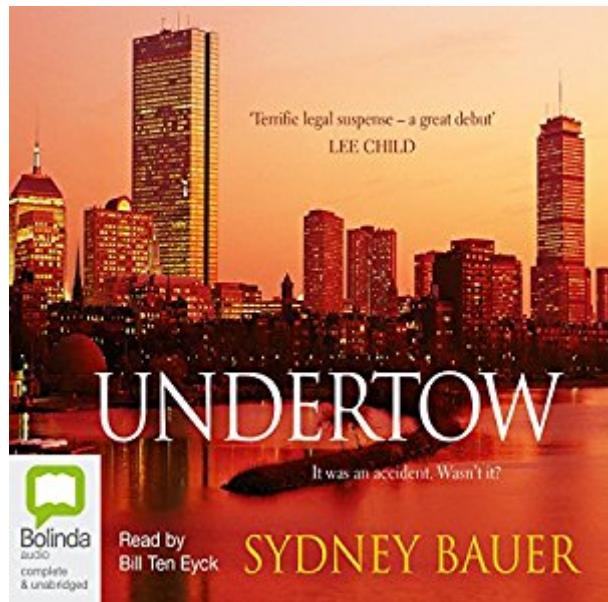


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# Undertow



## **Synopsis**

Following an alleged conversation between respected attorney Rayna Martin and teenager Christina Hayes, one of them is dead, the other arrested for their murder. Boston lawyer David Cavanaugh faces his toughest case to date when what appears to be a tragic accident turns into something else entirely. David soon finds that his most dangerous battle is taking place outside the courtroom. Lies, deception, blackmail, threats... and finally the precision of an assassin's bullet combine to create a shocking finale in this suspenseful debut from Sydney Bauer. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I'm amazed that others haven't yet read and/or written about "The Undertow". I don't remember how I picked up this book but I'm sure glad I did. It's an exciting book about a tragedy involving the daughter of a prominent and somewhat sleazy politician(maybe that's a bit redundant) and his wife. The tragic accident happens in the opening chapter and the rest of the very large book is devoted to the legal aspects of planning a law suit and a trial that includes many very interesting issues including the "race card". There are twists and turns-----the final one is one I didn't see coming. This was a page turner from the first page with surprises along the way to keep you interested. I lost a lot of sleep and housework didn't get done until the end of the story. And it was worth it. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and hated to see it end. I hope this author continues to write this well. I wish her lots of success.

Just happened to purchase this book to fulfill a book club obligation and because the plot sounded interesting. Wow! What a surprise. This is the best book of its kind that I've read since Grisham's "A Time To Kill". Do yourself a favor and pick up a copy. I look forward to Sydney Bauer's next novel with great anticipation.

This is an excellent legal thriller. I can't believe this is Bauer's first novel. The teenage daughter of a powerful US Senator dies while at sea with her friends under the supervision of the friend's mother. What appears to be a tragic accident soon becomes a murder trial, with the friend's mom as the defendant. Lawyer David Cavanaugh faces a tough challenge proving his client's innocence. I hear Bauer's second novel, *Gospel*, is already on sale. Why can't I find it on ?

We're all used to hearing about lawyers playing "the race card", but in *Undertow*, the typical scenario is reversed. Attorney Rayna Martin, who fights for the rights of the disadvantaged, sponsors a boating party for her daughter Keesha's 16th birthday. Only three girls have been invited, and only one, Christina Haynes is white. Christina is the daughter of high powered U.S. senator, and when she drowns, Ms. Martin is accused of murdering her, abandoning Christina so she could rescue the three Afro-American girls. Because the reader knows from the get-go that this was a tragic accident, all the suspense comes from the legal maneuvers of the Assistant DA and the defense counsel. Senator Haynes brings all of his awesome influence to bear to make certain that Rayna Martin pays the price for the death of his daughter. The underdog is David Cavanaugh, the defense attorney who has no doubt that Rayna is innocent, but who has very scant hard evidence to counter the prosecution's incessant onslaught. This novel, not surprisingly, has its strengths and weaknesses. Among its strengths is the race card reversal, with the person of color accused of racial prejudice. It was interesting to see how life's prosaic events can be twisted to reflect racism rather than altruism. Among the weaker features, some of the characters are "types", i.e, the idealistic young lawyer, the corrupt politician, the child who rejects her parents' hypocrisy. Also, like many of the entries in this genre, the resolution of this case depends upon some pretty incredible twists. Nevertheless, author Bauer manages very well to create a cliff-hanger of a novel, in which the reader roots whole-heartedly for the good guys against the irredeemable bad guys. Sometimes you need a victory like this one, you know what I mean?

Sydney Braum's debut thriller has some faults, but overall legal thriller fans will be glad to pick it up and plunge in. The story centers around the death of a senator's child while she's a sea with some

friends against her parents' wishes. The senator pressures the DA to try the case as a homicide instead of an involuntary manslaughter case, and the story then moves into the efforts of the defendant's legal team to disprove an unproveable case. The courtroom scenes are well-written but the characters are highly stereotyped. A semi-believable romantic relationship keeps intruding upon the plot, but overall this is a good read.

Teesha's turning 17 and to celebrate in style her mother Rayna Martin, rents a boat to take Teesha and her three best friends Francie, Mariah (who are African American working class) and Christina (who is White and a member of a Boston Brahmin's family) on a boating day in the waters off Cape Ann, Massachusetts. Tragedy happens and Christina drowns. Christina's father is Senator Rudolph Haynes a very powerful man and he is so outraged by his daughter's drowning that he is trying with bribery and threats to have Rayna who is a respected African-American attorney, held without bail and tried for murder.

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