



Brutality

Ingrid Thoft

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Gutsy, relentless, wisecracking P.I. Fina Ludlow is back with her most hard-hitting case yet in the critically acclaimed series by Ingrid Thoft.

When soccer mom Liz Barone is attacked in her kitchen and left with a life-threatening injury, Fina Ludlow is hired by Liz's mother to identify her attacker. It's unusual for Fina to take a case that isn't connected to the family firm, Ludlow and Associates, but Liz was in the process of suing her alma mater, New England University—a suit that could be a legal gold mine.

Twenty years earlier, Liz was an NEU soccer star known for her physical toughness; however, a serious cognitive decline has soured her soccer memories. She's convinced that her aggressive style of play—and the university's willingness to ignore head injuries in favor of a win—has put her health and her future in jeopardy, and someone needs to be held responsible.

Was Liz attacked to stop her lawsuit, or were there other secrets in the seemingly innocent woman's life? Fina convinces her father and boss, Carl, to take the case, and discovers that wading into the financially lucrative and emotionally charged world of collegiate sports requires nerves of steel. As the list of suspects grows and hidden agendas are revealed, Fina wonders if any game is worth the price.

Brutality Details

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Author : Ingrid Thoft

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From Reader Review Brutality for online ebook

Jonathan says

Excellent. I love Fina and the rest of the Ludlows.

Betsy says

I received Brutality by Ingrid Thoft in a giveaway sponsored by the publisher. Review is unbiased.

Brutality is the third book in the Fina Ludlow series. Fina is entertaining as she was in the first two books. She is a tough-no-nonsense character who sticks with it until she solves the case. Her family is a complete trip especially her clueless Mom. Fantastic story. Will definitely continue on with the series. 4 stars

Larry says

I really do love the Fina Ludlow series. What a great and fun read! Fina is a P.I. in Boston who comes from a powerful family that owns a huge law firm. Never becoming a lawyer herself - she proves invaluable to the family firm whether investigating cases for it or on her own cases that wrap around to the firm one way or another. The family dynamics are one of the things I love about these novels. I swear I want to throttle Fina's cold and clueless mother. The recurring cast of characters of family and friends makes reading a new addition to the series feel like you are catching up with old friends. That's a great accomplishment for the author. That said, this a great thriller standing on its own. Yes, reading the first two in the series is something I recommend because they too are great and you get a richer insight into the dynamics of all the characters. But it is not necessary. Ingrid Thoft deftly provides just enough background so that you can pick up Brutality and enjoy a smart, well-written, often funny, thrilling ride with lots of twists and turns. This one is great. It opens with a mother who has been attacked in her kitchen, left in a coma. She happened to have been initiating a lawsuit against her university for cognitive damages she claims were caused by playing soccer with concussions years ago. And then it is off and running. Only bad thing - I read it too fast and now have to wait for the next one to be published.

Lisa says

Another FANTASTIC Fina Ludlow adventure by Ingrid Thoft!!! Fina is the best PI out there, she's smart, sassy and lives the life people would dream of living!! She takes on the case of Liz Barone, who is attacked in her own home. Many have reasons to want Liz dead, her boss, her colleagues and a few others with whom she is involved. She believes the cognitive issues she is experiencing were caused during her college days at NEU playing soccer, and was making the decision to sue her alma mater when she was attacked. Fina's family, friends and her "cop friends" are once again featured giving Fina other situations to deal with while trying to solve her case. Can't wait for Fina's next case!!

Marylene says

I thought this book was good...i might have even gone with 3 and a half stars if that was allowed, but i could not go to 4. I just think there were too many side stories that didnt really go anywhere. I'm not too sure why the story with the aunt with cancer came into the story. I did like hearing about her side relationships. The main story kept me guessing and thats what made me really like the book. Is there another book coming along for the lawsuit? thats what i was left thinking about that part of the story, because it just ended with out answers... I could say so much, but will end here. Overall, it was a pretty good book.

Janet says

A new Ingrid Thoft book is like a big box of chocolates wrapped up with a bow. A complete treat. Suspenseful, funny, and warm all at the same time. I want to be friends with Fina, the heroine of this series. Flawed yet like able, she is relatable and smart, which makes this series so fun to read.

Carole Murphy says

I eagerly awaited this book, having read "Loyalty" and "Identity." As w/the others, I couldn't put this down. Fina is up to her ears in a death, deceit, lies, an attempt on her life, her family (esp. her mother and Rand who now has a girlfriend w/two young girls), and her love life possibly getting serious. If you haven't read any of Thoft's other "Fina" series, start w/the first. If you have, pick this up when you have a few hours to spend turning pages because you won't want to stop reading.

Sue Em says

If you enjoy a good P.I. story, you have to read Ingrid Thoft's Fina Ludlow series. Rooted in the Dashiell Hammett and Ross MacDonald tradition, Fina is younger, hipper and female but the intricacies of plot and characters hark back to the golden age of mystery. Get on the bandwagon now, and just hope that Thoft has many more stories to tell.

Cinsai Hola says

A couple of years ago, I was lucky enough to nab the ARC of Ingrid Thofts' first Fina Ludlow mystery. Today I finished the latest (#3) in the series, and it's only getting better. I thoroughly enjoy the way Fina unravels the mystery. She's such an incredible creation, tough, funny, extremely competent, as well as being compassionate and fierce. All these qualities shine through in Ms. Thofts' writing. My only caveat would be, this particular story had alot going on and, consequently, took a bit longer to wrap up towards the end. I was, luckily, enjoying it, so it wasn't a huge setback. However, it was a bit of a bummer that I didn't get to see everyone get their due, or figure out, truly, how the lawsuit was going to ruin so many people that everything unfolded just so. Small small complaint to an otherwise sparkling story!

Delta says

It's been a while since I've read a mystery novel that actually held my attention the whole way through. Throft's writing kept me reading long into the night. Fina's techniques for getting information are fun and/or thrilling and I'm so into it.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Nancy says

Ingrid Thoft's Fina Ludlow, investigator for her family's Boston law firm, takes on a case of her own in the third book in the series. When Liz Barone, a former collegiate soccer player, is assaulted in her kitchen and left with life-threatening injuries, her mother hires Fina with the grudging consent of Liz's husband. Fina, as snarky as ever and downing more junk food than Brenda Johnson of *The Closer*, suspects the attack on Liz may have been motivated by her lawsuit against New England University, where Liz played soccer and now works as a researcher. She's not wrong, but many people have a stake in Liz's allegations that her recent memory loss resulted from playing soccer with a concussion.

from *On a Clear Day I Can Read Forever*

Carole Anderson says

I love this author! This was another mystery solved by Fina Ludlow. She cracks me up! I love her sense of humor, her integrity and loyalty to those she loves. The story was very good, too, with lots of twists and turns to keep the read off card. I'm guessing there will another one and I can't wait!

Amanda says

The "Fina Ludlow" series is one of my favorites and the 3rd book "Brutality" didn't disappoint!!! :D Fina is such a great character and I loved seeing more of her other sides as this one went even more into her friendship with Risa and them dealing with Risa's biological aunt, as well as all her family drama, and her deepening relationship with Cristian. I really liked the case too and came to care about Liz's mother Bobbi and husband Jamie as well. The supporting characters with the case were great as well. Just love this series and can't wait for the 4th one!!! :D

Elaine says

I love the character of Fina so much. She is like a younger, hipper Kinsey Milhone.

I won this book in a Goodreads contest that I signed up for. Imagine my surprise when it arrived in the mail. There was no advance warning, so it was an excellent surprise.

Fina is trying to figure out who killed Liz Barone. There are so many possible suspects. She always has family drama going on while she is working on her cases. Her parents range from very difficult to impossible. She has three brothers, two she gets along with and one who is a pedophile.

Since the copy I have is an uncorrected proof, I am not sure how much I should say about the book. I do think that it will be a big hit, and no one will ever be bored while reading about Fina Ludlow.

Penny says

Brutality is another entertaining Fina Ludlow mystery, fraught with slick and slimy characters that seem bright and shiny on the outside. It's great fun to want *everyone* to be guilty! I only hope author Ingrid Thoft will allow Fina some personal growth in future books (unlike some other series with female protagonists, like Stephanie Plum or Kinsey Millhone)
