



Summary

When Jenna Bernstein, disgraced wunderkind CEO of a controversial biotech company, is accused of murdering her former partner and lover, she turns to Seattle attorney Keera Duggan to defend her. Keera is more than a master chess player who brings her intuitive moves into court—she’s Jenna’s childhood friend. But considering their history, Keera knows that where Jenna goes, trouble follows.

Five years earlier, Keera’s father successfully defended Jenna when she was tried for the killing of her company’s chief scientist who threatened to go public with allegations of corporate fraud. Keera knows Jenna too well. When she was a kid, Keera saw Jenna for what she was: a manipulative and frighteningly controlling sociopath. Now, with only circumstantial evidence against Jenna, Keera is willing to bury any trepidation she might have to defend a woman she believes, this time, to be innocent.

As the investigation gets underway and disturbing questions arise, Keera puts her trust in a client who swears that this time she’s telling nothing but the truth. If this is all just another devious game, Keera might be working to set a murderer free.



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*.

Discussion Questions

- How does Keera's past relationship with Jenna influence her decision to take on the case?
- What are the complexities of Keera's character, and how do they affect her approach to the case?
- How does Jenna's manipulative nature impact the reader's perception of her guilt or innocence?
- What is the significance of the flashbacks to Keera's past and her relationship with Jenna? How do they shape her present actions and motivations?
- How does the author use the media's portrayal of the case to influence public opinion and the legal proceedings?
- How does Keera's past experience as a prosecutor influence her approach to defending Jenna?
- What internal struggles does Keera face as she navigates the complexities of the case and her own emotions?
- How does Jenna's manipulative nature impact Keera's perception of her client and the case?
- What are the motivations behind Jenna's actions, and how do they evolve throughout the story?
- How does the media's portrayal of Jenna influence public opinion and the legal proceedings?
- How does Dugoni's writing style contribute to the suspense and tension of the novel?
- How does the Dugoni balance the fast-paced courtroom drama with slower, more introspective moments?

Book reviews

Five years after attorney Patsy Duggan, Seattle's Irish Brawler, got CEO Jenna Bernstein found not guilty of killing a scientist about to reveal some ugly secrets about her firm, Jenna has to rely on Patsy's daughter, Keera, when she's accused of killing an even more highly placed co-worker.

The sad truth about the LINK, a revolutionary "Fountain of Youth" technology that allows noninvasive refashioning of human tissue, is that it doesn't work. Hours after Erik Wei, a researcher at Ponce de León Restorative Technology, had threatened to go public with this unwelcome news, he was shot dead, and Jenna, the wunderkind boss he reported to, was arrested for his murder. Patsy's fancy footwork won the day for her back then, but now Patsy, an alcoholic with a long history of health problems, is too old and inconsistent to defend Jenna in a new case, in which she is accused of shooting Sirius Kohl—her CFO, her COO, the owner of 48% of PDRT, and, it turns out, the lover who was about to turn on her. Keera agrees to take it on, though that's not a decision she makes lightly, since from the time they were in school together, she's regarded Jenna as a narcissistic liar who certainly could have shot Kohl. The victim's daughter, PDRT general counsel Adria Kohl, certainly thinks she did, and she's willing to say whatever it takes to put Jenna away for good this time. With a mountain of circumstantial evidence against Jenna, Keera has her work cut out for her. Dugoni draws freely on a celebrated real-life criminal trial interested readers will identify within the opening pages, but the nerve-racking changes he brings to the trials of the defense are entirely his own.

A cunning master class in why you should always trust your lawyer, and what it'll cost you if you do.

Courtesy of Kirkus Reviews