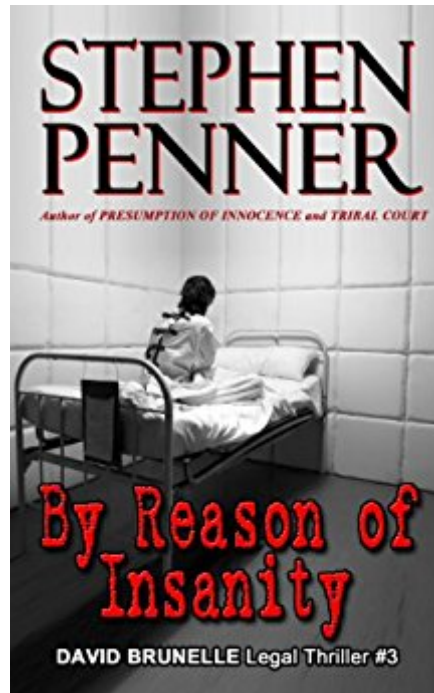


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By Reason Of Insanity (David Brunelle Legal Thriller Series Book 3)



Synopsis

Sometimes the easiest cases are the hardest. The defendant absolutely, positively murdered her own mother. She is also absolutely, positively mentally ill. Homicide prosecutor David Brunelle is tasked with holding her responsible despite the best efforts of her defense team, which includes a psychologist who's convinced she's innocent. As the case proceeds, the pressures mount and Brunelle begins to question his own sanity. Will Brunelle crack the case, or will the case crack him?

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Customer Reviews

In all honesty, I had borrowed one of Stephen's books on Prime 3 days ago. Just 3 days ago. This review goes for all of his books, not just this one - as soon as I finished the borrowed book - I IMMEDIATELY purchased all his other books in this series starring David Brunnelle: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt, Case Theory, Presumption of Innocence, Tribal Court, By Reason of Insanity. EVERY book a winner. EVERY book fabulously written. EVERY book will keep you reading. EVERY Book is going to stay in my Kindle library because great books are meant to be kept and not discarded. I just raved about him to my sister yesterday - she started and finished one book already and she could not believe how great a read it was either. She is ready for the next book - the sooner the better she said. Each story is so good. I love the main characters already. I can speak of them as if they are my

best friends or friends that I just met but feel like I have known them forever. I am going to put this same review on every one of his books that I have read, so everyone who loves a well-written story with crime and police and court proceedings knows how truly great these books are!! The crimes are original as is the storylines. All the characters are believable. You hate the ones you are supposed to and love the ones you should. Open your kindle to Stephen Penner - YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED!!

Like Scott Pratt (the Joe Dillard series), Stephen Penner is becoming one of my favorite authors of legal thrillers. I've read Grisham for years, and the last couple books of his I read just weren't that good, especially when he attempts a story outside of the legal genre (Painted House - sooooo boring). Penner's main character, David Brunelle, is a career prosecutor who finds himself in the middle of a case where there is no question "who did it," but rather since the defendant is obviously mentally ill, should she be held responsible, incompetent to stand trial, or not guilty by reason of insanity. Penner does a great job educating the reader on the complex issues of mental health, competency vs. incompetency (to stand trial), and the insanity defense. I would say the only downfall would be the unexpected twist towards the end, which in my opinion, was a little far fetched and pure "Hollywood". However, that is the only negative thing I can say about this book. It is still a great read with great characters, some of which have been developing since the first book in the Brunelle series. I will definitely continue to read Stephen Penner novels, especially the David Brunelle series.

Dave struggles with mental illness of defendant and the application of law. Penner could treat Dave's libido with less specificity and more sophistication, in my opinion; it diminishes his character. Wild ending.

I'm not used to siding with the prosecution...I hung a jury for the defense once. But the convincing and pragmatic David Brunelle in Stephen Penner's new legal thriller, "By Reason of Insanity", has changed my view of these hard working underpaid, ill-served public servants. I was hooked when this sexist prosecutor is called out early in the book for his self-absorbed narcissism by the defense's star witness, a crazy psychiatrist. The mad shrink summarizes the crazy focus of the book--perhaps the law?-- when defending the actual defendant, a homicidal sociopath. Everyone in this room," he says "has diagnosable emotional and personality pathologies." A personal delight: like many adept men without intelligent and talented women this skillful, narcissistic Brunelle could

fail--or even die.

I really loved the implications of the story in regard to the insanity plea as opposed to diminished capacity. It's a well written piece and very compelling if you like courtroom drama and knotty cases. Makes one wonder if laws and their consequences aren't a bit skitzy!

+5 stars for the discussion of the legal differences and ramifications of insanity vs. diminished capacity and the conundrums they produce. -2 stars for a contrived ending that sidestepped addressing these issues and for Brunelle's constant mental distractions with the female characters.

I just knew that there was going to be some kind of twist with this story and there was....but it was not at all what I expected and that made it so deliciously awesome. I enjoy this series so much. The cases and the way the stories are built around one key aspect of the law make them educational and fascinating. All the main characters are interesting and I've grown quite fond of them....flaws and all. Can't wait to read the next one!

I've read all of this author's books dealing with legal issues, i.e., the David Brunelle series. I have found each to be interesting perhaps because of my own legal background. But in fairness to those who have no basis in the law, this book, like all the others will keep a reader reading regardless just because the stories are that good. I don't retell the story in my reviews, leaving that to others than the author. But, since I've read 'em all, that will serve as my testimonial for how well Penner gets the job done. I recommend any/all of the Brunelle series. Each is a good read unto itself.

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