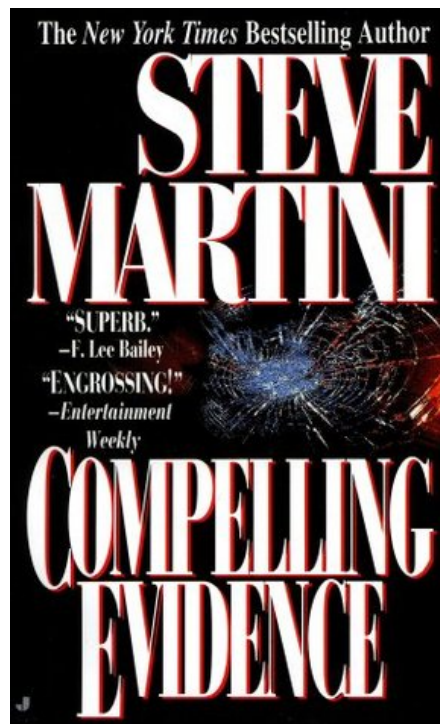




Compelling Evidence

Steve Martini

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Steve Martini has written a wonderfully crafted and clever courtroom thriller. We unquestionably have a new literary lion in the fictional crime genre.

—Vincent Bugliosi "In the tradition of great courtroom dramas, Steve Martini's **Compelling Evidence** is a taut, tense tale that I simply could not put down."

—Dominick Dunne "Sets a standard for suspenseful, intelligent courtroom drama that will be hard to equal. It's by far the best of the genre I've ever seen . . . Absolutely thrilling."

—Clifford Irving "Terrific and intriguing legal drama . . . thoroughly entertaining. It's great!"

—Melvin Belli "Superb . . . truly on a level with **Presumed Innocent**."

—F. Lee Bailey

Compelling Evidence Details

Date : Published January 1st 1993 by Jove (first published February 1st 1992)

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Author : Steve Martini

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Genre : Fiction, Mystery, Thriller, Legal Thriller, Crime

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From Reader Review Compelling Evidence for online ebook

Martha says

Great trial stuff. Good story

Dale says

The book that launched the series

Almost 20 years ago, the first book in the Paul Madriani series was released. Over time (and 12 books), it has morphed into less of a legal thriller series into more of an action series with a legal thriller bent to it. But, the first one is a good old-fashioned murder mystery and courtroom drama - and a surprisingly good one for a debut effort.

In *Compelling Evidence* we are introduced to Paul Madriani, a struggling solo practice attorney who has recently left a big league law firm...

Read more at: <http://dwdsreviews.blogspot.com/2011/...>

Adrian Piazza says

Great Old Fashioned Lawyer mystery

Really love the tone and the personal struggle of the lawyer. Not a whodunit, but good court room tension. Looking forward to the next in the series.

Mr Stewart says

I shrug my shoulders and make a face like, "it's okay."

However, in this book Martini falls in to the mystery writer's trap of being so concerned about hiding his eventual perpetrator that he obfuscates to the point of telling a whole different story than the one intended. The best mystery has the eventual reveal always just below the surface and between the lines, so that when it is delivered at the end, the reader may be surprised but also understanding that all the facts were there for them to figure out the entire time. *Compelling Evidence* nosedives badly in the final pages because of this, with the author scrambling to explain all the things he should have more subtly included earlier in the story.

Kristen McQuinn says

I started out thinking this book was boring, but quickly forgot about that as I got swept up in the plot. I forgot, too, that I feel the same way about every other Steve Martini book I've ever read. The first few

chapters are a little slow, then it sucks you in.

In this, the first in the Paul Madriani series, he provides very good background on Paul without beating the reader over the head with it. Paul is a believable character. He is not perfect. He is not always likeable. He is shrewd and calculating, but in a way that doesn't come across as gross or crass. The use of 1st person allows readers a nice glimpse into his thoughts and shows a well developed character who is conflicted and unsure, both of his client and his own abilities, and of his faith in the law and the ability of those charged to uphold it.

I enjoy the complexity of Martini's plots. Maybe they aren't all that complex to those who are lawyers, but I'm not a lawyer, so it's complex enough to make me happy for a book to read just for fun. I enjoy Martini's stories a good deal more than, say, Grisham's. I think his characters are developed better and the stories are more interesting. They don't always boil down to "take the money and run." Yes, Martini is a little formulaic--what mystery writer isn't?--but I am more willing to overlook that because I enjoy his snarky writing style so much. I did have the twist at the end figured out, but it took me a while to get there and even then I wasn't positive I was right until I read it at the end. I like it when I can't figure it out at all, or it takes me a long time to get to it.

Sort of going along with the complexity of the story, I appreciate when issues aren't black and white. It irritates me to no end when the good guys are always good, and the bad guys are always bad, and there is never any overlap. That's what the fantasy genre is for. Martini's good characters are capable of committing--and do commit--morally ambiguous actions. In some cases, outright wrong or illegal actions. Similarly, his bad guys often are the honest ones, or the ones who end up doing something to save the case or acquit the person you were sure was guilty, etc.

I'd recommend his books to anyone who enjoys a good courtroom drama or mystery. I don't think he'll disappoint.

Sheila says

Steve Martini is a good writer I enjoy reading series of Paul Madriani.

Julie says

An old one, but still good.

Tom Swift says

I really enjoyed this book. This is the 1st book that I have read from this author, and it had lot of twists and turns. If you like a lot of courtroom drama, this is good. This is the first in a series for a young lawyer, I will definitely read the next one. I have read a Scott Turow (one of my favs) and this, so I have my satisfied my legal itch. Now, I need to finish A Little Life, which I like but I have been distracted.

Cathy DuPont says

First time read for a Paul Madriani book and I really enjoyed the plot and character, Paul Madriani, and especially the courtroom scenes which were a good portion of the book. Great secondary characters too, well described and vivid.

Believe I might be a 'frustrated wannabe lawyer.' Always, always enjoy these genre of books. It's one of the reasons I loved The Lincoln Lawyer so much. I've read a lot of lawyer/courtroom books; more two hands worth, I'm sure.

Great storyline, too, and the ending, well, usually I don't get the 'whodunit' but this one, it was a total, complete surprise to me and was uncovered only in the last five pages or so. What a surprise, a total surprise.

Goodreads friend Jim said Martini got somewhat old to him, but now I'm anxious to read another. Not now, but in the near future so he'll be added to the vast collection of series that I'm reading. No worries though. What's another series when I like the character so much, in part, just because he's a lawyer.

My only gripe, why doesn't he fire his incompetent secretary? She gives women a bad name because of her lack of brains. Not that she has to be smart, just smart enough to be in the real world and function like she has something 'upstairs.' Only thing that rings now is S-T-U-P-I-D. OK, there I go trying to re-write portions of the book which I really hate for reviewers to do, including myself; but folks, I hate stupid and she just takes the cake. Paul (and Martini) please, just fire her fancy, dancy ass, no one would miss her.

Jill Manske says

"Compelling Evidence" is the first Paul Madriani courtroom drama, and you can see glimpses of the beginning evolution of Steve Martini as a superb writer. He very aptly describes, in a great deal of detail, the capital murder case of Talia Potter, from the arduous process of jury selection to the decisions that prosecutors and defense attorneys make in putting together and presenting their cases. Martini's subsequent novels do not have quite that level of detail, instead focusing more on character development. In "Compelling Evidence", Talia Potter is arrested and tried for the brutal murder of her wealthy, much older husband. Talia has carelessly left a trail of large breadcrumbs pointing to her multiple extramarital affairs and has a very weak alibi. Paul Madriani is lured into representing her, even though he himself has a bit of a sordid history with the widow. The facts of the case seem to point in a particular direction, yet Martini pulls a rabbit out of a hat for a surprising ending. It's a well-written book and a great introduction to the Paul Madriani series. I highly recommend it.

Mark says

I originally read this way back when (pre-kids, which means 9+ years ago) and wanted to start re-reading the Paul Madriani series to see if I still enjoyed it.

The verdict? It's actually still a pretty good book. It's a murder mystery/trial story with some nice twists & interesting characters. OTOH, I don't remember having to wade through as much coarse language the first time I read this - maybe I'm getting more sensitive with age. (Next you thing you know, I'll be spraying kids

with a water hose & telling them to "get off my lawn.")

Basia says

This book popped up in my Goodreads recommended about a month ago. I was immediately intrigued by the Madriani / Martini parallel, but what truly captured my attention was the description. The brief summary did little to give away who was murdered and focused more on a lawyer, rather than the victim/perpetrator, which I found that many of the mystery-like books I had read did. I immediately added it to my want to read and once the opportunity arose to pick up a new book, I instantly gravitated towards this one.

Compelling Evidence is the first book of the series (something I hadn't realized until after finishing reading) and provides an introduction into the life of Paul Madriani, a defense lawyer who was recently catapulted **from** fame after a scandalous incident with his partner at the firm/long time best friend. After Ben, the partner/friend, asks Madriani to come back to help with the firm due to Ben's Supreme Court nomination, Ben is found dead in an apparent suicide. Closer examination of the evidence leads to a murderous cause of death. As cops scramble for clues, Talia, Ben's wife comes under scrutiny. A lack of an alibi, complicated with circumstantial evidence, lands Talia with a 1st degree murder charge. Madriani comes to the aid of Talia, the subject of the very incident that ended with him leaving the firm. The trial of Talia is complicated further by high-end prostitutes, money laundering at the firm, self-protective judges, and a scandal threatening to destroy the case.

I ended up liking this book more than I was expecting; while I knew lawyer + courtroom drama = clickbait heaven for me, this book was more than just another legal thriller. I truly think that this book resonated with me because of Paul Madriani as a character. I felt that Martini made Madriani an imperfect character who often straddled the line between unlikable and admirable. Madriani became the perfect example of overlap between good and bad, blurring the line with moral issues. I couldn't help but compare this book to another legal book I read recently by John Grisham, and I have to say that I feel like Martini developed his characters to a far better degree than Grisham. Even Martini's secondary characters developed throughout the story while I felt that even some of Grisham's main characters didn't. Another thing that truly stood out to me were the courtroom scenes. Often, these back-and-forth scenes can turn dry, yet I felt that the courtroom scenes in this book were some of the best pages.

A teeny tiny detail, but I did dislike the rather abrupt ending. I feel like Martini could have placed a few more breadcrumbs throughout the book alluding to the murderer (view spoiler) rather than cramming in the clues at the last minute to end the book on a high-note. It seemed to me that Martini was scrambling to end the book on a twist after an unshocking verdict.

Ms says

Good. Like Presumed Innocent and Murder in the First.

Dolphe says

This is the first Steve Martini book for me and I am pleased to say it won't be the last. I came in late to the Paul Madriani game, so there is a whole series still to be enjoyed. Martini excels in the courtroom scenes in

this first edition, but some of the other chapters feel a little thin. That is not necessarily a bad thing. This author plays to his strength and that is always a plus for the reader.

Joe says

A wild ride of a legal thriller! Every once in a while, I think everyone needs to read a book like this and put themselves in the position of being accused of a crime, that they did? or did not? commit but to imagine yourselves at the mercy of your lawyer and a jury!

Talk about feeling totally helpless! I am just saying, I had no idea if she committed the crime and many times reading the story, I found myself, in her shoes, imagining how the "wheels of justice?!!" could so easily roll over you, sorry for that poor analogy, but to find yourself at the mercy of the so called evidence. I swear, many times I was sure she was guilty, but then again, was she?

Just the smallest thing, or the brilliance of your lawyer can make the difference between, yes...life or death!

WOW!
