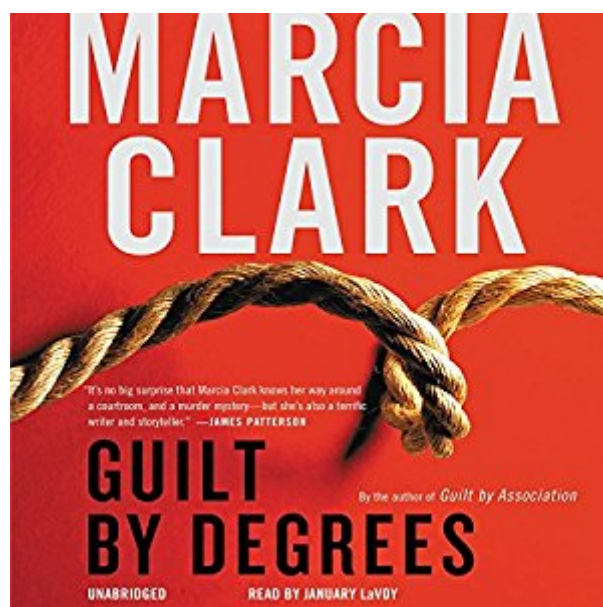


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# Guilt By Degrees



## Synopsis

Someone has been watching D.A. Rachel Knight - someone who's Rachel's equal in brains, but with more malicious intentions. It began when a near-impossible case fell into Rachel's lap, the suspectless homicide of a homeless man. In the face of courthouse backbiting and a gauzy web of clues, Rachel is determined to deliver justice. She's got back-up: tough-as-nails Detective Bailey Keller. As Rachel and Bailey stir things up, they're shocked to uncover a connection with the vicious murder of an LAPD cop a year earlier. Something tells Rachel someone knows the truth, someone who'd kill to keep it secret. Harrowing, smart, and riotously entertaining, *Guilt by Degrees* is a thrilling ride through the world of LA courts with the unforgettable Rachel Knight.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In the second book of the series, Assistant D.A. Rachel Knight takes over the case of a murdered homeless man when a fellow D.A. from her office totally messes up the case. But when she starts investigating, she finds out the homeless man was the brother of a policeman killed two years early and that the accused may be innocent. The more she digs in the more she stirs up and is determined to find justice. The story held my attention as the mystery and legal proceeding unfolded and I enjoyed the development of the characters and getting to understand how Rachel Knight ticks. What I found that made me wander and lose some interest was the superficial fillings of mundane things which seemed to be written to fill the pages and not move the story forward. But the unresolved issues at the end of the book didn't sit well with me. It's like the book wasn't finished and

I would have to read the next in the series to find the conclusion.

I am a longtime fan of Marcia Clark and thoroughly enjoyed her first novel - could hardly wait to read this one. I can't believe how poorly written it was. I never finish books I don't like but I persevered with this one because I had so much faith in the author. The ending was one of the most poorly crafted I have ever read. The plot was good, the characters well drawn, the friendships and dinners, etc., great. But what she did with the story was unforgiveable. It was as if it was written by a talented high school student. There was soooooo much unnecessary material added to the story. It was difficult to track the plot. I can't believe she left the two most important issues in the book unresolved at the end of the book. I kept hoping right down to the last paragraph that she would redeem herself, but she didn't. I know I'm outnumbered by 5 star reviews, but this is the way I see it. I understand the second book is often the most difficult to write. I may try her third book, but I'll guarantee you I won't finish it if it goes south like this one did. Such a disappointment coming from such talent.

I didn't realize who Marcia Clark was until the end of the book when it explains who she is, while for some reason the name seemed vaguely familiar. I LOVED the book, the characters and how she wrote the story. Full of suspense as well as personal moments, it held my interest quite well. Just enough of the mix. In logging on to to review this book, I discovered there are more Rachel Knight novels by Marcia Clark, and I am stoked, hoping that I will find the answers to the questions left in my head at the end of this book. I had been disappointed that Rachel's childhood and the communication she had received, had not come to some fruition. But now that i know there are at least four other Rachel Knight novels out there, it is likely answered in one, or perhaps over all four of them, but I will (hopefully) get my answer in time. I found Marcia's writing style easy to follow, and could almost picture all the scenes in the book in my head, at least to a satisfiable degree. Following the various ins and out of the story was intriguing, and I enjoyed the book immensely. I am relishing that there is MORE to read!!

I'm so glad I discovered Marcia Clark's mysteries. We know Marcia Clark, of course, as an attorney, so I didn't know what to expect with the first novel of hers that I purchased. Let me say, she is right up there with all of my favorite mystery writers. She has a great way with the characters, a dry wit, great 'home' for Rachel at the Biltmore ... friends and lovers that are top-notch. I'm gleeful every time I pick up a new one. If you love mysteries, don't hesitate ... you'll be delighted you chose a Clark.

Please! Hire an editor with some practical insight into the real world! As a former police officer, book editor and competition shooter I found the technical errors as distracting as fingernails on a chalk board. Examples: Glock does not make a .44 auto, nor does H&K. The initial victim was a Glendale police officer, living in Glendale and killed at home, yet LAPD was the investigating agency and he was once assigned to Hollywood Division. Further, Rachel's LAPD detective sidekick is driving a county car (?). One of the characters was once an intern with the DA's office - here we are led to believe the Los Angeles County DA, yet suddenly she was an intern in Orange County (??). The main characters are well developed and fun, and overall the book is entertaining, but Michael Connelly or Robert Crais she's not. If I was not such an ardent follower of the latter two authors, I might find Clark's tale less distracting.

This is my first Marcia Clark novel. I was impressed. If you can get through the first fifteen flawed and poorly written chapters, the remaining 77 are exciting and well-written. She must have had two different editors. Rachel Knight, Deputy Los Angeles DA, and her two co-defenders of justice, Bailey Keller, LAPD detective, and Rachel's assistant DA friend, Toni, are a fun female tight-knit group to follow. They work hard and party hard together. The trio reminded me a little of gals in James Patterson's Woman's Murder Club. This is the first time I've known of a district attorney and a homicide detective partnering to solve a crime. However, the confrere works well for the story. The author has done a credible job of establishing her protagonist's character along with that of Rachel's two professional collaborators for a potentially long-running and successful series. Clark earned her spurs in the O.J. trial as a female Samson going up against an O.J. Goliath defense team. As a prosecutor she knows the profession well and has employed its mechanics successfully in this novel. The story is compelling, riddled with murder, suspense, witty dialogue, humor and a wee bit of romance. I liked the story line and heartily recommend the novel. As a side note, I think the three professional women could benefit from a week at an alcohol rehab spa in Tucson; however, this minor character flaw only tends to enhance the trio's appeal. I rate the book a 5, and look forward to Clark's next in the series.

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