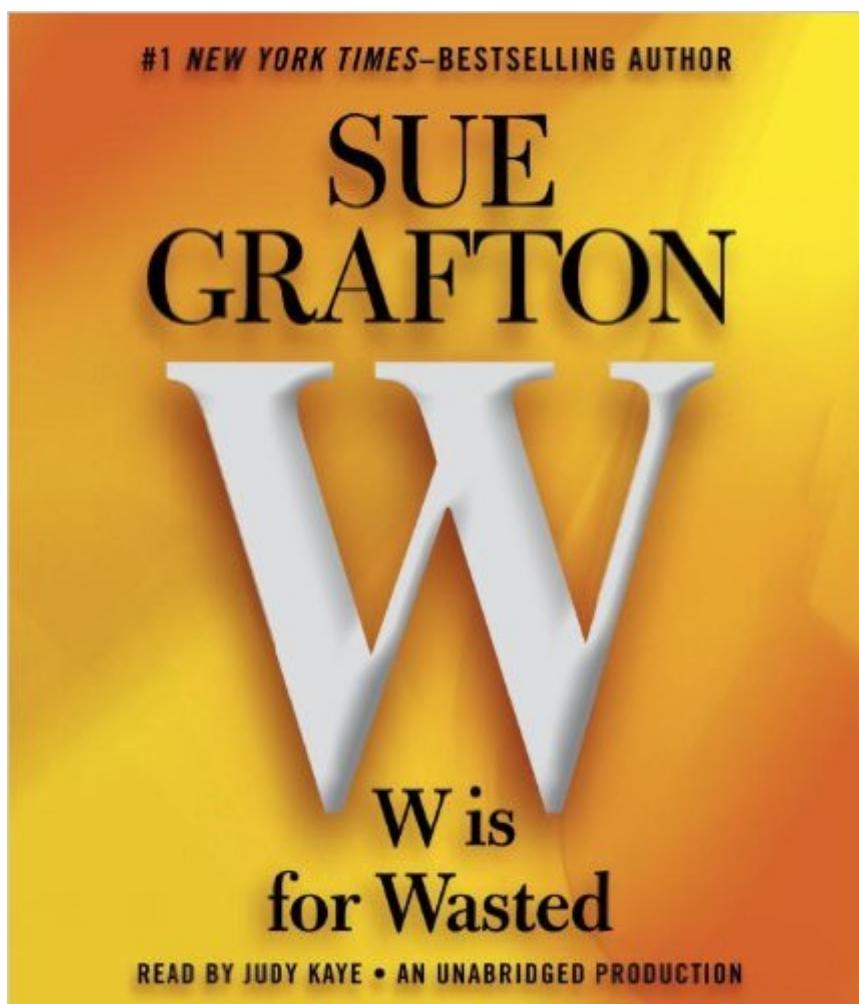


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# W Is For Wasted: Kinsey Millhone Mystery (A Kinsey Millhone Novel)



## Synopsis

Of the #1 New York Times bestselling Kinsey Millhone series, NPR said, "Makes me wish there were more than 26 letters." • Two dead bodies changed the course of my life that fall. One of them I knew and the other I'd never laid eyes on until I saw him in the morgue. The first was a local PI of suspect reputation. He'd been gunned down near the beach at Santa Teresa. It looked like a robbery gone bad. The other was on the beach six weeks later. He'd been sleeping rough. Probably homeless. No identification. A slip of paper with Millhone's name and number was in his pants pocket. The coroner asked her to come to the morgue to see if she could ID him. Two seemingly unrelated deaths, one a murder, the other apparently of natural causes. But as Kinsey digs deeper into the mystery of the John Doe, some very strange linkages begin to emerge. And before long at least one aspect is solved as Kinsey literally finds the key to his identity. "And just like that," she says, "the lid to Pandora's box flew open. It would take me another day before I understood how many imps had been freed, but for the moment, I was inordinately pleased with myself." • In this multilayered tale, the surfaces seem clear, but the underpinnings are full of betrayals, misunderstandings, and outright murderous fraud. And Kinsey, through no fault of her own, is thoroughly compromised. *W* is for . . . wanderer . . . worthless . . . wronged . . . *W* is for wasted.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The year is 1988. When thirty-eight year old private investigator Kinsey Millhone tries to make sense

of a puzzling crime, she jots her notes down on index cards, conducts research in library archives, and determines people's veracity using her finely-honed intuition and innate common sense. As Sue Grafton's "W is for Wasted" begins, Kinsey informs us that business has been slow of late, leaving her free to look into two unexplained deaths. One is the murder of a former associate, Pete Wolinsky, a shady private detective known for his habit of cutting corners. Pete "was morally shabby, disorganized, and irresponsible with money." The second involves a "John Doe" found with Kinsey's name and telephone number on a piece of paper in his pocket. When a representative of the coroner's office asks Kinsey to identify the body, she dutifully agrees. However, after taking a close look at the corpse, she informs the authorities that she has never laid eyes on the man. Kinsey, partly through happenstance, and mostly because she is too nosy for her own good, meets up with distant relatives who respond with hostility when she brings them bad tidings. She also endangers her life when she digs too deeply into matters that do not directly concern her. As is her habit, Kinsey goes out of her way to lend a helping hand when needed, and sticks her neck out to right any wrongs she encounters. "W is for Wasted" is a bleak mystery that is partly about the unfortunates who live on the fringes of society--young runaways, alcoholics, and the mentally ill who have no fixed address. Grafton explores the plight of those who lose their way and end up in shelters or on the streets.

Can't give "W Is For Wasted" a one-star rating. When you read an entire novel, SOMETHING kept you turning its pages. Or maybe it was just sheer determination to get to the end. Watching Kinsey fumble around -- uncharacteristically -- in search of identifying a murderer, a mystery which Grafton has long since revealed to the reader is, in a word, painful. Ultimately a disappointing waste of Grafton's talent and my time. Like so many reviewers here, I too have read the entire series. Generally I read each book in either a single day or get to the last page the following day. For this one I got through the first 230 pages the first day but it took the better part of a week to finish it. I read hard until the point where a parasitic "shirt-tail relative" stuck Kinsey with a \$346.75 bar bill -- and she paid it! This, I thought, is not the Kinsey Millhone I've come to adore. Turned me off right there. Plowing through the next 250 pages was like trying to plow mud. Let others point out the particulars for such as: lack of editing and proofreading, anachronisms, unresolved plot elements, excessive descriptions, pointless character appearances, stultifying dialog and much more. The strongest agreement I have with other reviewers is how desperately this book needed a no-nonsense, professional editor! (Has that profession become extinct? Grafton is by no means the only contemporary writer in dire need of one.) There are three successful writers whose worst work

Grafton has here emulated:Janet Evanovich's stale sit-com REPETITIVENESS (Cluck-in-a-bucket orgy! Blow up a car! Grandma mis-behaves at the funeral home! Animals discharge bodily functions!) Robert B.

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