won’t see the end coming until it hits hard. Talk about twists--they are all at the end!While I was not a huge fan of the character Sam, I did enjoy the legal thriller. (Being a lawyer is obviously NOT glamorous.) Language, language, language, hard drinking, and many, many showers. The trend to damaged female protagonists with abused histories seem to be a theme in many of the books I’ve read lately. However, I definitely enjoyed this book and would be interested in another in the series. Sam hasn’t been weakened because of her past--she’s probably wickedly stronger--in spite of it.Ms. Clark has a wicked sense of humor--and peppers her narrative with little ditties, such as: "About as much as I’d like to go skinny-dipping in a swamp." And yes, it’s that Marcia Clark, @thatmarciaclark. (Told you she had a sense of humor.)I received this book in exchange for a review by Ms. Clark, Thomas & Mercer, and NetGalley, and I really enjoyed! Recommended for anyone who enjoys a mystery, thriller.

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