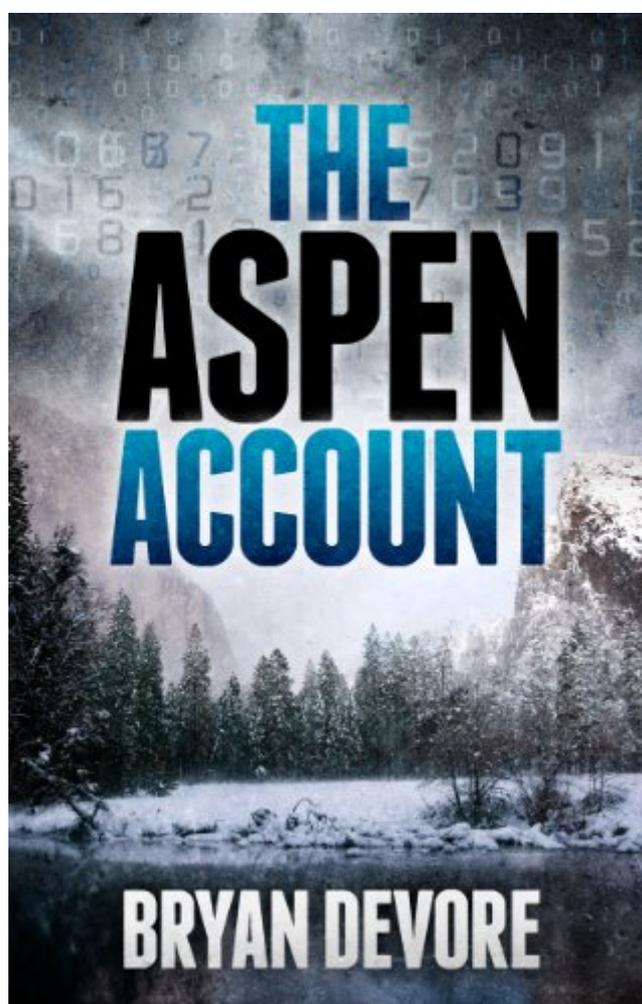


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The Aspen Account



Synopsis

After a colleague at Denver's top accounting firm dies in a mysterious skiing accident, Michael Chapman is assigned to replace him on an audit of software behemoth X-Tronic. At the same time, rookie journalist Sarah Matthews of the Denver Post starts nosing into rumors that may connect X-Tronic to her brother's death. And the reclusive Aspen billionaire who founded X-Tronic thirty years ago begins to fear that events unfolding at his company will finally make him pay for a past he would love to forget: when he sold out friends and neglected family in his single-minded pursuit of success. Soon all three will discover just how much they are willing to risk to uncover the truth behind a conspiracy that will shock the world."The nature of Michael's double life can be frustratingly elusive, but it's exciting to watch him risk everything in order to unveil an elaborate, insidious conspiracy." - Publishers Weekly"Taut suspense...swiftly paced plot...an atmospheric backdrop...The strength of this debut will have many readers clamoring for more. Devore displays a sure hand in a tight, eminently readable thriller certain to draw a substantial following." - Kirkus Reviews"An engaging mystery story...Michael is no James Bond, but Devore portrays him with enough panache to keep the pages turning...The fascination is in the telling of how (the essential) conflicts play out. It is an enjoyable read." - ForeWord Clarion Review"Timely...enough plot twists to keep the reader turning the pages...For anyone who's had enough of action lawyers, make way for a new breed of hero." - BlueInk Review

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Customer Reviews

I almost gave up early in this book. There are some really unbelievable parts especially if you know the business and financial world. For instance, the audit of a major corporation is lead by a young inexperienced auditor who is on probation and two fresh out of school juniors and was supposed to take a couple of months. A highly secure tech company which is trying to hide activities that are less than kosher none the less allows said auditor to walk into someone's office and root through an unlocked filing cabinet where all the evidence just happens to be. He steals the evidence and then copies it and leaves with the files. They then have to pay someone to find out what he has. What about the cameras?! Is it realistic that in a company the size of microsoft all the revenue contracts fit in one filing cabinet in someone's office? All have dodgy wording which is never explained and given the nature of the fraud was not really necessary anyway. Also, what about the client's lawyers? Would dodgy clauses get past them? Every time? Even the writer must have realised this and hence this line is abandoned as it was only used for Michael to get to the fraud. The audit partner is the only one allowed to see and audit these contracts. Despite being an enormous company in several locations there is no mention of their audit teams looking at group companies. The sheer silliness of the initial setting quite simply had me laughing and come close to ditching. On struggling on it did improve and initial inconsistencies are papered over. I found Michael's motivation weak and the writing somewhat stilted sometimes. The setting is interesting and if, unlike me, you are not an accountant, auditor or CFO then the story will probably hold more water and make a good thriller.

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