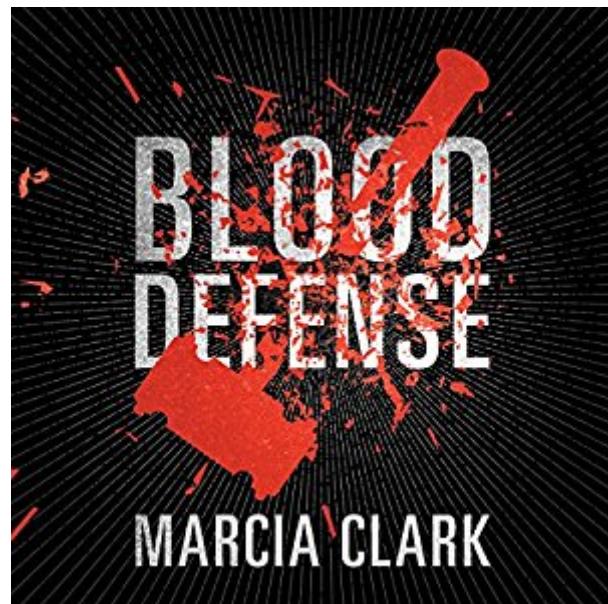


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Blood Defense



Synopsis

Samantha Brinkman, an ambitious, hard-charging Los Angeles criminal defense attorney, is struggling to make a name for herself and to drag her fledgling practice into the big leagues. Sam lands a high-profile double-murder case in which one of the victims is a beloved TV star - and the defendant is a decorated veteran LAPD detective. It promises to be exactly the kind of media sensation that would establish her as a heavy hitter in the world of criminal law. Though Sam has doubts about his innocence, she and her two associates (her closest childhood friend and a brilliant ex-con) take the case. Notorious for living by her own rules - and fearlessly breaking everyone else's - Samantha pulls out all the stops in her quest to uncover evidence that will clear the detective. But when a shocking secret at the core of the case shatters her personal world, Sam realizes that not only has her client been playing her, he might be one of the most dangerous sociopaths she's ever encountered.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When I review books there is always a reason. I've been doing book reviews for a long time, but it is not often that something strikes close to home. In this case, I chose this book from my Kindle First selections solely because of the author. Marcia Clark is a well known entity. Well, at least if you are old enough to remember the O.J. Simpson trial. You see, Marcia Clark was a prosecuting attorney for the Los Angeles District Attorney in the trial of O.J. Simpson. I remember her well.... Since that time Ms. Clark has written several novels and I've now read two of them. This book, Blood Defense,

is the best of Marcia Clark's efforts. It is tightly written and well plotted with a well-developed story line. I noticed very few errors that would cause reading discomfort anywhere in the book. The proof readers and editor have done a very nice job. The characters have been highly developed and although the book resides solidly within typical crime and courtroom procedurals, the characters do not seem type cast or stereotypical in any way. In fact, just the opposite. These characters seem almost plebeian by comparison to most others in this genre. They all seem fully capable and yet quite "common" in nature, and never afraid to get their hands dirty or use coarse language if the situation calls for it. Rough and tumble female leads that take part in difficult law environments. Not your typical stuff.....Unlike some courtroom dramas that seem to plod along in places, Ms. Clark writes in a manner that keeps her characters active and alive. The dialogue is very well done and seems to be almost too realistic. The language gets a little coarse at times but it always seems to be appropriate to the situation. I remember thinking several times as I was reading that the dialogue sounded exactly like what I would have expected to hear from those people in those situations. That type of reality makes for an easy reading book. When you combine excellent dialogue with believable characters, a great story line, multi-layered plot twists, and situational awareness... you have the makings of a fine piece of fiction. The protagonist in this story, Samantha Brinkman, is a really tough cookie. She is very situationally aware and at the same time capable of making errors in judgement. I am not sure how you describe that particular character trait other than to say "human". She is well trained, unafraid, and capable of critical thought. Surround her with associates that support the story, and you have everything necessary to generate a great deal of empathy for the characters. The layers of the plot demand some careful consideration, the twists make you wonder, the level of evil that is exposed keeps you on edge, and overriding it all is the necessity for right to triumph over wrong. Only you are never sure that it is going to happen.....Ms. Clark definitely knows her way around law and the justice system. She writes her characters into tricky situations and then rescues them when it seems they are doomed. She knows the law and uses it to her advantage by allowing her characters to take advantage of it.... situationally. She knows what the courts will allow her characters to get away with and uses every bit of the rope they give her. In the end, the case hinges on details and the ability of the protagonist, Samantha, to outwit and outplay her adversaries. I started reading this book early this morning and did not stop for over two hours. After a quick coffee break I went back to the book and finished it. Although I typically read most books in one day, this book went faster than most. I credit that to the style of the author and the excellent plotting and story line. I am completely impressed. Marcia Clark has given us a wonderfully complex and interesting piece of fictional crime drama.....Highly recommended.!!

This review does not contain spoilers. The novel contains profanity, and some (plot-relevant) violence. There was no graphic sexual content. I can't say I 'enjoyed' this novel, but I finished it in an afternoon. The writing isn't overly complicated, which makes it a fast read, but the author has a tendency to over-animate things (ex: the character doesn't get out of a chair, she vaults out). Other odd word choices threw me out of the story at times, as well. There weren't glaring errors, however, which I greatly appreciate. The pacing is fairly good, although the story does bog down at times with what felt like filler material. The main character was fairly well developed, but the side characters felt rather flat. The main reason I didn't care so much for this novel is I disliked the main character. She rubbed me the wrong way, and being 'in' her head with a first person POV made it doubly irksome. I appreciate that she's a tough female character who can take care of herself, but I had a hard time wanting to root for her. I will give the author points for keeping me guessing! I went back and forth a few times on who was guilty of the crime. The end did feel a little rushed, and 'by-the-numbers' typical of murder-mystery. The 'who-dunnit' reveal at the end was a little bit of a let down. Bottom line: if you are a huge fan of suspense/murder-mystery stories, this one would probably be a good choice.

I am so glad I chose this book for my Kindle First for April, it is really good. Sam is a very feisty criminal defense attorney, she is trying to get a high profile case to ease her money problems. The case is a double murder of a beloved actress and her roommate, the man charged with the murders is a LAPD detective. I will not inject any spoilers into my review, suffice it to say this book is a wild ride. The writing is smooth, laced with humor. There are many twists and turns as Sam and her team work to not only defend her client, but also solve the crime. Would highly recommend, I will be reading more by this author.

Marcia Clark, famed prosecutor in the O.J. Simpson case and bestselling author, has created a unique new character, defense attorney Samantha Brinkman. *Blood Defense*, the first book in the series, introduces Samantha, her best friend, Michelle, paralegal, and Alex, an ex-con who is an experienced hacker and an excellent investigator; they make up the entire team of the fledgling Law Offices of Brinkman and Associates. When a popular actress, Chloe Monahan and her roommate Paige Avner are found stabbed to death in their apartment, a police detective, Dale Pearson, is arrested for the crime. Although the evidence is at most circumstantial, he has already been convicted by the media and general population. Samantha gets a call and is asked to represent him.

As the story unfolds, Pearson drops some bombshells, making it especially difficult for Samantha to believe that he is actually innocent. The more Samantha gets into the case, the more danger she and her team encounter. The entire book is a series of ups and downs with suspense, intrigue, and close calls. The book is told in the first person from Samantha's point of view, and is well-written and well-organized. Samantha doesn't always play by the rules, which makes for even more danger. Clark knows the ins and outs of a courtroom, and that makes the story very believable. There is enough suspense to keep readers on the edge; the book is very difficult to put down. The scenarios seem real, the characters seem real, and the ending is, of course, a surprise. There is no graphic violence, profanity, or sex, so this book is highly recommended for all readers who enjoy good thrillers. Special thanks to NetGalley for supplying a review copy of this novel.

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