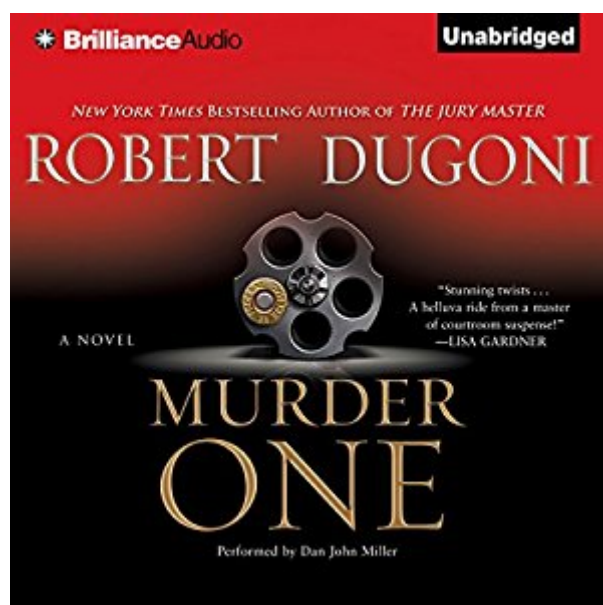


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Murder One: David Sloane, Book 4



Synopsis

A year after the devastating murder of his wife, attorney David Sloane has returned to Seattle after three months in Mexico. At a black-tie dinner where he's been persuaded to give the keynote address, Sloane reconnects with Barclay Reid, opposing counsel in his most prominent case. Barclay is suffering from her own personal tragedy - the death of her teenage daughter from a drug overdose. In the aftermath, Barclay has begun an intense crusade against the Russian drug traffickers she holds responsible for her daughter's death, pursuing them with a righteousness that matches Sloane's own zeal for justice. Despite their adversarial past, Sloane is drawn to Barclay and for the first time since his wife died, he finds himself beginning to have romantic feelings again. But when Barclay's crusade stalls and a Russian drug dealer turns up dead, she stands accused of murder, and Sloane is her chosen defender. Amid the swirling media frenzy, in his first criminal case, Sloane finds himself once again in harm's way, while mounting evidence suggests that Barclay is a woman with many secrets - and may not be quite as innocent as she seems. With his signature fast-paced, page-turning action and exhilarating plot twists, Robert Dugoni once again proves why he's so often been named the heir to Grisham's literary throne.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

MURDER ONE is the fourth novel starring David Sloane, the attorney who does not lose, and is a strong addition to the series. Whether you prefer your fiction to be driven by character or by plot, Robert Dugoni serves up ample portions of both, to make this by far his strongest book to date. It

kicks off with Sloane, fresh off a three-month sabbatical for a recharge of his emotional, physical and spiritual batteries following the devastating murder of his wife. While attending a charitable function as the keynote speaker, he encounters Barclay Reid, who was opposing counsel in Sloane's most challenging case. Reid herself is still reeling from a tragedy: the death of her teenage daughter from a drug overdose. Filyp Vasiliev, the Russian drug trafficker who was the source of the narcotics, inexplicably walked away as a free man after a recent trial; Reid, in reaction, is now on a crusade to hold him, and others like him, accountable in civil court. In spite of --- or maybe because of --- their past adversarial relationship, Sloane finds himself attracted to Reid, aroused in part by the passion for justice he sees in her, which is so much like his own. Things go upside down, though, when Vasiliev is found murdered, execution-style, in his own home. Reid is ultimately arrested for the crime, based upon evidence that is arguably a bit thin but nonetheless convincing. Reid insists that Sloane defend her, an action that he is reluctant to take due to his inexperience in criminal law matters. Nonetheless, backed by a strong office and research staff, Reid prepares for what may well be the most important case of his career: the defense of the woman with whom he is surely falling in love.

In *Murder One*, lawyer turned novelist, Robert Dugoni has conjured up an intense page-turner that deftly mixes drama, mystery and suspense that will keep you guessing until its final pages. Dugoni's vivid characters in his novel are marvelously believable, as are the Seattle locales that are described. The characterizations of David Sloane and Barclay Reid (the central characters) are emotionally multi-dimensional, which makes this novel much more than a "legal thriller." Sloane and Reid are high-profile adversarial Seattle lawyers who have done battle against each other in the courtroom. Both own .38 caliber handguns. He likes his scotch on the rocks and never loses a case. She takes her martini with an olive and refuses to lose a case. Sloane finds himself attracted to the beautiful and mesmerizing Reid--a woman who will do whatever it takes to satisfy her obsessions and agendas. Yet, aware as he is of his own emotional fragility, he willingly slips into her embracing spell. Their fusion is quick--pumping steam into an unusually hot and humid Pacific Northwest September. Reid focuses her drive and all her resources towards the Russian drug traffickers whom she blames for her daughter's death. Her well-known threats of revenge make her the number one suspect in a Russian drug dealer's murder. Enter Sloane, who takes on the role as her legal defender only to discover that she is a woman of many secrets. Dugoni masterfully shares his insights into the subtleties of law, often revealing them through the thoughts of David Sloane at work. Dugoni's deep relationship that he shares with his characters is most evident when he puts

them on the witness stand.

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