



## **R is for Ricochet**

*Sue Grafton*

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Reba Lafferty was a daughter of privilege, the only child of an adoring father. Nord Lafferty was already in his fifties when Reba was born, and he could deny her nothing. Over the years, he quietly settled her many scrapes with the law, but he wasn't there for her when she was convicted of embezzlement and sent to the California Institution for Women. Now, at thirty-two, she is about to be paroled, having served twenty-two months of a four-year sentence. Nord Lafferty wants to be sure she stays straight, stays at home and away from the drugs, the booze, the gamblers." "It seems a straightforward assignment for Kinsey: babysit Reba until she settles in, make sure she follows all the rules of her parole. Maybe all of a week's work. Nothing untoward - the woman seems remorseful and friendly. And the money is good." But life is never that simple, and Reba is out of prison less than twenty-four hours when one of her old crowd comes circling round.

### **R is for Ricochet Details**

Date : Published (first published July 13th 2004)

ISBN :

Author : Sue Grafton

Format : Kindle Edition 380 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Crime

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## From Reader Review R is for Ricochet for online ebook

### Jeff says

I've read some of Grafton's other works and liked some (especially early on in the alphabet series), but this one left me asking the question: Why doesn't someone edit this woman's work? The amount of exposition and background info added to this book is almost Melvillian (the 19th century whaling industry - fascinating, no?). Pages and pages of background on money laundering pigeon-holed into casual conversation.

Warning: I wouldn't recommend listening to this on audio book while driving. You're welcome!

Plus, she's drained every ounce of quiriness from her supporting cast. How much more humor can there be in the sex life of a 90 year old man? The answer would probably make me blanch.

So much nitpicking, which is a shame because she has/had a knack for story, dialogue and characterization.

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### pinknantucket says

What I shame this book wasn't "C is for Corpse" (an earlier Sue Grafton novel) so I could make a clever joke about what the novel really should have been called. I can think of several derogatory words that begin with C, but none that start with an R. The best I can think of off the top of my head is "R is for Ratshit", which is kind of cheating.

Yes, I was less than impressed with this latest effort by Sue Grafton in her alphabetically-themed adventures of her heroine Kinsey Millhone, a private investigator. Why? Because it really is INCREDIBLY DULL. And Kinsey is also INCREDIBLY DULL. This is meant to be a thriller detective novel – what do I care whether Kinsey goes jogging, unless something interesting happens along the way? What do I care about the romantic problems suffered by her 80-year old neighbour? What do I care about the precise details of her outfit? Well, I'll tell you – NOTHING. This book really made me suspicious that the whole female-private-eye genre is nothing more than Mills and Boon in disguise – the word "frisson" even lurked in one sentence, ready to shock the unwary reader believing she was reading a hard-nosed feminist text. Okay okay, maybe that's going a bit far, Kinsey is certainly much more liberated than the average Mills and Boon heroine, BUT THE AVERAGE MILLS AND BOON NOVEL IS MORE INTERESTING THAN THIS. Maybe I was just crabby when I read this novel...perhaps if I'd been a fan of the whole series right from "A is for Aardvarkshit" (not the real title) I would be more enthusiastic about the adventures (or not) of Kinsey Millhone. Gee, I can't wait for "Z is for Zebrashit" to come out...

The only interesting thing about this novel is that it is set in the 1980s, Grafton deciding not to age her characters in real time. And that's only interesting for its novelty value – how many other novels do you know deliberately set in the 1980s? Pity Grafton didn't chuck in a bit more Duran Duran and Milli Vanilli – that could have spiced things up a bit.

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### Dale says

## Should have been titled "S is for Slow" or "T is for Tedious"

*Published in 2004 by Random House Audio*

*Read by Judy Kaye*

*Duration: 11 hours, 33 minutes*

"Occasionally I'm simply a minor character in someone else's play." -Kinsey Millhone.

**R is for Ricochet** really is an appropriate title for this one since, like a misfired bullet that bounces around and hits uninvolved bystanders, Kinsey gets caught up in a client's mess and nearly gets herself killed.

Set in July of 1987, this is one really slow-developing book. Lots of detailed descriptions of Kinsey's clothing, her client's clothing, the bad guy's clothing, Kinsey's thought processes about her clothing choices, the clothing of the IRS agent in the story, the clothing of a witchy rich lady, the clothing of Kinsey's love interest, the clothing a stripper wears to work, shopping malls, the clothing they look at in the shopping mall, hotel hallways, hotel lobbies, streets, and two separate descriptions of the same office hallway all make it one boring audiobook experience.

Now, don't get me wrong - the reader (Judy Kaye) does a tremendous job of giving each individual character a distinct voice and she captures Kinsey's wisecracking side perfectly, but this story cannot be saved by a great presentation. It is too slow and it should have been about one-half as long. I listen to audiobooks as a diversion as I drive. Many times I had to turn this "diversion" off so I would not fall asleep and careen off the road. It is not saved by the fact that the book does pick up the pace at the end - all that did was make me wonder why we had to lollygag through the first 80% of the book.

<http://dwdsreviews.blogspot.com/2012/...>

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## Jerry B says

Millhone in classic form, almost outshined by Reba !

As with many of Sue Grafton's easy-reading tales about Santa Teresa private eye Kinsey Millhone, the book starts out pretty slow with Kinsey accepting a straightforward assignment to escort home a newly released parolee from women's prison, Reba Lafferty. The latter is an appealing young woman with fresh ideas and habits, including a past penchant for light drugs, booze, gambling, and her former boss Beck. That she landed in the slammer by pleading guilty to embezzlement was a bit of a surprise as it didn't really seem her specialty. Anyhow, it doesn't take Reba long to re-engage most of her old habits, including sex with the boss! What follows is a bit of a cat and mouse game between her and Kinsey, who tries in vain to keep things on the up and up. The plot per se revolves around Beck's money laundering scheme and whether Reba will testify for the Feds against him. Some more surprises unfold as the story heats up, and ere it's over the women are embroiled in a murder and several nasty crosses and double crosses. Somewhat conveniently, the cops, especially in the form of Cheny Phillips, who to our shock has several sexual liaisons with (the normally not-by-choice celibate!) Kinsey, save the day, but not before quite a few twists and turns entertain us until the final gasps. Even Kinsey, in her usual brief epilogue, admits Reba just might have been the star of this yarn, and indeed rooting for her was much of the fun.

We have no doubt both fans and those newer to Grafton will enjoy this book. If a bit less of the road navigation details, wardrobe analysis, and octogenarian romantic foibles of landlord Henry and his relatives could be pared down (a frequent quibble with this series), we just might have one of the better light

mysteries of the year. Meanwhile, a nice summertime read for deck or beach!

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## Ron says

Having read the first 17, this is beginning to feel like being forced to try all 26 flavors at the ice cream store. The first few were good, the next few, not as much, then the experience eventually slides down into a force feeding totally devoid of enjoyment. Its not that her writing is any worse (or any better, really) than before, its the same, or at least it feels that way to me. I still like the lead, Kinsey Millhone, but this is now like watching Simon & Simon episodes. The plot tricks have all been used and reused by now, so we are left with the writing and characters, both of which seem to have devolved in some way to a more juvenile version of their earlier forms. I like Grafton, I like Kinsey, Im just starting to not like these books.

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## Susan says

A definite winner! This was a page-turner for me. It's July 1987, a few weeks after Kinsey's 37th birthday. Kinsey (Grafton?) opens philosophically:

"The basic question is this: given human nature, are any of us really capable of change? The mistakes other people make are usually patently obvious. Our own are tougher to recognize. In most cases, our path through life reflects a fundamental truth about who we are now and who we've been since birth. We're optimists or pessimists, joyful or depressed, gullible or cynical, inclined to seek adventure or to avoid all risks. Therapy might strengthen our assets or offset our liabilities, but in the main we do what we do because we've always done it that way, even when the outcome is bad...perhaps especially when the outcome is bad." (1)

Kinsey takes on what seems on the surface to be a simple case making sure an ex-con (Reba Lafferty) checks in with her parole officer on time and has a smooth transition from the California women's correctional facility to life on the "outside." Of course, nothing with Kinsey is ever simple. She ends up helping the IRS, FBI and other federal agencies solve an elaborate money-laundering scheme happening right in Kinsey's hometown.

A subplot of "R" is Kinsey's love life: brief reflections on most recent "boyfriend" Dietz and her ex-husbands and then a new involvement with Cheney Phillips, a law enforcement officer she's known for years and worked with a couple of years earlier. When she sees him at Reba's parole officer's office, Kinsey explains, "When I heard he'd gotten married, I'd moved his name, in my mental Rolodex, from a prominent place near the front to a category I labeled 'expunged without prejudice' near the back of the file." (44) When she discovers Cheney's recent marriage is over after only five weeks, she's interested in following the chemistry between them.

Turns out the opening philosophical passage sets the scene for more than one character in "R."

Kinsey charges \$500 a day for PI work. Her favorite author is John le Carré. She still craves McDonald's QPs with cheese. She's a member of AAA and loves to pick up strip maps for a trip even when she knows where she's going.

When she gets herself in a life-threatening situation near the end, I'm reminded again how much safer she will be once she has a cell phone. But that's a few years away. Remember...in Kinsey time it's still 1987.

## **Zoey says**

Another great addition to the Kinsey series. I liked that her & Cheney seem to be becoming involved, I hope for Kinseys sake he stays around :)

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## **Kara Jorges says**

Things are slow for Santa Teresa PI Kinsey Millhone, when wealthy Nord Lafferty hires her to pick up his daughter from prison and keep her company for a couple of days. Reba Lafferty is on parole after doing 22 months for embezzlement. Things seem to be fine until Kinsey catches Reba using her as a beard to meet her married lover, who also happens to be the ex-employer she supposedly stole \$350,000 from. Reba seems thrilled to be back in Beck's arms until an overzealous FBI agent slips her some compromising photos of him and her supposed best friend, Onni. At the same time Reba's life seems about to spin out of control, Kinsey is approached by attractive cop, Cheney Phillips, who wants her to talk Reba into giving evidence against Beck for money laundering. Kinsey had a thing for Cheney once, but he ran off and got married. Now, however, Cheney is single again, and Kinsey gives in to the attraction immediately.

The love interest definitely picked up the story, but I found Cheney annoyingly bossy, and Kinsey irritatingly obedient. While professing some personal interest in Reba Lafferty's well being, at a word from Cheney she stops taking her calls. Amazingly, Reba goes off the deep end, after some help from the FBI who prodded her into action and then couldn't be bothered to meet with her. Kinsey may have been able to keep an eye on her, which was what she had been hired to do, except she was following her lover's orders instead of doing her job. She then does the cops' job for them—unpaid—tracking Reba down after they completely mishandled her case, and winds up right where she wasn't supposed to be—right in the middle of Reba's dangerous drama.

The last few books in this series weren't all that much fun, but this one felt more like the earlier Kinsey Millhone mysteries with a touch of humor and humanity. Unfortunately, her on-again off-again treatment of Reba bugged me, as well as her willingness to let the big, strong man she had let into her bed tell her what to do. It would have been just as easy to weave the same elements into this story, and more in line with Kinsey's personality, had she not followed orders. That complaint aside, this was a pretty good book, and it's nice to see some life back in this series.

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## **Benjamin Thomas says**

It's hard to believe I'm up to number 18 in this series. In many ways it seems like I just started reading them but to me, they are comfortable reads now and it's like visiting old friends every time I read one.

This time that seemed even truer. The story revolves around Reba Lafferty, the 32 year old daughter of a rich businessman. She may have been born to riches but she has burned the candle at both ends for most of her life. As a result she has served a ~ 2 year prison term for embezzlement, taking the rap for her boss/boyfriend. The beginning of the novel finds our protagonist, Kinsey Millhone, being hired by the rich elderly father to simply pick up his daughter from prison as she is about to be paroled and then to "watch

over” her for a few days until she gets her life back together. Easy money. Of course it isn’t that simple and Kinsey gets dragged into adventures beyond her expectations.

This could almost be classified as a thriller rather than a mystery. Kinsey as well as the reader recognizes who the good guys/bad guys are from near the beginning and it is only a matter of time before the situation resolves. The only question is Reba. As much as we are pulling for her, she certainly skirts the law in pursuit of her sense of “justice” and we tag along for the ride and wonder if she will go too far.

Another enjoyable entry in the series. I know some reviewers dislike the day-to-day life aspects we see of Kinsey that don’t have much to do with the case but I am reading these in order and enjoy the way the larger, multi-volume story arcs play out. For that to happen effectively we need to see what is happening outside the case itself.

Still reading these at a rate of 4 per year to time the ending to line up when “Z” is published.

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### **Gini says**

Very disappointing addition to this series - hardly any action and a unimaginative plot

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### **Quenya says**

So I admit I had issues with Kinsey in this one. I would have left Reba to her own devices long before Kinsey. I just didn’t understand her need to make sure Reba was okay or what she was thinking in going along with Reba’s dumb ass antics. I also didn’t like the focus on Kinsey’s love life. I never feel as though any of these guys are going to be in Kinsey’s life for the long-term so I don’t see why need to invest so much time with them.

The case interesting and really brought to light how much people of a certain class are allowed the freedom to get away with stuff. It also showed that it doesn’t matter how much money or “class” someone has they can still be a criminal or a greedy bitch. I do like the ingenuity that Sue Grafton uses to bring new cases into Kinsey’s orbit. Very rarely is it just some stranger walking in the door to ask for Kinsey’s help. I liked seeing more of Henry and his relationship because it showed that you can learn something about yourself at any age.

I know this isn’t much of a review but that is about all I have.

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### **Carol says**

I love the alphabet series, but this is not her best. Its okay, but most of the others are far better.

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### **James says**

### **Book Review**

4 out of 5 stars to R is for Ricochet, the 18th book in the "Kinsey Millhone" mystery series, written in 2004 by Sue Grafton. Another great book in this series, I enjoyed the different type of case Kinsey took on. A wealthy man wants to ensure his daughter is on her best behavior while she gets out on parole after a few years. Her wild side seems to have quieted down while in jail, and Kinsey needs the money. So... she takes the case -- mistake #1. Then she realizes her case is not a calm woman looking to start new after getting sprung from the slammer... as she's just being dragged back into the crazy again. That's mistake #2. You'll have to read the book to know mistakes 3 and 4 (there are two of them!), but I'm comfortable saying the plot and the characters in this one feel as though Grafton kicked it up a notch. I really like this series and am hoping to pick back up at V as soon as I finish a few more reviews. You should give this one a chance. There are only 26 books to read! :)

### **About Me**

For those new to me or my reviews... here's the scoop: I read A LOT. I write A LOT. And now I blog A LOT. First the book review goes on Goodreads, and then I send it on over to my WordPress blog at <https://thisismytruthnow.com>, where you'll also find TV & Film reviews, the revealing and introspective 365 Daily Challenge and lots of blogging about places I've visited all over the world. And you can find all my social media profiles to get the details on the who/what/when/where and my pictures. Leave a comment and let me know what you think. Vote in the poll and ratings. Thanks for stopping by.

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### **Laura says**

I heard about this series on Central Standard (NPR) and thought I'd give it a go. The good news first. Grafton choose to set the entire series in the 1980's. It takes sleuthing to a level I haven't seen since Magnum PI. Detective Milhorne often stops by the office to check her message machine, she uses phone books and pay phones, and she uses resources at the library to find facts! Fun, fun!

Now the bad news. Mystery authors walk a fine line with their readers. Make the mystery too difficult to piece together and we complain that not enough was left to the reader. Make the mystery too obvious and we not only feel insulted, but we also lose faith in our crime solving protagonist. Sadly, the latter is the case with this novel and I found myself disappointed in Detective Milhorne. Three times she had to be clued into an important connection in the case (which I'm sure was written for the reader but makes our detective look stupid). Further, I seldom saw her do any type of sleuthing. In fact it was another character that did most of the detective work. I think detective Milhorne should have a chat with author Sue Grafton about making her look bad.

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### **Randee Baty says**

This is a very different story from the previous Kinsey stories and it's gotten some bad reviews because of that but it's in the top 5 for me. It's clever and kept my curiosity up through the whole story.

Kinsey has been hired by an elderly gentleman to pick up his 30 year old daughter, Reba, from the Correctional Institute for Women after doing 2 years for embezzlement. He wants her to get the daughter home and settled, then her job is done. Of course, we know it won't end there. Turns out, Reba was working with her employer when the money disappeared and they are heavily involved with money laundering. The FBI is after them and wants Reba to turn on her former boss. The way this all plays out makes a a clever story, in my opinion. There is no murder mystery here but the story we do have is great.

We have two other side issues going on. Kinsey's relationship with Cheney and Henry's relationship with his brothers and the woman he's interested in. They keep Kinsey feeling like a real person in a real world.

Yes, this is not the same type of story we've had in the past but it's one of the best.

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