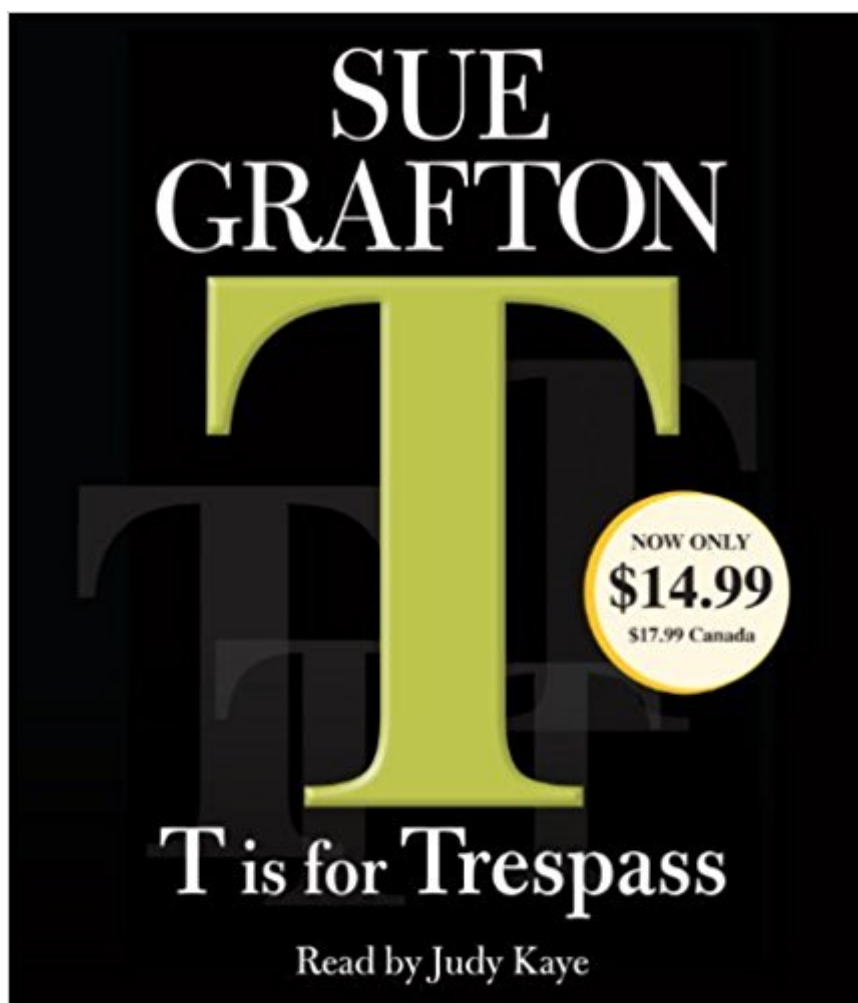


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# T Is For Trespass (A Kinsey Millhone Novel)



## Synopsis

**trespass** \ˈtres-p ɛ s \ n: a transgression of law involving one's obligations to God or to one's neighbor; a violation of moral law; an offense; a sin  
Webster's New International Dictionary (second edition, unabridged) In what may be her most unsettling novel to date, Sue Grafton's *T is for Trespass* is also her most direct confrontation with the forces of evil. Beginning slowly with the day-to-day life of a private eye, Grafton suddenly shifts from the perspective of Kinsey Millhone to that of Solana Rojas, introducing listeners to a chilling sociopath. Rojas is not her birth name. It is an identity she cunningly stole, an identity that gives her access to private care-giving jobs. The true horror of this novel builds with excruciating tension as the listener foresees the awfulness that lies ahead. The wrenching suspense lies in whether Kinsey Millhone will realize what is happening in time to intervene. *T is for Trespass* deals with issues of identity theft, elder abuse, betrayal of trust, and the breakdown in the institutions charged with caring for the weak and the dependent targets an all-too-real rip in the social fabric. Grafton takes us into far darker territory than she has ever traversed, leaving us with a true sense of the horror embedded in the seeming ordinariness of the world we think we know. The result is terrifying.

## Book Information

Series: A Kinsey Millhone Novel (Book 20)

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. The 20th Kinsey Millhone crime novel (after 2005's *S Is for Silence*), a gripping, if depressing, tale of identify theft and elder abuse, displays bestseller Grafton's storytelling gifts. By

default, Millhone, a private investigator in the small Southern California town of Santa Teresa, assumes responsibility for the well-being of an old neighbor, Gus Vronsky, injured in a fall. After Vronsky's great-niece arranges to hire a home aide, Solana Rojas, Millhone begins to suspect that Rojas is not all that she seems. Since the reader knows from the start that an unscrupulous master manipulator has stolen the Rojas persona, the plot focuses not on whodunit but on the battle of wits Millhone wages with an unconventional and formidable adversary. Grafton's mastery of dialogue and her portrayal of the limits of good intentions make this one of the series' high points, even if two violent scenes near the end tidy up the pieces a little too neatly. Author tour. (Dec.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Although Kinsey Millhone has been around for 25 years, critics agree that *T Is for Trespass* is one of Sue Grafton's finest works to date. About elder abuse and identity theft, among other crimes, the novel devotes pages to both Kinsey's and the villain's perspectives and thus becomes more of a battle of wits between the two women than a real mystery. As Kinsey decides when and how far to get involved in Gus's horrific plight, her other cases (a child molester is on the loose, for example) kept critics turning the pages. Reviewers also appreciated that Kinsey ages blissfully slowly; since 1982, when *A Is for Alibi* was published, she has only gained five years; and thus remains in the Internet-free 1980s, where interpersonal relationships triumph. The ending put off a few critics, but otherwise this 20th installment thoroughly engrosses. Copyright © 2004 Phillips & Nelson Media, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

It seems that as Ms. G. comes towards the end of the series she feels a need to address real life social issues. Stop tinkering. Just stop! Please save that for your books AFTER Kinsey. I enjoyed many of Grafton's other books. However, *T* has too many unlikeable characters. I only cared about Kinsey and Henry. The rest were greedy slugs and bitter losers. Plus, there ARE plot holes (1: Kinsey and Klein knowing the bank conversation? 2: What about the crooked lawyer brother?) The plot was swept under the rug the entire last chapter, and it feels no editor tried to help with plot or the continuity of story. There is no JOY in this book. Very un-Kinsey-like. Feels like a ghost write did this book.

It might be that I read this book after reading 3 - 4 Jane Whitefield books by Thomas Perry. I like Grafton's writing style better - she has a more natural narrative voice and a better sense of humor

but Perry has her all beat to hell when it comes to thrills and chills. I thought "T is for Trespass" was slow to get off the ground. My iPad keeps track of these things for me so I noticed that I was 25% - 30% into the book and it felt like the stage was still being set. At some point I got hooked though, and by the end I was ready to download another book in the series. Of course you always know that the heroine is going to win in the end so it takes a lot of skill to convince the reader that she is in real jeopardy. I think Grafton pulled it off. My one complaint, and this goes for lots of writers, is that it annoys me when the heroine gets all angsty about killing someone in self defense. Grafton did a good job of showing that a person isn't necessary sorry about doing what had to be done, but that even "righteous" violent behavior has a profound impact on a person's psyche.

I have just re-read this book while waiting for "Y". I thought it was good in that so many topics were covered. Identity theft, elder abuse and insurance fraud. It is easier to assume someone's identity than I imagined. The woman who does it is very clever. The treatment of an elderly man with no close relatives is scary and probably more common than we know. I like how it is neatly tied up at the end as these books usually are.

Kinsey Millhone, the prickly star of Sue Grafton's California based alphabet series, is no slouch detective. So, when Millhone does a cursory background check on a home health aide and unwittingly places an elderly neighbor in harm's way, she feels obligated to undo the damage. The problem is that no one, especially not the neighbor's reluctant relative who hired her, wants to be bothered with the inconvenient truth. The villain in "T is for Trespass," an evil psychopath, is one of the best that Grafton has written. I found myself gripping the pages and worrying that Millhone might not survive this one. As is true in all the Grafton books, more than one case is being investigated, so that Millhone can pay her bills. The search for a missing witness to a car accident overlaps the search for the primary villain. Grafton has set the scenes in the two stories in such a way as to make the overlap seamless and absolutely believable. Each book in the series is set at sequential intervals in the 80s - before cell phones. This way, Kinsey Millhone gets shot at, arrested, threatened and harassed, all without backup coming anytime soon. What a life just to avoid a 9 to 5 schedule. Although most of this series is great, I find myself still wishing Grafton hadn't changed her writing style. When she did the books lost something which I still can't put my finger on. But all in all it is a good book.

This has the feeling of a grind-it-out contractual obligation novel. Grim and humorless, not like the

other Kinsey Millhone stories, and not really even a detective story at all. Hopefully Kinsey will be back on track in the next story. Even Kinsey's landlord is out of character.

Grafton's mix of interesting and likable characters and of course, the lovable Kinsey and Henry, are the best parts of her page turner mysteries. Kinsey's acute observational skills and wry sense of humor keep me laughing as she journals her P.I. cases. I have to remind myself not to read too fast as the suspense builds so that I won't miss out on the anecdotal oddities that she relates about the California coastal communities. Grafton does not disappoint as Kinsey unwittingly places the cantankerous neighborhood grouch in the hands of a fortune hunting psychopath. Kinsey senses that something isn't right about about his caretaker that the background check didn't reveal. The plot thickens as Kinsey unravels the twisted history of this devious woman. Don't miss this one!

This one only gets 4-stars from me because of the constant change of view-point. Very annoying. Pity Sue Grafton did not stick with her usual writing style that worked so well. 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: *Open Season* (Joe Gunther Mysteries) If you are looking for exciting adventure books for kids / teenagers, my mother recommends *Jake Johnson And The Half Bloods* (Quest 1) (*Jake Johnson And The Greek Gods*) and its sequel *Jake Johnson And The God Of War* (Quest 2) (*Jake Johnson And The Greek Gods*).

She's like a best friend! Kinsey has done it again. I love driving even more when I have Sue Grafton audio books as my passenger!

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