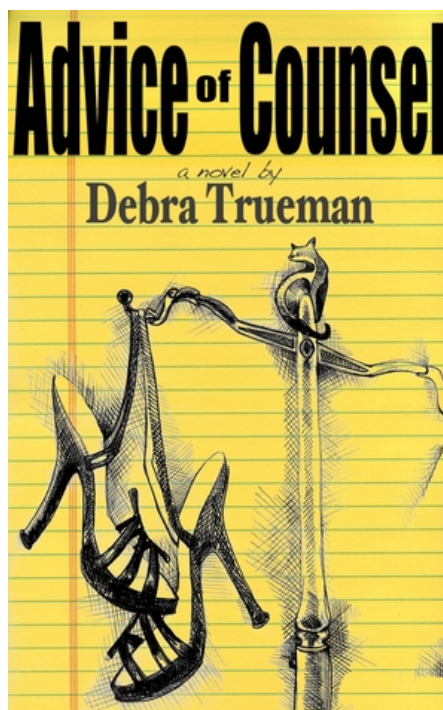




Advice of Counsel

Debra Trueman

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Meet Samuel Collins. Unsociable and aloof, the young attorney moves to the tranquil community of Hollywood Park, Texas, wanting nothing more than to be left alone by his neighbors. But between the 4-year-old kid from next door and the 80-year-old widow across the street, he quickly finds himself drowning in neighborhood hospitality. In no time, Samuel is representing neighbors on all sides in various legal matters, but when two of his neighbors hire him to revise their will to include one Landra Krally as a beneficiary, Sam smells a rat. He calls on his investigator friend to check her out, but when Samuel ends up dating the subject of his investigation, things get increasingly complicated. Samuel's life - or death - may depend on the very neighbors he had hoped to ignore.

Advice of Counsel Details

Date : Published October 5th 2012 by Createspace (first published August 27th 2012)

ISBN : 9781479376551

Author : Debra Trueman

Format : Paperback 376 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Mystery, Thriller, Legal Thriller, Fiction

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Sue says

Funny and suspenseful at same time. A quick an easy read. story set in San Antonio, TX. Sam Collins, a young, aloof attorney who moved into a neighborhood and wants to keep to himself. This ends up next to impossible and he is soon involved in the lives of various neighbors and their legal issues as well. Felt his character was well developed and was fun to watch it evolve. I would read the second.

Sharon says

When I picked this up I assumed it would be just so-so, because the main character was a lawyer. Boy was I wrong. This was a *very* good mystery/suspense novel and very well written. And I could relate to the lead's issues with his Siamese cat...I had one JUST like it. Funny, suspenseful, no cliffhangers. Good read, I'm looking forward to the next installment.

This was a goodreads giveaway.

Lhenry says

Wow, this was a terrific find! It's a mild thriller or romantic suspense, but I mostly had a fun time gradually getting to know the hero, Samuel. It's told in the 1st person, from Samuel's POV, and it was a clever way to demonstrate that while Samuel calls himself a jerk (and worse) right from the beginning of the book, but it becomes clear that he is quite the opposite, although he does have his jerk moments.

In addition to the wonderful unveiling of Samuel's personality, there's a nice plot going on, with a decent amount of complexity and surprises. Loved the characters - the neighbors, the kids, the friends, the love interest. The scenes with Oliver, a 4 year old and Samuel are priceless, for example, their discussion of what Number 1 and Number 2 means. Usually with kid scenes there's a lot of false notes or over cuteness but Oliver seemed like a real kid and Samuel like a real adult inexperienced with kids but having good common sense. And there were a lot of laugh out loud moments too.

The only tiny quibble I have is that there are some typos, but I really enjoyed this book so much I honestly didn't care. I see from her Amazon page she has a sequel coming out - Yay!

Peggy Holloway says

I loved the book. The characters were so human, the plot kept me turning pages and it was well written. The only thing I would like the author to consider fixing is that some of her sentences are very long, strung together with many ands and buts. The book is great, but it could be better with these sentences broken into several smaller sentences. It is such a minor thing that the book still deserves a five star. I recommend it to any other avid reader. The ending leaves you hanging so that you need to get the next book. I like books to stand alone in a series, it liked this one so much, I'll buy the next one.

The way in which the author uses humor is wonderful. The interaction between Samuel and the little boy, Oliver was hilarious, especially the trip to the father/son outing where the little boy kept asking the "what if" questions

James Terry says

The writing was intelligent and seductive. It made you want to keep reading however the attempt at romantic scenes came across as pornographic. I think less is definitely more when it comes to romantic scenes. The characters are interesting. Landra's character is mysterious making you read on to see if she is a killer. I would recommend it.

Norma Huss says

Young lawyer Samuel Collins moves into a new house, determined to stay aloof and alone. But, you see, there's the 4-year-old neighbor boy, then the 80-year old woman across the street, and the sweet young woman who helps them all. It isn't long before he's taking their law cases, adopting the homeless cat, accepting the daily muffins, and falling in love, or is it lust? (Both, probably.) There's rumors of a dead husband in the past, and suspicions. But things don't hit the fan until quite far along in the story. Does it, or does it not turn out okay in the end? Ah... Read it for yourself. (You'll enjoy the journey.)

Tracey Madeley says

This was really a novel of two halves. I thought the second half was much better than the first. I think the second half was more intriguing and interesting. I am not sure about the two female, conflicting love interests. There is an argument to say that it would have been better to concentrate on Maddie's story, as this is the most developed. However I do understand why Laura is there and she adds to the tension and conflict. Yet her trial and its consequences are really glossed over. The verdict is given and the fact that she goes to court, but we see nothing of the proceedings. Compare this to Maddie's deposition, which shows a wonderful, intelligent use of speech. I also really liked the description of the gunshot in the confrontation with Maddie's boss. It was an immediate impact, followed by an analysis. It would have been easy to analyse what happened, as it occurred and so lessen the impact and shock factor.

My biggest problem with this book is the language. I love words, but this book has too many, to the point of rambling in places. "A lot of people influenced me on my road to success, but without a doubt, no one more so than the neighbours whose territory I settled in." Why is 'without a doubt' there? 'No one more so,' again it's superfluous. I understand what the writer is trying to say, but there has to be a better way of putting it. "I had moved into The Park at night, hoping to avoid the stares of nosy neighbours trying to check out my furniture and personal belongings as the movers carried them in from the truck." I would end the sentence at nosy neighbours, the reader knows that when moving into a home you bring your personal possessions, there is no need to tell us.

I liked the feelings of conflict and attraction in relation to Maddie and I felt the characters confusion. The main character is described as anti social and a little misogynistic, yet as soon as he moves into the neighbourhood he starts interacting with the neighbours. I understand that he may go through a transformation, but this appears to be a very quick about turn. I also understand the way we think about

ourselves, may not always match up with how we are perceived by other people, but there appears to be a dramatic miss-match here.

Overall it is not a bad story, but writing is a learning process and we are all still learning.

Stephen Kaminski says

This book is well-crafted. The protagonist, Samuel Collins, is very likeable, despite being a self-described anti-social person. Description of the plot, characters and setting are all excellent and I found myself thoroughly enjoying the story. Well done!

Judy Gill says

Terrific!

Attorney Samuel Collins moves into a new home hoping for a peaceful, bachelor life, live-and-let-live neighbors, and the occasional sight of a deer grazing on the lawn. Um... So much for hopes. Funny, poignant, and very well written, this book is a charmer. Debra Trueman has a delightful way with words. Her character development and plotting skills are second to none. Highly recommended.

Ann says

4.0-4.25 stars. Not sure what category this quirky story falls under: mystery/suspense, romantic-suspense, fiction with a good dose of humor? This is an entertaining story about Samuel, a blunt, snarky, anti-social attorney who considers himself a prick (that still makes me laugh) who moves into a new community. Hoping to avoid all his nosey new neighbors he moves in at night. Didn't work out so well for Samuel. The neighbors can't wait to get up in this guy's business. An adorable 4 yr old, Oliver, who lives next door and a muffin making granny are the first to make the welcome moves on the cranky Hero.

An attorney in the hood is a popular guy and Samuel's legal services are in demand on a variety of issues. While revising a few of his elderly neighbors wills he finds the neighborhood darling, Landra Krally as a beneficiary. Snarky Samuel is suspicious and puts his PI buddy, Niki Lautrec on Landra's trail. After meeting the young and lovely Landra, not only has she wow'd the neighborhood with her wealth of kindness, much to Samuels surprise she wow's him too. Even though suspicious of Landra, Sam falls in instant lust when meeting her. Sam's suspicions wiggle through from time to time, when Landra's accused of murder, but he pushes them aside. With all its twists and turns this story keeps you guessing until the very end.

Loved Samuel, he's both sarcastic and witty with a good dose of smartass, traits that always win me over. He's a legal shark when defending Oliver's mom in a sexual harassment case which had me cheering. I loved Samuels about face too. This adorable cast of characters soon begins to have a positive effect on this Hero who claims to dislike neighbors, children and animals. The guy turns an about face really quick. Although don't despair....he still has his jerk moments. :D

I consider this bk a lucky find. Different, highly entertaining and at times laugh out loud funny with a terrific

HEA. The only negative is that it drags in places. Also there were a few typos, which might bother some, but nothing that made the story stumble for me. The ending came all too soon and left me wanting more from this new author.

Jo-Anne says

Samuel Collins is a lawyer who doesn't want to socialize with his neighbors in the community he is moving into so moves in at night to avoid them. It doesn't work for him because his 80 year old neighbor across the street welcomes him with a basket of muffins first thing in the morning. Then there is Oliver, his 4 year old neighbor who won't leave him alone. All his new neighbors rave about Landra Krally who is very kind to everyone and helps them out. They think Samuel and Landra would make a good match so arrange for them to meet.

Samuel is pretty busy helping his neighbors with his legal services, two of which are to update their wills. While doing this, Samuel sees that Landra is a beneficiary for two of them and he is suspicious. He gets his PI friend, Niki Lautrec, to check her out. Once Samuel meets Landra, he falls instantly in love with her. Niki finds out that Landra was accused of murdering her husband but was not charged. Then she was suspected of killing her ex-fiancee but again was not charged. Samuel did not want to believe that Landra could have done this because of his feelings for her.

After reading the blurb about the hero being a nasty man, I didn't expect to like him but I was pleasantly surprised when I did like Samuel and he had me chuckling several times. He called himself a prick which he tried to be to his neighbors but he really wasn't that bad at all. The change in him when he met Landra was extreme and was like it was a different person, because he wanted her to like him. He became a regular man who was lusting after a woman instead of a grumpy man who didn't want to talk to anyone. I didn't find that part very interesting and preferred him in his lawyer mode. I didn't connect with Landra even though Samuel was so attracted to her and she was so well liked by all the characters.

I really liked the twists in the last part of this story. I didn't expect the ending but loved it.

DeeDee Andrews says

This was a good book. It filled my Sunday nicely. There were moments when I thought it was a little unrealistic. Other times I thought it was a bit predictable. If it were a movie, it would be rated PG. There were no big sex scenes, just the foreplay, then skip to breakfast. I enjoyed the characters, and their interaction. It held my attention and I read it straight through.

CAROL says

Loved this book!!!

I could not put it down and yet was so bummed when it was over. Fantastic characters and lots of excitement and plot tests. Absolutely lovely. I will be reading the next one in the series.

David Brown says

Hands down one of the best novels I've read this year (and I've read a lot of novels this year)! Kind of a cross between Nicholas Sparks and John Grisham, thoroughly enjoyable from cover to cover, I highly recommend 'Advice of Counsel'. I hope that someone has enough sense to pick up this author because her story is top shelf all the way. Very nice job Mrs. Trueman; hurry up and write the next one.

linette supuko says

The best

If they more stars were available...you get the point. There was nothing I did not like about this book. Me. Debra Trueman is magic beyond wonder.
