



## Summary

Keera Duggan was building a solid reputation as a Seattle prosecutor, until her romantic relationship with a senior colleague ended badly. For the competitive former chess prodigy, returning to her family's failing criminal defense law firm to work for her father is the best shot she has. With the right moves, she hopes to restore the family's reputation, her relationship with her father, and her career. Keera's chance to play in the big leagues comes when she's retained by Vince LaRussa, an investment adviser accused of murdering his wealthy wife. There's little hard evidence against him, but considering the couple's impending and potentially nasty divorce, LaRussa faces life in prison. The prosecutor is equally challenging: Miller Ambrose, Keera's former lover, who's eager to destroy her in court on her first homicide defense. As Keera and her team follow the evidence, they uncover a complicated and deadly game that's more than Keera bargained for. When shocking information turns the case upside down, Keera must decide between her duty to her client, her family's legacy, and her own future.

## Discussion Questions

1. Were you surprised by who ended up being the person who committed the crime? If you guessed who did it, what clues did you notice that made you suspect them? If you were surprised, who did you think it was going to be instead?
2. What was the biggest red herring that threw you off track?
3. How did the author introduce the main mystery or crime in the book? Did it grab your attention and make you curious right from the beginning?
4. How did the author create suspense and intrigue throughout the book? What techniques did they use to keep you engaged and guessing?
5. Did you find that the clues and evidence presented in the book made sense and fit together? If not, what stuck out for you?
6. How did the author develop the main character(s)? Did you like them or find them interesting? Did they have any quirks or habits that made them memorable?
7. How did the book end? Were you satisfied with the solution or reveal of the mystery or crime? Did it make sense and tie up all the loose ends?
8. How did the author explore themes such as justice, truth, deception, or morality?



## About the Author

Robert Dugoni is a critically acclaimed New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post and #1 Amazon bestselling author, reaching over 9 million readers worldwide. He is best known for his Tracy Crosswhite police series set in Seattle. He is also the author of the Charles Jenkins espionage series, the David Sloane legal thriller series, and several stand-alone novels including *The 7th Canon*, *Damage Control*, *The World Played Chess*, and *Her Deadly Game*.

## Book reviews

**Kirkus**

**January 12, 2023**

A Seattle attorney long overshadowed by her celebrated father lands her first murder case, and it's a dilly.

When he's accused of shooting his wife, Anne, who was paralyzed years ago in a car accident, one night during a rare Seattle heat wave, wealth manager Vincent LaRussa wants Patrick Duggan, the Irish Brawler, to defend him. But Patrick isn't available because he's passed out drunk again. So Vincent has to settle for Keera Duggan, an ex-prosecutor who's an associate of Patrick Duggan & Associates. What Keera lacks in experience she makes up in finely honed killer instincts. She's an accomplished chess player who's internalized a great deal of her father's sage advice as she's done her best to steer away from his most self-destructive habits. She'll need every edge she can get over prosecutor Miller Ambrose, the ex-boss and ex-lover who's trying the case. Oncologist Lisa Bennet, Anne's best friend, swears that Anne was alive when she left her that evening, and security cameras on the high-end property showed no other arrivals before Anne's husband, who turns out to have 100 million motives for murder. A mysterious correspondent calling himself Jack Worthing begins feeding Keera clues, and one of them leads to an explosive bit of potentially exculpatory evidence the prosecution has failed to share with her, inspiring a courtroom video demonstration that marries Erle Stanley Gardner to John Dickson Carr. So why is it that, as the courtroom back-and-forth plays out, Keera can't escape the feeling that she's being played by an opponent savvier than her?

Fast-paced legal-intrigue gold that could be improved only by kicking off a new series.

Courtesy of Kirkus Reviews