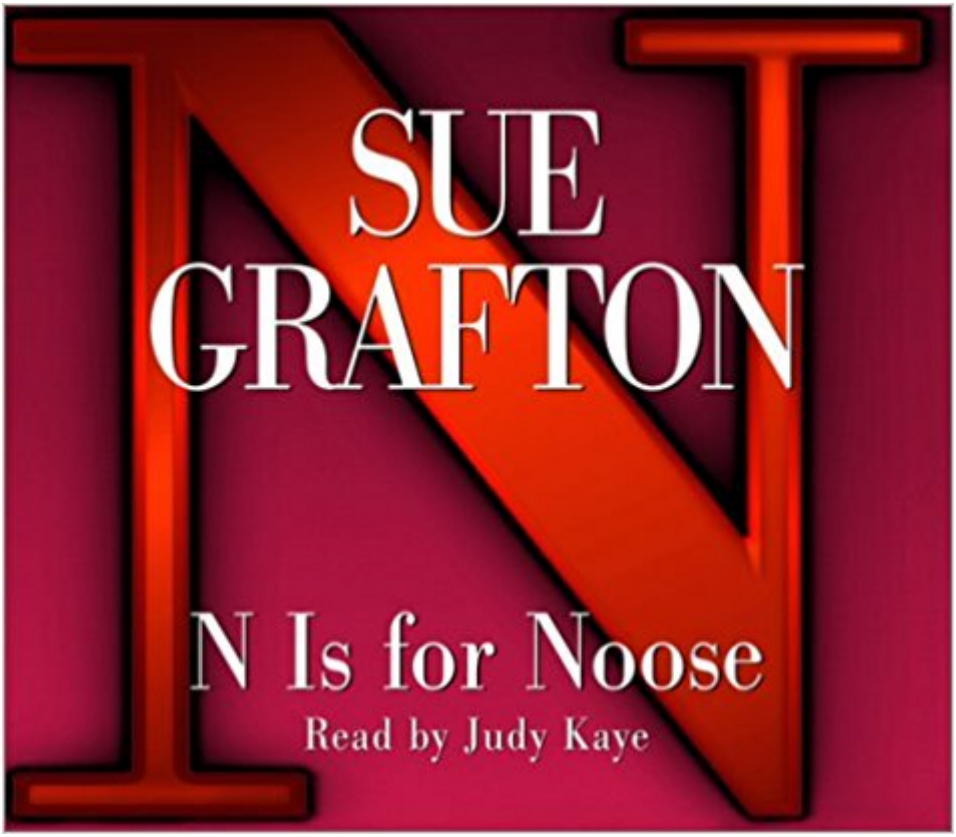
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N Is For Noose (Sue Grafton)



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Synopsis

4 CDs 4 hoursRead by Judy Kaye"There are few writers able to sustain the solid mixture of detection, narrative energy and cultural observations that one finds in Grafton." -- Washington Post Book WorldIn N is for Noose, Kinsey Millhone is about to put herself in the gravest jeopardy of her career as she becomes the target, and an entire town seems in for the kill.When Tom Newquist, a tough, honest, and respected detective in the Nota Lake sheriff's office died suddenly, the townsfolk were not surprised: Newquist worked too hard, smoked too much, and exercised too little. That, plus an appetite for junk food made him a poster boy for an American Heart Association campaign.Newquist's widow didn't doubt the coroner's report. But Selma couldn't accept not knowing what had so bothered Tom in the last six weeks of his life -- and the only way she'd get closure was if she found out what it was that had made him prowl restlessly at night, that had him brooding constantly.Kinsey should have dumped the case. It was vague and hopeless -- like looking for a needle in a haystack. instead, she set up shop in Nota Lake, where she found that looking for a needle in a haystack can draw blood. Very likely, her own.N is for Noose is also available Unabridged from Random House AudioBooks.

Book Information

Series: Sue Grafton

Audio CD

Publisher: Random House Audio; Abridged edition (June 4, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0553713396

ISBN-13: 978-0553713398

Product Dimensions: 5 x 1.2 x 6 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 387 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,462,939 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (G) > Grafton, Sue #2199 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > General #2245 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

Customer Reviews

"Suppose we could peer through a tiny peephole in time and chance upon a flash of what was coming up in the years ahead?" The questioner is Kinsey Millhone, middle-aged, two-time divorcee detective and junk food junkie star of Sue Grafton's popular "alphabet" mysteries; the book is 'N' Is

for Noose. If Kinsey had had just a smidgen of foresight, she would never have taken her current case, handed down to her from her on-again, off-again flame and comrade in arms, Robert Dietz. We encounter the two this time out after Deitz's knee surgery, as Kinsey drives his "snazzy little red Porsche" back to Carson City, where she checks out his digs for the first time. To her surprise, he lives in a palatial penthouse, which--under the unspoken bylaws of investigative etiquette--she qualmlessly snoops through. They sit around for a fortnight playing gin rummy and eating peanut butter and pickle sandwiches together, but perennially single Kinsey grows wary: "It was time to hit the road before our togetherness began to chafe." She heads off to meet Dietz's former client, Mrs. Selma Newquist, a devastated widow whose makeup tips seem to come from Tammy Faye Baker. Her husband Tom Newquist, a detective himself, had been working on a mysterious case when he abruptly died of a heart attack. Selma suspects foul play, but bless her, she isn't the brightest star in the sky and can't figure out what Tom was working on even though he's left behind enough paper to fill a recycling truck. Kinsey digs right in and roams the sleepy, one-horse town of Nota Lake for clues, interviewing a colorful cast of in-laws and locals. Beneath the quaint, quiet, country veneer, she unearths a bubbling hotbed of internal strife and familial double-dealing. Was Tom covering up for his partner? Is Selma protecting someone? Grafton's knack for gritty details and realistic characters ("[Selma's] skin tones suggested dark coloring, but her hair was a confection of white-blond curls, like a cloud of cotton candy&quot), coupled with the fast-paced, believable story line, makes for another delightful, entertaining read. --Rebekah Warren, Bestsellers editor --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

The noose of the title implies a tight knot, but the twists and turns of Grafton's latest plot are pretty loose. Not that the fans of self-reliant PI Kinsey Millhone's 13 previous alphabet appearances (from 1982's A Is for Alibi through 1996's M Is for Malice) are likely to object. This story takes Kinsey away from her Southern California coastal town of Santa Teresa to the small mountain community of Nota Lake in the Sierras. There, Selma Newquist hires Kinsey to ferret out the problem that had been seriously bothering her cop husband, Tom, before his recent death from a heart attack. Kinsey's efforts are soon stonewalled as the residents of Nota Lake unite, suggesting that the widow is being troublesome while the good-guy cop should be left to rest in peace. Kinsey wonders whether the townspeople might be right until she is seriously beaten up in her Nota Lake motel room. Focusing on finding the dead man's missing notebook, she follows his trail to a seedy hotel not far from Santa Teresa that he visited a few weeks before his death. While keeping a suspicious eye on the dead man's police partner and a few other local figures, Kinsey determines that Tom Newquist had been

investigating an old murder near Nota Lake, which may have had ties to a similar, recent murder. Lots of coincidences, some over-the top characters, including a hyper-raunchy older woman, and some unprepared-for elements contribute to the rather chaotic climax. But Grafton's easy-reading, intelligent prose and her heroine's sharp humor, served up dark and wry, make up for a slew of plot weaknesses. 1,000,000 first printing; Mystery Guild main selection; Literary Guild selection; 18-city author tour. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Noose" was certainly not at the top of my list in the alphabet series.Some miss the familiar locations and characters. I didn't mind that. What I didn't like was the story really went nowhere. It's a bit of a departure from Ms. Grafton's norm and I don't think it worked. There's a lot of tedious dialogue in which the reader can just skim through.The same basic story is told repeatedly, in different words, until some things start to gel. But, that's late in the book. Around 91%. The ending has a predictable twist, as well as dangling loose ends.I like the character of Kinsey and that kept me reading. In all fairness, if you're going to do a series like this you're bound to have a weak novel or two. This is one of them. Fear not, others that follow are better.

What can you say about Sue Grafton other than she is a great mystery writer. Kinsey Milhone is an ex-cop and has her own detective agency and never much of a sex life if that what your 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 love the politically incorrect lady PI in this book. She is tough and she gets the job done. She is somewhat dysfunctional, which makes her all the more believable and likeable. After reading this

series, I got my mother hooked on the series.After my mother read all the "Kinsey Millhone" stories, she discovered the Joe Gunther Mystery Series, which she loved. The first book is:Ã Â Open Season (Joe Gunther Mysteries)If you are looking for exciting adventure books for kids / teenagers, my mother recommendsÃ Â Jake Johnson And The Half Bloods (Quest 1) (Jake Johnson And The Greek Gods)Ã Â and its sequelÃ Â Jake Johnson And The God Of War (Quest 2) (Jake Johnson And The Greek Gods).

Thank you, Sue Grafton. These are books that promise not only a satisfying read, but can always be counted on to deliver what I call mystery/crime lite. Not "lightweight", but happily devoid of gratuitous or dark violence and sex. N is for Noose has a special flavor. The sense of place was so real I was there; smelling, shivering, and feeling it. That part of California is so authentically western, usually cold, and beautifully desolate. She really nailed it. The gloom of the setting was offset effectively by Kinsey’s very human addiction to comfort foods, fears, and struggles to summon the courage to tackle a daunting set of circumstances. Definitely not a fast-paced thriller, but a story that I wished lingered for another 100 pages.

This one was a little different. It held my attention until the last sentence. I did not realize the truth till the last few pages.

I’ve been reading Grafton’s alphabet series for years. I like this sassy PI and can always depend on her getting herself into an impossible and dangerous situation and when all seems lost, she rises triumphant and solves the case. As always tHis book kept me turning pages to the end, but somehow the whole rational of the plot wasn’t one of Grafton’s best. But if you like her books, you won’t hold it against her, anymore than I do...it’s on to "O." Reading all the way through Z is on my bucket list, and I’m keeping my fingers crossed that Grafton makes it too!

While the client is rather boring, the story built slowly in excitement right up to the end where it exploded.

I love this book.

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