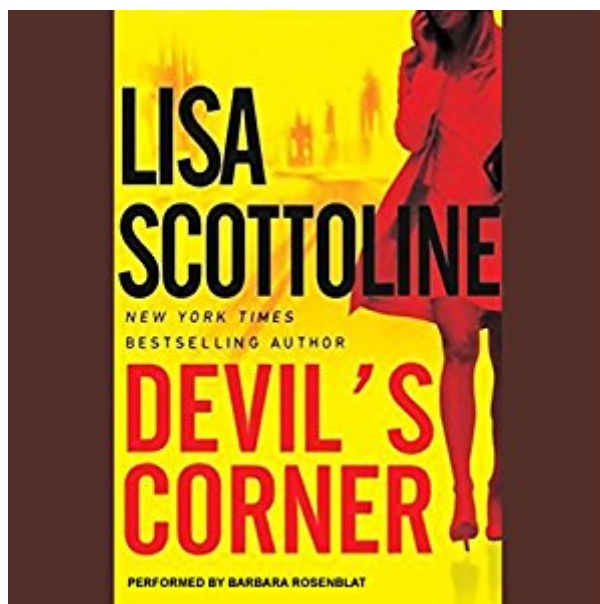


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Devil's Corner



Synopsis

When prosecutor Vicki Allegretti arrives at a rowhouse to meet a confidential informant, she finds herself in the wrong place at the wrong time -- and is almost shot to death. She barely escapes with her life, but cannot save the two others gunned down before her disbelieving eyes. Stunned and heartbroken, Vicki tries to figure out how a routine meeting on a minor case became a double homicide. Vicki's suspicions take her to Devil's Corner, a city neighborhood teetering on the brink of ruin -- thick with broken souls, innocent youth, and a scourge that preys on both. But the deeper Vicki probes, the more she becomes convinced that the murders weren't random and the killers were more ruthless than she thought. When another murder thrusts Vicki together with an unlikely ally, she buckles up for a wild ride down a dangerous street -- and into the cross-hairs of a conspiracy as powerful as it is relentless. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The kind folks over at HarperCollins sent me an advance reader copy of Lisa Scottoline's newest novel Devil's Corner. This is another author that I haven't read before, but will probably end up doing catch-up reading on her titles... Vicki Allegretti is an Assistant U.S. Attorney, and she's due to interview a confidential informant on a case related to an illegal gun sale. But things go horribly wrong when she arrives at the meeting house only to find two guys who have broken into the house and murdered the informant. During the confrontation, her partner is killed and she almost joins him in death before the killers decide to flee. In the process of interviewing leads on the killing, she

assaults a prisoner and is suspended from her job. But instead of just taking the safe road, she decides to conduct her own investigation so that the case doesn't get dropped. To get into the parts of the city where the crime occurred, she has to team up with the person she assaulted, and thus starts an unlikely personality pairing that will either pay off or get them both killed...Scottoline was formerly a trial lawyer and apparently now watches court cases for entertainment (and potential story ideas). Her in-depth knowledge of the legal system and how things actually work shows through in this novel, as I got the feeling that she has been here before. Watching Allegretti try and balance her work and personal life is interesting, as her romantic interest may or may not be all he's cracked up to be. And I really liked the interplay between her and Raheema, the girl she assaulted. Matching up an urban black street-smart girl with a suburban Harvard grad leads to rather sticky situations that neither can relate to but that both have to work through. Solid writing, good pacing, a story with some meat, and a few plot twists to boot... Can't ask for much more in a recreational crime thriller read.

Vicki Allegretti, Asst. U.S. atty. goes to an informant's home and runs into two men who have just killed the informant. Vicki's associate is also killed before the killers escape. Raheema Bristow is the person the CI claimed to have evidence about and she is freed after the CI is murdered. Vicki goes to Raheema's home thinking that she might get evidence against her before the case is dismissed and is surprised to find that Raheema's mother is a crack addict. Eventually, Raheema and Vicki agree to an uneasy truce and decide to work together in attempt to find those guilty of Vicki's partner's murder and another death. These two women with nothing in common begin spying on an inner city crack house. If the reader can put logic aside and experience the story as a work of fiction, it is a fun read. Vicki is a Harvard educated attorney attempting to be undercover in the slums. I picture Reese Witherspoon of "Legally Blond" in this setting and wonder how Vicki could go undetected and survive. Scottoline did a professional job creating suspense and maintaining the dramatic flow of the novel, adding a well placed plot twist to keep the reader guessing and make the story more interesting.

Scottoline experiments with a new heroine and a new type of crime. But fans will recognize Scottoline's writing touches, as individual as a fingerprint. From the beginning, we get Scottoline's delicious combination of girl-think with violent crime. Staring down the barrel of a gun, Assistant DA Vicki Allegretti wonders if a black gun "makes you look thinner." It's just the kind of combination of gritty suspense and girl talk that we have come to expect from this author -- and she delivers

magnificently. Other surprises surface. Allegretti, product of upperclass parents and good schools, teams up with an accused criminal to solve a crime. Along the way, she takes risks, gets suspended from her job, and finds an unlikely criminal. As with Scottoline, the heroine begins to seem like an old friend -- someone we admire and want to follow. And as always, we get a suspenseful page-turner that superbly paced, with not a word wasted. Like many fans, I miss Scottoline's traditional characters: Mary, Judy, Bennie and Anne. Scottoline takes a big jump here with a character whose parents are both lawyers -- someone from the upper echelons of Philadelphia society. She seems most comfortable when dealing with scrappy up-from-nothing women like Bennie and Mary, But I wouldn't be surprised to see them all come together in a future novel (Scottoline has a way of doing that). Let me guess: Bennie's law firm would be defending a client, Allegretti would be prosecuting, and they'd all unite on the side of justice -- and the pleasure of their loyal readers.

Ms. Scottoline's latest thriller is indeed a superb example of what a fast-paced well told story could offer the fans of this genre. This story starts off with a bang and ends just as dramatically with an ending that will surprise readers. Assistant U.S. Attorney Vicki Allegretti has an appointment with a confidential informant on a case that she is currently working but instead walks into a nightmare that ends with the death of one pregnant woman and her partner Bob "Morty" Morton. What should be a cut and dry case turns into something that Vicki could not even dream up in her most outrageous imagining. She will have her faith tested in friends, and co-workers, question the integrity of the one man she loves but doesn't think will ever be hers and risks bringing a scandal to the office that she holds. She also will join forces with a very a very driven woman named Reheema in the quest for truth about the death of her mother. Could these cases be linked to a drug circle and what will be the implications once the dust has settled and the players have all been unveiled? Will Vicki be able to untangle the lies and find the truth, and more importantly will she be able to handle the truth once she faces it? Or will the truth destroy all that she has worked towards? Again this was a high-octane read that will totally engross the reader. Ms. Scottoline is a highly talented author and her twelfth effort aptly demonstrates why she is on the New York Times best-selling author's list. This is one read that you won't want to miss.

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