



Due Diligence

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Rachel is on top of the world. She has a wonderful new lover who likes to go to bed early and a full caseload in her flourishing St. Louis law practice. Nothing could seem less threatening to her state of personal bliss and professional prosperity than a phone call from a CPA named Bruce Rosenthal. But the straight-arrow accountant takes a brutal wrong turn on his way to an appointment in Rachel's office and winds up a victim of an accident too bad to be true. Still, Rachel refuses to do the police's work for them - until violent death pays another visit, this time claiming a victim too near and dear to Rachel to let her turn away from the scent of monstrous evil. The blood is barely dry when Rachel finds herself on a bizarre and mind-boggling trail that leads from a multinational pharmaceutical merger to the presidential campaign of Rachel's political hero - the charismatic U.S. senator from Missouri, Douglas Armstrong. What had the slain accountant discovered, buried deep in the books of the drug company, that involved the senator? How could Douglas Armstrong, whose honesty and integrity make him the last, best hope of American politics, be connected with any kind of crime? And above all, who is piling corpses in Rachel's path on every lead she follows and then targets Rachel herself, turning her from hunter to hunted by killers who will not give up until she goes down?

Due Diligence Details

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From Reader Review Due Diligence for online ebook

Pat Roberts says

This was a fun read. Rachel dodged a bullet to solve an interesting medical case.

John Sklar says

I read this for a book club but I'm so glad I did. Rachel Gold and her friends are a delight. Michael Kahn has fashioned a complex yet totally understandable and believable thriller/mystery. A simple story woven with delightful characters. I really enjoyed the dialogue and the action. I may want to go back and read some more of the Rachel Gold mysteries. There are nine of them to date with several other books to his credit.

Eric_W says

“Due diligence. Utter that dull gray phrase around a pack of corporate lawyers and watch them leer. That’s because the final tab for the due diligence in a significant transaction will easily exceed ten million dollars. Those kinds of numbers enchant even the most somber of practitioners.”

The plot revolves around an accountant who was doing due diligence on a company before a merger could take place. Rachel had received a call from him explaining he needed her advice on some details of the merger. When his body is found in the basement having gone through a trash compactor, Rachel is hired to help clean up some of the affairs and discovers an intricate web of deceit and malfeasance. Soon her investigation leads to a presidential candidate and what he might have done many decades earlier and whether doing something that might benefit millions of people but leads to the deaths of some elderly patients might be ethically suspect.

Each of Kahn’s books takes a legal issue and builds a plot around it. There’s usually some kind of list with obscure combinations of letters and numbers Rachel must decipher. While the details of the characters appear repetitive from one book to the next, I didn’t find that as disconcerting as have some readers.

Some interesting history of trademarks. I knew little of their origin and *raison d’etre*. “During medieval times, trademarks became a symbol of responsibility as the powerful guilds of Europe required their members to each use a unique mark. That way a defective product could be traced back to its maker. A trademark was thus the highly personal symbol of a single worker: when his life ended, so did his trademark. By the middle of the twentieth century, however, it had metamorphosed into the multibillion dollar world of brand-name marketing—a world where a single word, such as Xerox or Corvette or Chanel or Kodak, can be worth hundreds of millions of dollars.”

Not to mention that St. Louis became home to many brands of beers because it’s built over the top of hundreds of limestone caves. I just had to check out whether all this was a figment of Kahn’s imagination. It is not and the caves play a central role in the solution to the puzzle. Note that claustrophobic activities appear in other of Kahn’s novels. (<http://books.google.com/books?id=A-qx...>)

LJ says

DUE DILIGENCE - VG+

Kahn, Michael - 4th in Rachael Gold series

In the wake of two murders, including those of her newest client and a beloved friend, attorney Rachel Gold investigates a pharmaceutical company with ties to a presidential candidate.

Very good. A bit technical at times, but very enjoyable.

Kevin Lanahan says

This is the second Rachel Gold mystery I've read, and one of three in the local library. While I may not be in a hurry to read the next one, I will look forward to it.

Like many popular mystery series, this has a strong female lead, a cast of off-beat friends, and a basic David-vs-Goliath story line. It's like going to a chain restaurant; you are there because you don't want surprises, you just want something predictable and comfortable.

While the book is formulaic with stock characters, I'm giving it 4 stars because the author does a good job of capturing a lot of St. Louis (my hometown) in the book. While many of the names of places and businesses are changed, Kahn makes it very easy to imagine where in St. Louis the action is taking place and what kind of people Rachel is dealing with.

After taking a week or so to finish the last tome, I breezed through this in a day. It's a straight-ahead mystery story, with a silly amount of action, some silly-girl thinking, and a predictable but enjoyable ending.

If you are a St. Louisan and a mystery fan, this is a very enjoyable book. If you don't care for reading much, this is smoothly and simply written. If you like weightier books, this may be a nice palate-cleanser between those NYT critically-acclaimed novels.

Katharine Ott says

"Due Diligence" - written by Michael A Kahn and published in 1995 by Dutton Adult. A fairly good mystery.

Diana Eastwood says

Boring. I figured out whodunit half way through. It was too predictable and is now hopelessly outdated thanks to the internet. I can't believe this is a series.

Susie says

The mystery was good but my favorite part was the St. Louis setting and that he utilized multiple areas of the city (not just focused on the county). I will definitely read another one in this series!
