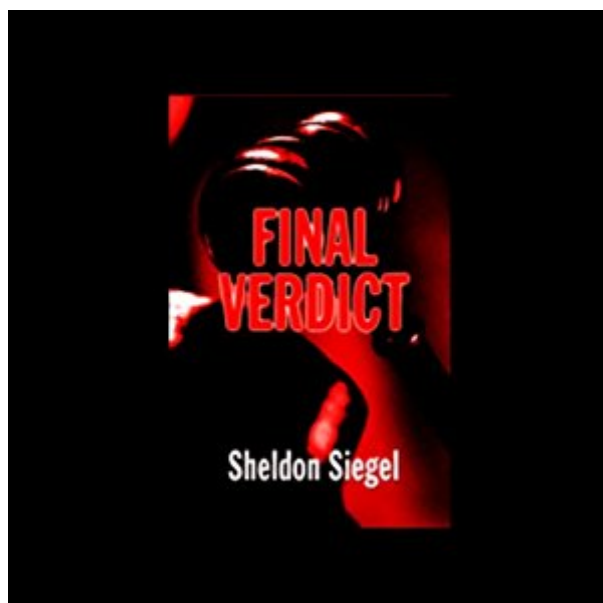


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The Final Verdict



Synopsis

Fate throws a curveball at the San Francisco ex-husband-and-wife legal team of Mike Daley and Rosie Fernandez, when Mike picks up the phone and hears the voice of Leon Walker. This is not good news-because Walker was the one who ruined their marriage. Years ago, he and his brother participated in a stickup that left a man dead. Through a series of (some said) questionable maneuvers, Mike got the charges dropped, but he and Rosie fought about it all the time and it finally drove a wedge between them. Now, a Silicon Valley venture capitalist has been found dead in a dumpster on San Francisco's skid row. The new murder has been pinned on Walker, but he not only tells Mike he is innocent, he says he is a dying man and doesn't want to go to his grave proclaimed a murderer. Dogged investigation, courtroom nimbleness, and a healthy dose of luck usually have helped Mike before, but it looks like it'll take more than that to prevail this time, and his time is running out-both on his client and, just maybe, on his partnership. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the only book in this series that I have read. I thought that Mike's past might be too fabricated maybe even a improbability; lawyer to PI would have been adequate,I did find some interesting characters and my favorite was Nick "the Dick" Hanson. Mainly because I found this type of character the most fun when working the boards. I also related to Mike and Rosie because I performed, as the ex-husband, in the play

“Forty Carats” and the couple in this play had the same relationship as Rosie and Mike: they also had a daughter. This mystery is typical. There is the victim dead in the garbage bin, a dying man with blood on his clothes, the murder weapon in his pocket, and \$2k in his pocket. Mike and Rosie decide to take the case after some serious discussion. There are several clues and a missing prostitute who knows, in a biblical way, the victim. By the way, the murder takes place behind an adult club; film at ten. I felt that the courtroom dialog was a little long for my taste. However, like the rest of the book, the author did a good job in holding it all together. However, we still do not know where the prostitute is. But fear not! Nick “the Dick” Hanson is going off to find her. Therefore, I am going to give the book a Four Star review.

Initially hesitant given the noted quality issues reported, but other than a few misspelled words that didn't otherwise interrupt the flow can't say I hardly noticed and did really enjoy the book! Characters were well-drawn and highly relatable, fine plot, and dialogue was both realistic and humorous including passages like ' "Her husband was hanging out at a strip club." In more ways than one.' ' and ' "Jerry Edwards will have us for lunch," "I'm not going to worry about it." It's a lie ' (reminds me of Brick from the tv series 'The Middle' which sealed it for me). Great courtroom finale and already have books 5 and 6 bought and paid for so know what I'll be reading next. Two thumbs up for me!

I've read the first four books in Sheldon Siegel's Mike Daley-Rosie Fernandez series and strongly recommend them for anyone who enjoys the "legal thriller" genre. Having lived in the SF Bay Area for more than 50 years, including about a dozen years in the City, I can vouch for Siegel's ability to capture the bizarre politics of San Francisco. The physical locations are described accurately and the characters seem real. The author clearly is a liberal Democrat so I find it mildly amusing that some of the crooked politicians who populate the stories are Republicans. It's been many years since any Republican held high elective office in the cesspool that is San Francisco, but fortunately, the political overtones of Siegel's books is not heavy-handed. The plots are intricately woven and make the books hard to put down. The two main characters -- Mike Daley, a former priest turned criminal defense lawyer and his ex-wife law partner, Rosie Fernandez -- are well drawn. The constant by-play between them over their confused personal relationship provides a sub-plot that continues through the four books I have read.

It's entertaining, witty and has some of the best dialogue I've read. The author makes a great plot

just pop with his unique style. The main character is a lawyer. The reader is privy to what he says and what he REALLY THINKS , as he's speaking. The dialogue is smart and snappy and it's a great read from start to finish. The mystery is well done and the courtroom drama is completely original. I highly recommend this book. I will definitely be reading more of this authors books. I thoroughly enjoyed, the characters, as much as the well crafted plot revolving around the hunt for a murderer. It is the only way to clear the name of a terminally ill defendant, who will never live long enough to make it to his trial.

An intriguing legal thriller. Leon, terminally ill, only wants to clear his name before he dies. He doesn't want his daughter to live with the memory that her father was a murderer. Sounds predictable? Maybe, but the narrative is fascinating and intriguing as his lawyers go about proving his innocence, not beyond a reasonable doubt, but that he had nothing to do with the crime. And they almost fail. It is well written, and the comments before and after the questions give an interesting insight into the thought processes of Mike Daley. While the accused's wish is not granted, the truth, albeit still unsubstantiated, exonerates him. In the process of fighting for his innocence, Mike encounters loyalty while having to contend with other not-so-caring characters. The courtroom drama is insightful as it gives the reader insight into the way cases are tried, lots of humor, but above all the search for truth. The characters are believable and they provide an interesting backdrop to the struggles of a law firm with very limited resources, but with a commitment to seeking justice. It is filled with pathos for the accused, while showing the humanness of the other players in this drama. A surprising end, but very satisfying. Recommended reading and a worthy five star rating.

I enjoyed Final Verdict. The characters are well developed, the plot is passable, and it's reasonably fast paced. My only criticism is that it could have been far shorter. The author covered identical scenes through the eyes of different characters, but often there was no difference and the scenes were repetitive. The price of extended and repetitive dialogue is a lessening of the suspense. I'd rather be on edge with short powerful dialogue than led by the nose through extended scenes. A good book but in terms of suspense falls a long way short of Stephen King.

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