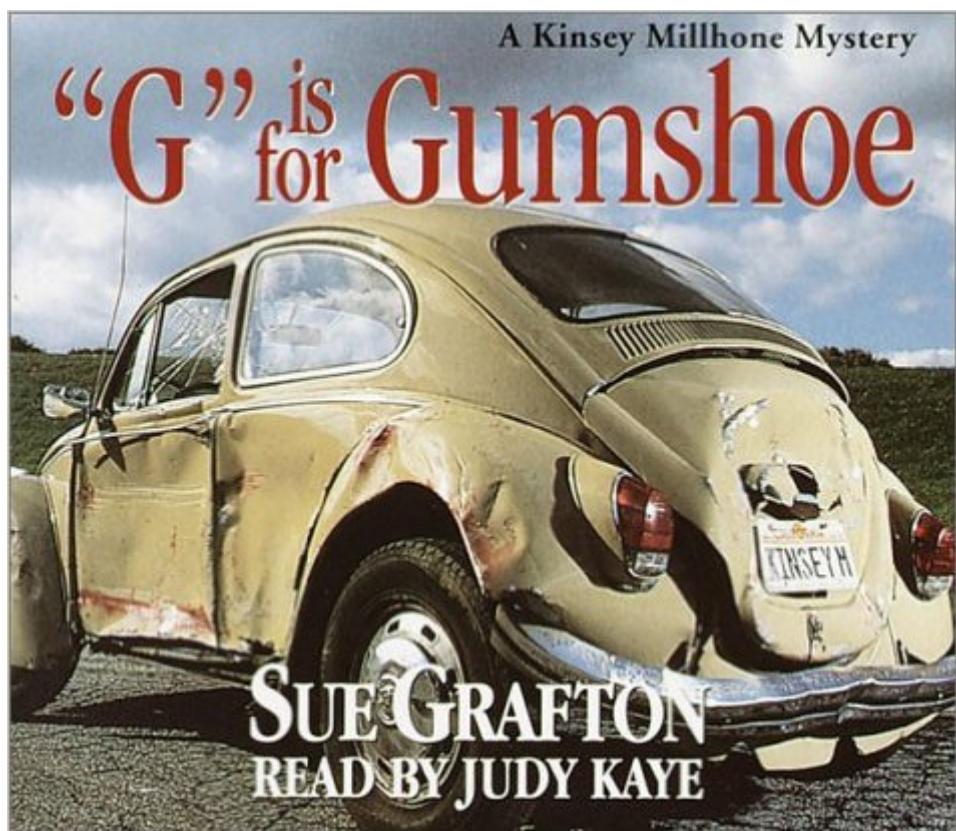


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"G" Is For Gumshoe (Sue Grafton)



Synopsis

A Kinsey Millhone mystery. . . Good and bad things seem to be coming in threes for Kinsey Millhone: on her thirty-third birthday she moves back into her renovated apartment, gets hired to find an elderly lady supposedly living in the Mojave Desert by herself, and makes the top of ex-con Tyrone Patty's hit list. It's the last that convinces Kinsey even she can't handle whoever's been hired to whack her, and she gets herself a bodyguard: Robert Dietz, a Porsche-driving P.I. who takes guarding Kinsey's body very seriously. With Dietz watching her for the merest sign of her usual recklessness, Kinsey plunges into her case. And before it's over, she'll unearth the gruesome truth about a long-buried betrayal and, in the process, come fact-to-face with her own mortality. . . .

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"G is for Gumshoe" is a good entry in Sue Grafton's alphabet series; however, I think it may be my least favorite so far (I'm reading them in order). The book starts right after the conclusion of "F is for Fugitive" (which was one of my favorites). Kinsey's newly re-constructed apartment is finally ready, but she has little time to enjoy it due to a new case, working for the sickly Irene Gersh. Irene's mother (Agnes Grey) has been living in the so-called Slab City, a community of snowbirds who park their trailers on abandoned concrete slabs near the Salton Sea. Agnes has been out of touch with her daughter for several months, and Irene wants Kinsey to check on her. Sounds like a simple case for Kinsey. Of course, there is much more to the story here. On another front, Kinsey has been targeted for revenge by a demented criminal she helped put away years ago, Tyrone Patty. He hires

a hit-man to take out Kinsey, who responds by hiring a body-guard PI named Robert Dietz. The story gets off to a terrific, action-packed start and clips along at a nice pace. Also, it was great to see Kinsey's interactions with a fellow PI. Dietz is an interesting character who reminded me a bit of Stephanie Plum's later character, Ranger. Kinsey and Dietz make a good pair, and I hope to see him in future books. The mystery with Agnes Grey was interesting and featured some nice sleuthing on Kinsey's part. However, it was a tad confusing at times and wrapped up rather abruptly. Indeed, I've often had issues with Grafton's books concluding a bit quickly and with convenient confessions. The problem seems more pronounced here, and the two stories don't quite merge in a satisfying way. I've also noticed a pattern of Kinsey becoming confidantes extremely quickly with her clients.

Kinsey Millhone has her hands full in Sue Grafton's seventh alphabet mystery, "G is For Gumshoe." I liked this one quite a lot because of the suspense at the beginning and the very tense ending. There are two stories going on at the same time and I thought that they might wind up tying in together somehow, but they don't. Each is a good story in itself and I thought these made "G is For Gumshoe" one of the best in the series so far. Kinsey gets word that there is a price on her head from an inmate that she and a judge, a lawyer and a cop sent to prison some years ago. Tyrone Patty wants them all dead and Kinsey, who has just moved into her newly rebuilt apartment, has her solitude and her serenity interrupted because she needs around-the-clock protection. That protection comes in the form of P.I. Robert Dietz. We've seen Dietz before and it's good to see a familiar character re-enter Kinsey's life again. There are also references to things that happened in previous books, so Grafton keeps the flow of Kinsey's life consistent from book to book. While nervously watching out for an assassin, Kinsey gets a call from a woman called Irene Gersh who wants Kinsey to find her mother. Her mother has been living a rather rough life in the desert on the site of an old military base, so Kinsey must drive there to see if Irene's mother is alive and living where her daughter thinks she is. Pale and frail Irene Gersh seems to be afraid of something and Kinsey makes it her business to find out what it is. I read this book very fast because it is a page-turner and has some exciting, action-filled scenes in it. Kinsey and Dietz get to know each other a bit better in this book and I like the two together since they're a lot alike and seem to play off each other well.

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