

sue grafton x is for

Sue Grafton X Is For: Exploring the Iconic Mystery Novel and Its Lasting Impact

sue grafton x is for is a captivating entry in the beloved alphabet series by acclaimed mystery writer Sue Grafton. This novel not only represents the tenth installment in her "Alphabet Series" but also marks a significant point in the journey of her iconic protagonist, private investigator Kinsey Millhone. If you're a fan of detective fiction or simply curious about what makes this book a standout, this comprehensive exploration will give you insight into the story, its themes, and why "X" holds such a special place in crime literature.

Understanding Sue Grafton's Alphabet Series

Before diving deep into "Sue Grafton X is for," it's helpful to understand the context of the entire series. Sue Grafton's alphabet mysteries started with "A is for Alibi" and continued sequentially, each title featuring a letter of the alphabet paired with a word evocative of the story's theme. These novels follow Kinsey Millhone, a feisty, independent private eye based in Santa Teresa, California, a fictional town inspired by Santa Barbara.

The series is praised for its strong female lead, intricate plotting, and a blend of classic detective storytelling with a modern twist. By the time readers reach "X is for," they've been on a long journey with Kinsey, seeing her evolve as a character while unraveling increasingly complex and personal cases.

What "Sue Grafton X Is For" Brings to the Table

"X is for" stands out for a variety of reasons, not just because it's the tenth book. It delves into darker, more personal territory for Kinsey Millhone, exploring themes of family secrets, identity, and the past's grip on the present.

Plot Overview and Key Themes

In "X is for," Kinsey is hired to investigate a mysterious death that appears to be a suicide but soon reveals tangled connections to a wealthy and secretive family. The narrative is layered with suspense, and Grafton's skillful storytelling keeps readers guessing until the very end.

Themes such as trust, betrayal, and the search for truth are woven seamlessly throughout the novel. Unlike some earlier books that primarily focused on the procedural elements of detective work, "X is for" gives more space to emotional depth and character development.

Kinsey Millhone's Evolution in "X is for"

By the time "X is for" arrives, Kinsey has become a fully fleshed-out character that readers have grown deeply attached to. This installment pushes her into morally ambiguous situations and forces her to confront her own vulnerabilities. The book's title cleverly plays into the idea of the unknown—"X" often symbolizes something mysterious or unidentified, which parallels Kinsey's journey through hidden family secrets and elusive truths.

Readers appreciate how Grafton balances the gritty, noir atmosphere with moments of introspection, making Kinsey feel real and relatable rather than just a stereotypical tough detective.

Why "Sue Grafton X is For" Resonates with Mystery Fans

The enduring popularity of "X is for" and the entire series can be attributed to several factors that resonate strongly with fans of mystery and crime fiction.

Strong Female Protagonist in a Male-Dominated Genre

One of the most significant aspects of Sue Grafton's work is how she carved out a space for a strong, independent female private investigator at a time when the genre was dominated by male characters. Kinsey Millhone's no-nonsense attitude, combined with her intelligence and determination, breaks the mold and offers readers a refreshing perspective.

In "X is for," this is particularly evident as Kinsey navigates not just the external dangers of her case but also the internal challenges of trust and family loyalty.

Masterful Storytelling and Pacing

Grafton's writing style is engaging and accessible without sacrificing complexity. She weaves clues and red herrings thoughtfully, ensuring that readers remain hooked throughout. "X is for" exemplifies this well, with a plot that unfolds at a steady pace, balancing action sequences with quieter, reflective moments.

The book's intricate plot invites readers who enjoy piecing together mysteries alongside the detective, making it a satisfying read for both casual fans and mystery aficionados.

Realistic Settings and Relatable Characters

The fictional town of Santa Teresa feels lived-in and authentic, thanks to Grafton's detailed descriptions and subtle incorporation of local culture. This sense of place enhances the story's immersion. Additionally, supporting

characters in “X is for” are multi-dimensional, adding richness to the narrative and providing various perspectives on the central mystery.

Tips for New Readers Diving Into “Sue Grafton X Is For”

If you’re considering starting with “X is for” or entering the series at this point, here are a few tips to enhance your reading experience:

- **Start from the Beginning:** While each book can stand alone, reading from “A is for Alibi” onward allows you to fully appreciate Kinsey’s character development and recurring themes.
- **Pay Attention to Details:** Grafton includes subtle clues and background information that enrich the plot, so slowing down at key moments can deepen your understanding.
- **Explore the Setting:** Familiarize yourself with Santa Teresa’s geography and culture by referencing maps or related materials; it adds another layer of enjoyment.
- **Engage with the Community:** Mystery book clubs or online forums dedicated to Sue Grafton’s work offer great opportunities to discuss theories and interpretations.

The Legacy of “Sue Grafton X Is For” and Its Place in Crime Fiction

Sue Grafton’s “X is for” not only solidified her reputation as a master of the mystery genre but also influenced numerous writers and readers. The novel’s blend of character-driven storytelling and classic detective elements helped shape modern mystery novels featuring strong women protagonists.

Influence on Modern Female Detectives

Kinsey Millhone paved the way for many contemporary female detectives in literature and television. The authenticity and relatability of her character in “X is for” provided a blueprint for creating complex, empowered women who are more than just side characters or romantic interests.

Enduring Popularity and Cultural Impact

Even years after its publication, “X is for” continues to attract new readers, thanks to its timeless themes and compelling narrative. It remains a staple recommendation for anyone interested in crime fiction, proving that Sue Grafton’s work transcends trends and remains relevant.

For collectors and enthusiasts, "X is for" is often highlighted as a must-have in any mystery novel collection, symbolizing a turning point not just in the series but in the genre itself.

Whether you're revisiting the series or discovering it for the first time, "Sue Grafton X is for" is a remarkable novel that blends intrigue, emotion, and sharp detective work. It invites readers into a world where the past and present collide, and where every clue could be the key to unlocking a deeper truth. It's no surprise that this book holds a special place among Sue Grafton's works and continues to captivate mystery lovers around the world.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'X' Is for by Sue Grafton about?

'X' Is for is a sequel by Sue Grafton in her Alphabet Mystery series, featuring detective Kinsey Millhone solving a case involving a missing person and hidden secrets.

Where does 'X' Is for take place in Sue Grafton's series?

'X' Is for is set in the fictional town of Santa Teresa, California, continuing the setting used throughout Sue Grafton's Alphabet Mystery series.

Who is the main character in 'X' Is for by Sue Grafton?

The main character is Kinsey Millhone, a private investigator known for her sharp wit and determination.

When was 'X' Is for published?

'X' Is for was published in 1995 as the 24th book in Sue Grafton's Alphabet Mystery series.

Is 'X' Is for by Sue Grafton a standalone novel?

No, 'X' Is for is part of a series and works best when read in order, although it can be enjoyed on its own.

What genre does 'X' Is for by Sue Grafton belong to?

'X' Is for is a mystery and crime novel, blending elements of detective fiction with suspense.

Did Sue Grafton complete the Alphabet series after 'X' Is for?

Sue Grafton continued the series beyond 'X' Is for but passed away before

completing the final book, 'Z' Is for Zero.

Are there any adaptations of 'X' Is for by Sue Grafton?

As of now, there are no film or TV adaptations specifically of 'X' Is for, though the series has a strong fan base.

What makes 'X' Is for unique in the Sue Grafton series?

'X' Is for explores deeper character development and complex plot twists, making it a standout entry in the Alphabet series.

Additional Resources

Sue Grafton X Is For: A Closer Look at the Iconic Mystery Novel

sue grafton x is for stands as a pivotal entry in the renowned "Alphabet Series" by the late Sue Grafton, a trailblazer in the realm of American mystery fiction. Published in 1992, this tenth installment continues the adventures of the indomitable private investigator Kinsey Millhone, whose sharp wit and relentless pursuit of truth have captivated readers for decades. As part of a series that has significantly influenced the genre, "X" embodies not only a compelling narrative but also a reflection of Grafton's evolving craftsmanship and the broader trends in mystery writing during the late 20th century.

The Significance of "X" in Sue Grafton's Alphabet Series

Sue Grafton's Alphabet Series, beginning with "A is for Alibi" in 1982, created a unique framework for mystery storytelling, with each title corresponding to a letter of the alphabet. "X is for...", intentionally leaving the subtitle ambiguous, invites readers into a story layered with complexity and intrigue. The novel's placement as the tenth book marks a mature phase in Grafton's career, where her protagonist Kinsey Millhone is well-established, and the narrative style demonstrates refinement and depth.

This novel distinguishes itself by blending traditional detective tropes with a nuanced portrayal of personal and societal issues. Unlike earlier entries, "X" delves more deeply into character psychology and explores themes such as obsession, betrayal, and the consequences of past actions. Such thematic depth enriches the storyline and elevates the book beyond a mere whodunit.

Plot Overview and Thematic Exploration

At its core, "X is for..." follows Kinsey Millhone as she investigates the disappearance of a woman named Nikki Fife, a case fraught with deception and unexpected twists. The investigation leads Kinsey through a maze of suspects,

each harboring secrets tied to Nikki's murky past. Grafton's meticulous plotting ensures that the mystery unfolds with suspense and logical coherence, rewarding attentive readers.

Thematically, the novel grapples with the idea of identity and reinvention. Nikki's disappearance is not just a physical absence but a metaphor for the masks individuals wear and the lies they tell themselves and others. Kinsey's role as a private investigator becomes symbolic of the search for truth in a world clouded by ambiguity.

Character Development and Kinsey Millhone's Evolution

One of the strengths of "sue grafton x is for" lies in its character development, particularly that of Kinsey Millhone. Over the course of the series, Kinsey has evolved from a somewhat archetypal hard-boiled detective to a multifaceted protagonist with vulnerabilities and moral complexity.

In "X," readers witness Kinsey confronting not only external challenges but also internal conflicts. Her interactions with other characters reveal facets of her personality, including her resilience, skepticism, and occasional self-doubt. This evolution makes her relatable and compelling, distinguishing Grafton's work from more formulaic detective fiction.

Comparative Analysis: "X is for..." Versus Other Alphabet Novels

When compared to earlier books such as "A is for Alibi" or "D is for Deadbeat," "X is for..." showcases a more polished narrative technique and a deeper exploration of psychological themes. While the initial novels focus heavily on plot mechanics and the traditional mystery structure, "X" integrates character-driven storytelling and social commentary.

Moreover, "X" is notable for its atmospheric setting and mood. Grafton's depiction of Santa Teresa, California, where Kinsey operates, is vivid and immersive, enhancing the story's tension and realism. This attention to setting is a hallmark of Grafton's style but reaches a new level of sophistication in this installment.

Pros and Cons of "X is for..." in the Context of Mystery Literature

• Pros:

- Complex plot with satisfying resolution
- Strong, well-developed protagonist
- Rich thematic layers addressing identity and deception
- Engaging writing style combining suspense and wit

- Contributes to the evolution of female detective fiction

- **Cons:**

- Some readers may find the pacing slower compared to earlier, more action-driven entries
- The ambiguity of the title might confuse new readers unfamiliar with the series
- Less emphasis on traditional hard-boiled tropes may disappoint purists

SEO Insights: Why "Sue Grafton X Is For" Remains a Popular Search Term

The phrase "sue grafton x is for" consistently ranks high among search queries related to mystery novels and detective fiction. This popularity is driven by several factors:

- **Series Completion Curiosity:** With the Alphabet Series progressing letter by letter, readers often seek information about specific installments, especially the milestone tenth book.
- **Character Interest:** Kinsey Millhone's enduring appeal encourages searches focused on her most significant cases, including the one in "X is for...".
- **Literary Analysis:** Students and critics frequently research Grafton's work for its contributions to feminist literature and genre development.
- **Collectability:** Collectors of mystery novels look for details about publication dates, editions, and cover art related to "X is for...".

Incorporating these related keywords naturally into content enhances visibility on search engines, making articles about this novel more accessible and informative.

The Lasting Legacy of Sue Grafton's Work

Beyond the confines of a single novel, "sue grafton x is for" exemplifies the enduring legacy of Sue Grafton's contributions to mystery literature. Her pioneering role in crafting a strong female detective character paved the way for subsequent authors and diversified the genre. The meticulous construction of the Alphabet Series, with each book standing independently yet contributing to a larger narrative arc, remains a model of serial

storytelling.

Readers and critics alike appreciate how Grafton balanced entertainment with thoughtful social observation. This balance is particularly evident in "X," where the plot's intricacies intertwine with reflections on human nature and societal expectations.

As interest in mystery novels continues to grow, fueled by adaptations and renewed attention to classic works, "X is for..." holds its place as a definitive example of quality and innovation in detective fiction. Whether approached as a standalone mystery or part of a comprehensive series, it offers readers a rich experience marked by suspense, character depth, and narrative sophistication.

Sue Grafton X Is For

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sue grafton x is for: X Sue Grafton, 2015-08-25 "An inventive plot and incisive character studies elevate MWA Grand Master Grafton's twenty-fourth Kinsey Millhone novel...This superior outing will remind readers why this much-loved series will be missed as the end of the alphabet approaches."—Publishers Weekly (starred review) X: The number ten. An unknown quantity. A mistake. A cross. A kiss... Perhaps Sue Grafton's darkest and most chilling novel, X features a remorseless serial killer who leaves no trace of his crimes. Once again breaking the rules and establishing new paths, Grafton wastes little time identifying this deadly sociopath. The test is whether private investigator Kinsey Millhone can prove her case against him—before she becomes his next victim.

sue grafton x is for: X (Unabridged) Sue Grafton, 2016-09-06 Of #1 New York Times-bestselling author Sue Grafton, NPR's Maureen Corrigan said, "Makes me wish there were more than 26 letters." With only two letters left, Grafton's many devoted readers will share that sentiment. X: The number ten. An unknown quantity. A mistake. A cross. A kiss. X: The shortest entry in Webster's Unabridged. Derived from Greek and Latin and commonly found in science, medicine, and religion. The most graphically dramatic letter. Notoriously tricky to pronounce: think xylophone. X: The twenty-fourth letter in the English alphabet. Sue Grafton's X: Perhaps her darkest and most chilling novel, it features a remorseless serial killer who leaves no trace of his crimes. Once again breaking the rules and establishing new paths, Grafton wastes little time identifying this sociopath. The test is whether Kinsey can prove her case against him before she becomes his next victim.

sue grafton x is for: X: a Kinsey Millhone Novel 24 Sue Grafton, 2016-08-11 When a glamorous red head wishes to locate the son she put up for adoption 32 years ago, it seems like an easy 200 bucks for PI Kinsey Millhone. But when a cop tells her she was paid with marked bills, and her client is nowhere to be found, it becomes apparent this mystery woman has something to hide. Riled, Kinsey won't stop until she's found out who fooled her and why.

sue grafton x is for: X Sue Grafton, 2015 Sue Grafton's X: Perhaps her darkest and most chilling novel, it features a remorseless serial killer who leaves no trace of his crimes. Once again breaking the rules and establishing new paths, Grafton wastes little time identifying this sociopath.

The test is whether Kinsey can prove her case against him before she becomes his next victim.

sue grafton x is for: X Sue Grafton, 2015 Of #1 New York Times-bestselling author Sue Grafton, NPR's Maureen Corrigan said, Makes me wish there were more than 26 letters. With only two letters left, Grafton's many devoted readers will share that sentiment. X: The number ten. An unknown quantity. A mistake. A cross. A kiss. X: The shortest entry in Webster's Unabridged. Derived from Greek and Latin and commonly found in science, medicine, and religion. The most graphically dramatic letter. Notoriously tricky to pronounce: think xylophone. X: The twenty-fourth letter in the English alphabet. Sue Grafton's X: Perhaps her darkest and most chilling novel, it features a remorseless serial killer who leaves no trace of his crimes. Once again breaking the rules and establishing new paths, Grafton wastes little time identifying this sociopath. The test is whether Kinsey can prove her case against him before she becomes his next victim.

sue grafton x is for: X, *Sue Grafton*, 2015

sue grafton x is for: "X" Sue Grafton, 2015 Kinsey Millhone identifies a remorseless serial killer who leaves no trace of his crimes. The test is whether she can prove her case against him before she becomes his next victim.

sue grafton x is for: "F" is for Fugitive Sue Grafton, 2010-04-01 #1 New York Times bestselling author Sue Grafton crafts a thriller set in a town so small that P.I. Kinsey Millhone wonders just how private her investigation can be . . . F is for Fugitive Floral Beach wasn't much of a town: six streets long and three deep, its only notable feature a strip of sand fronting the Pacific. It was on that sandy beach seventeen years ago that the strangled body of Jean Timberlake had been found. The people of floral Beach didn't pay a whole lot of mind to past history, especially when Bailey Fowler, the self-confessed killer, had been properly processed and convicted. They weren't even unduly concerned when, a year after the murder, Fowler walked away from the men's prison at San Luis Obispo, never to be seen again. After all, everyone knew Jean had been a wild kid. Like mother, like daughter, some said--though never within hearing of Shana Timberlake, who, whatever her faults, still mourned her murdered child. And then, by sheer fluke, the cops stumbled on Bailey Fowler. And a case seventeen years dead came murderously to life again. For Royce Fowler, old and sick with not much time left, his son's reappearance was the chance to heal an old wound. For Kinsey Millhone, the case was a long shot, but she agreed to take it on. She couldn't know then it would lead her to probe the passions buried just below the surface of family relations, where old wounds fester and the most cherished emotions become warped until they fuse into deadly, soul-destroying time bombs. A Is for Alibi B Is for Burglar C Is for Corpse D Is for Deadbeat E Is for Evidence F Is for Fugitive G Is for Gumshoe H Is for Homicide I Is for Innocent J Is for Judgment K Is for Killer L Is for Lawless M Is for Malice N Is for Noose O Is for Outlaw P Is for Peril Q Is for Quarry R Is for Ricochet S Is for Silence T Is for Trespass U Is for Undertow V Is for Vengeance W Is for Wasted X

sue grafton x is for: X Sue Grafton, 2015 X: The number ten. An unknown quantity. A mistake. A cross. A kiss. X: The shortest entry in Websters Unabridged. Derived from Greek and Latin and commonly found in science, medicine, and religion. The most graphically dramatic letter. Notoriously tricky to pronounce: think xylophone. X: The twenty-fourth letter in the English alphabet

sue grafton x is for: "J" is for Judgment Sue Grafton, 1993-05-15 The next in the Kinsey Millhone Alphabet mystery series from bestselling author Sue Grafton. J is for Jaffe: Wendell Jaffe, dead these past five years. Or so it seemed until his former insurance agent spotted him in the bar of a dusty little resort halfway between Cabo San Lucas and La Paz. In truth, the facts about Wendell Jaffe had nothing to do with my family history, but murder is seldom tidy and no one ever said revelations operate in a straight line. It was my investigation into the dead man's past that triggered the inquiry into my own, and in the end the two stories became difficult to separate. Five years ago, when Jaffe's thirty-five-foot Fuji ketch was found drifting off the Baja coast, it seemed a sure thing he'd gone overboard. The note he left behind admitted he was flat broke, his business bankrupt, his real estate gambit nothing but a huge Ponzi scheme about to collapse, with criminal indictment certain to follow. When the authorities soon after descended on his banks and his books, there was

nothing left: Jaffe had stripped the lot. Given my insatiable curiosity and my natural inclination to poke my nose in where it doesn't belong, it was odd to realize how little attention I'd paid to my own past. I'd simply accepted what I was told, constructing my personal mythology on the flimsiest of facts. But Jaffe wasn't quite without assets. There was the \$500,000 life insurance policy made out to his wife and underwritten by California Fidelity. With no corpse to prove death, however, the insurance company was in no hurry to pay the claim. Dana Jaffe had to wait out the statutory five years until her missing husband could be declared legally dead. Just two months before Wendell Jaffe was sighted in that dusty resort bar, California Fidelity finally paid in full. Now they wanted the truth. And they were willing to hire Kinsey Millhone to dig it up. As Kinsey pushes deeper into the mystery surrounding Wendell Jaffe's pseudocide, she explores her own past, discovering that in family matters as in crime, sometimes it's better to reserve judgment. J is for judgment: the kind we're quick to make and often quicker to regret. J Is for Judgment: Kinsey Millhone's tenth excursion into the dark places of the heart where duplicity is the governing rule and murder the too-frequent result. A Is for Alibi B Is for Burglar C Is for Corpse D Is for Deadbeat E Is for Evidence F Is for Fugitive G Is for Gumshoe H Is for Homicide I Is for Innocent J Is for Judgment K Is for Killer L is for Lawless M Is for Malice N Is for Moose O Is for Outlaw P Is for Peril Q Is for Quarry R Is for Ricochet S Is for Silence T Is for Trespass U Is for Undertow V Is for Vengeance W Is for Wasted X

sue grafton x is for: Flight Test of the X-29A at High Angle of Attack: Flight Dynamics and Controls Jeffrey E. Bauer, 1995

sue grafton x is for: Crosswordese David Bukszpan, 2023-11-14 This game changing guide to crosswords will improve your skills while exploring the hows, whys, and history of the crossword and its evolution over time, from antiquity to the age of LOL and MINAJ. Crossword puzzles have a language all their own. Packed full of trick clues, trivia about common answers, and crossword trends, Crosswordese is a delightful celebration of the crossword lexicon and its checkered history of wordplay and changing cultural references. Much, much more than a dictionary, this is a playful, entertaining, and educational read for word gamers and language lovers. The perfect present or gift for yourself, Crosswordese will be a hit with crossword puzzlers of all skill levels, word nerds, fans of all varieties of word games, and language enthusiasts. • BEYOND CROSSWORDS: Hooked on crosswords? Now you can discover even more to enjoy about the history and trivia behind the terms and clues you love. • FOR BEGINNERS, EXPERTS, AND WORD NERDS ALIKE: Beginners will find it a boon to their solving skills; veteran crossworders will learn more about the vocabulary they employ every morning; and those interested in language will have plenty of Aha! moments. • CROSSWORD PUZZLES INCLUDED! The author has specially created a number of puzzles based on the book's content inside!

sue grafton x is for: No Cause For Shame Richard Stein, 2012-02-09 AJ Golden becomes the famous "Shotgun Sister" when she wins the race to a gun-safe and obliterates the two serial-killers who have invaded her stepfather's home and raped her sister. However, it is her sister, Amy Elizabeth, who desires fame and fortune. When investigator Jonah Aaron meets AJ in a Nashville karaoke bar, he has a new hot girlfriend, and he and country music promoter, Milton Brandenburg, become the keys to AJ's plan to catapult Amy Elizabeth to stardom. Along the way, Jonah uncovers a tale of incest, murder, an unexplainable death, and a sabotaged anti-cancer drug study. www.richardsteinbooks.com

sue grafton x is for: iPad For Seniors For Dummies Nancy Muir, 2015-12-21 Provides instructions and advice for seniors on how to use the iPad, including browsing the Web, working with e-mail, making FaceTime video calls, exploring the iTunes store, using the iPad as an E-reader, and scheduling a reminder.

sue grafton x is for: NASA Technical Note , 1975

sue grafton x is for: Buzz Books 2015: Fall/Winter , 2015-05-13 The seventh edition of Buzz Books is a treasure-trove of substantial excerpts from dozens of the most highly-touted books to be published this fall/winter. Our "digital convention" features such major authors as Geraldine Brooks, Lauren Groff, Alice Hoffman, Janice Lee, Ron Rash, and Adriana Trigiani. We showcase debut

novelists you've already heard of—Sloane Crosley, Jesse Eisenberg, and Amy Stewart—and anticipated new voices such as Virginia Baily (*Early One Morning*) and Claire Vaye Watkins (*Gold, Fame, Citrus*). Our nonfiction selections range from Mary Karr's *The Art of Memoir* to revelations on aging by Dick Van Dyke; new work from New York Times bestselling authors Jane McGonigal and Eric Weiner; and a memoir by Dan Marshall that will be featured at this year's Book Expo America convention on the Editors Buzz panel: *Home is Burning*. Many of our Buzz Books authors also will be in attendance at BEA. We've grouped titles into sections for fiction, debut fiction, and nonfiction titles. If these great samples aren't enough to fill your fall reading lists, we start with an extensive report on the entire fall/winter publishing season, with over 100 notable forthcoming books in all that you will find covered and promoted in the months ahead. Start reading some of the best future books right now, and invite your friends and book groups to download their own free copy of the ebook from any major ebookstore or at buzz.publishersmarketplace.com. And for the best in children's literature, be sure to look for Buzz Books 2015: Young Adult Fall/Winter (9780990835363), also available now.

sue grafton x is for: "E" is for Evidence Sue Grafton, 1988-05-15 No one writes a thriller like #1 New York Times bestselling author Sue Grafton. In *E is for Evidence*, PI Kinsey Millhone becomes the victim of a nasty frame-up... *E IS FOR EX* It was the silly season and a Monday at that, and Kinsey Millhone was bogged down in a preliminary report on a fire claim. Something was nagging at her, but she couldn't pin it. The last thing she needed in the morning mail was a letter from her bank recording an erroneous \$5,000 deposit in her account. Kinsey had never believed in Santa Claus and she wasn't about to change her mind now. Resigning herself to a morning of frustration, she phoned the bank and, assaulted by canned carols, waited on hold for an officer to clear up the snafu. It was with something less than Christmas cheer that Kinsey faced off only minutes later with California Fidelity's Mac Voorhies. Voorhies was smart, humorless, stingy with praise, and totally fair. He was frowning now. I got a phone call this morning. he said, his frown deepening. Somebody says you're on the take. Suddenly the \$5,000 deposit clicked into place. It wasn't a mistake. It was a setup. *E is for evidence: evidence planted, evidence lost. E is for ex-lovers and evasions, enemies and endings. For Kinsey, E is for everything she stands to lose if she can't exonerate herself: her license, her livelihood, her good name. And so she takes on a new client: namely, Kinsey Millhone, thirty-two and twice-divorced, ex-cop and wisecracking loner, a California private investigator with a penchant for lost causes--one of which, it is to be hoped, is not herself. As Kinsey begins to unravel the frame-up, she finds that her future is intimately tied to one family's past and to the explosive secret it has protected for almost twenty years. Digging deeper, she discovers that probing the past can have lethal consequences as she follows a trail of murder that leads to her own front door. And in what may well be her most challenging case, Kinsey comes up against the fact that sometimes, E is forever. A Is for Alibi B Is for Burglar C Is for Corpse D Is for Deadbeat E Is for Evidence F Is for Fugitive G Is for Gumshoe H Is for Homicide I Is for Innocent J Is for Judgment K Is for Killer L is for Lawless M Is for Malice N Is for Noose O Is for Outlaw P Is for Peril Q Is for Quarry R Is for Ricochet S Is for Silence T Is for Trespass U Is for Undertow V Is for Vengeance W Is for Wasted X*

sue grafton x is for: "C" Is for Corpse Sue Grafton, 2005-11-29 How do you go about solving an attempted murder when the victim has lost a good part of his memory? It's one of Kinsey's toughest cases yet, but she never backs down from a challenge. Twenty-three-year-old Bobby Callahan is lucky to be alive after a car forced his Porsche over a bridge and into a canyon. The crash left Bobby with a clouded memory. But he can't shake the feeling it was no random accident and that he's still in danger... The only clues Kinsey has to go on are a little red address book and the name Blackman. Bobby can't remember who he gave the address book to for safekeeping. And any chances of Bobby regaining his memory are dashed when he's killed in another automobile accident just three days after he hires Kinsey. As Kinsey digs deeper into her investigation, she discovers Bobby had a secret worth killing for—and unearthing that secret could send Kinsey to her own early death...

sue grafton x is for: Desert Vengeance Betty Webb, 2017-02-07 Webb offers fans the

profound pleasure of watching Lena mature as she comes one step closer to understanding and accepting her difficult past, while providing new readers with an introduction to this strong and genuinely likable character. —Publishers Weekly When the man who raped Scottsdale PI Lena Jones when she was a nine-year-old foster child is released from prison, Lena is waiting for him in the parking lot—with a big knife. Papa Brian Wycoff survives their meeting, but the next day, his wife, who knew about his crimes but did nothing to stop him—in fact enabled him—is found dead in their Apache Junction home, shot through both eyes. Terrified he will be next, Wycoff, violating his parole, flees north to the small town of Black Canyon City, taking shelter in an RV on his brother-in-law's small ranch. A couple of days later, he is found tortured to death, eight horizontal marks burned into his flesh. One for each of his victims? Suspicion first falls upon Lena, who has trailed Wycoff to Black Canyon City to make sure he doesn't come near any other children. When the local authorities arrive to question her, she admits to having been tempted to kill her former foster father, but someone beat her to the punch. Suspicion then falls on Wycoff's other victims, the now-grown men and women he abused when they were still in his care, and on the mothers of the children who went missing before his arrest. When Lena takes up the case, more to protect one of the mothers who has been arrested than to find the real killer, her conscience is torn. Does a serial child rapist, a pedophile also implicated in the disappearance of several children, really deserve justice? That choice might not be left up to Lena when members of a local group, Parents of Missing Children, start working to prevent her investigation from succeeding. How far will they go to make sure she fails?

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