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Lisa Scottoline

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Mary DiNunzio has just been promoted to partner and is about to take on her most unusual case yet, brought to the firm by a thirteen-year-old genius with a penchant for beekeeping. Allegra Gardner's sister Fiona was murdered six years ago, and it seemed like an open-and-shut case: the accused, Lonnie Stall, was seen fleeing the scene; his blood was on Fiona and her blood was on him; most damningly, Lonnie Stall pleaded guilty. But Allegra believes Lonnie is innocent and has been wrongly imprisoned. The Gardner family is one of the most powerful in the country and Allegra's parents don't believe in reopening the case, so taking it on is risky. But the Rosato & Associates firm can never resist an underdog. Was justice really served all those years ago? It will take a team of unstoppable female lawyers, plus one thirteen-year-old genius, to find out.

Accused Details

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Author : Lisa Scottoline

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From Reader Review Accused for online ebook

Una Tiers says

A dud that seemed closer to YA than a mystery or thriller. Part of it was the annoying tone of the narrator, but she didn't have much to work with. I also resented the senior stereotypes. The narrator screeches throughout the book.

Karen says

So you want to read a one star review? I love Lisa Scottoline's novels. I would consider her books a must read unless it is the drivel, dreary, negatively, stereotypical bore that is Accused. WE GOT HER ITALIAN FATHER WHOSE DIALOGUE IS ALWAYS IN CAPS COS HE'S FROM ITALY AND ITALIANS IN AMERICA TALK LOUD. Her mother worries for her. Novena this and novena that over and over. We have so many Tony's that you can't keep track and they are a huge distraction. We have a lawyer - Mary - who really doesn't understand the law regardless of what kind of law it is. And she spends little time as a lawyer. Her boyfriend puts up with way too much of her crap. No wonder her best friend and fellow lawyer at the firm is having issues with her on this case. We have an african american in jail after being convicted of a crime. We have his mother and her church and another lengthy chapter filled with religion. I don't have anything against religion, but it was a hinder and not necessary. And a BLACKBERRY??? That is DEAD???? We got bees, we got fractured families, we got ziti. I couldn't wait to finish this book. It was awful. It was all over the place. It is contrived. It is painful. SHE SPELLED EVERYTHING OUT FOR US. We couldn't infer anything at anytime. And the person she considers the REAL suspect. Oh please. If you buy that, I have some land in Florida you might like to see.

Stephanie says

3.5 Stars. I really needed a good mystery and Accused delivered for me. I thought it was just a tiny bit drawn out, though, and did not find the conclusion surprising. I was really frustrated with a lot of Mary's behavior for most of the book, but she was much better by the end. I'm looking forward to reading more of this series.

Kay says

The last 30 or 40 pages were good but after reading the first 300 pages perhaps anything would have been good. I used to really like her books with the female law firm of Rosato & Associates. However, once her stories concentrated on Mary as the main character they became tedious. Of all the gals, she is my least favorite. It's almost as if Scottoline has tried to make Mary and her family similar to Stephanie Plum and her family. If she is all I can say, "It ain't working!!!"

Barbara says

This first book in the 'Rosato and DiNunzio' series is a spin-off of the author's popular 'Rosato and Associates' books.

Mary DiNunzio, a brand new partner at Rosato & Associates and a softie at heart, takes on the case of 13-year-old Allegra Gardner. Allegra's older sister Fiona was murdered six years before and Ronnie Stall, a college student who moonlighted as a waiter for Gardner family parties, was imprisoned for the crime. Allegra is convinced that Ronnie is innocent and - having come into a trust fund - decides to hire a lawyer to help him.

Allegra's parents are adamantly opposed to re-opening the case, insisting that Allegra has a destructive and misplaced obsession about justice. Nevertheless Mary forges ahead. There's a big problem however: Ronnie actually pleaded guilty to the crime.

Mary talks to Allegra's parents and relatives, Fiona's old boyfriend, Ronnie, Ronnie's mother and members of his church, etc. - in an attempt to find the truth.

Meanwhile, Mary has become engaged to her boyfriend Anthony, though she's not quite sure she wants to get married. Family and friends of the couple, however, are thrilled. This includes Mary's parents, their three friends named Tony ('the three Tonys') and Anthony's mother and brother - all very traditionally Italian. Mary's dad and the three Tonys even get peripherally involved with Allegra's case. Interactions among these folks adds a touch of humor to the plot.

The story visits favorite characters from Scottoline's previous books in a plot that's engaging and has an okay (though not totally believable) resolution. I enjoyed the book and recommend it to mystery fans.

You can follow my reviews at <https://reviewsbybarsaffer.blogspot....>

Jenn Kaplan says

I can't finish this book. I used to love Lisa Scottoline. What is going on!!!! Is she against using pronouns? Is she going for a record to see how many times she can use the same phrase over and over again.

As I was reading I kept getting more and more irked by the flow of the story. Then I realized why. It reminded me too much of the Hallmark Story Buddy books I have for my daughter. The book repeats the phrases and the character's names so that the stuffed animal will respond. Ms. Scottoline, your target audience is able to follow a plot without you writing "Mary" as often as you do, and you need to stop writing phrases like "Mary wrote a note" way too many times.

Sorry, I just couldn't deal with the shotty writing. I'm done.

Donna Taormina says

The author really tries too hard with the Italian parents schtick which was almost immediately pretty annoying. And the timeline just doesn't fit - Mary acts like such a naif so it seems like she should be in her early 30's and yet her parents are in their 80's. Just little things that either didn't add up for me or were distracting which did not bother me in the earlier books in the series. Not Scottoline's best effort.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

EXCERPT: 'I'm here about my sister. Her name was Fiona and she was murdered six years ago at a party at my father's new offices. . . The thing is, I believe they sent the wrong man to jail.'

ABOUT THIS BOOK: Mary DiNunzio has just been promoted to partner and is about to take on her most unusual case yet, brought to the firm by a thirteen-year-old genius with a penchant for beekeeping. Allegra Gardner's sister Fiona was murdered six years ago, and it seemed like an open-and-shut case: the accused, Lonnie Stall, was seen fleeing the scene; his blood was on Fiona and her blood was on him; most damningly, Lonnie Stall pleaded guilty. But Allegra believes Lonnie is innocent and has been wrongly imprisoned. The Gardner family is one of the most powerful in the country and Allegra's parents don't believe in reopening the case, so taking it on is risky. But the Rosato & Associates firm can never resist an underdog. Was justice really served all those years ago? It will take a team of unstoppable female lawyers, plus one thirteen-year-old genius, to find out.

MY THOUGHTS: 2.5 stars

I am in a bit of a quandary about this book. It was easy to listen to, didn't strain my brain, and was reasonably enjoyable. It is not something that I am going to remember. I am not going to rush out to read the next in the series, but if I came across it when I had a gap in my reading schedule, I possibly would read it. If nothing else was available.

There were a few things that irked me. A lot of the behavior of the characters was stereotyped. The behavior of Mary, who has just been made partner in a legal firm, and Judy is often childish and I often found myself wondering just how old Mary is... Her behavior and comments are often unacceptable. They were, perhaps, meant to be humorous, but they certainly didn't strike me that way. I did like Mary's name for her mother-in-law to be, Elvirus, but she too was very much stereotyped.

Overall, a very average read/ listen.

I listened to the audiobook of Accused by Lisa Scottoline, narrated by Katherine Fenton and published by Headline. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own personal opinions.

Please refer to my Goodreads.com profile page or the 'about' page on sandysbookaday.wordpress.com for an explanation of my rating system.

This review and others are also published on my blog sandysbookaday.wordpress.com
[https://sandysbookaday.wordpress.com/...](https://sandysbookaday.wordpress.com/)

Christine says

Having just made partner at Rosato & Associates the newly engaged Mary DiNunzio should be on the top of the world. Yet there is something that does not feel right and for once it is not the chaos of being in neither a large family nor, her law practice per se just the case she just took on from a thirteen year-old girl who wants to free the murderer of her sister, who coincidentally pleaded guilty.

Allegra Gardner never believed the man sentenced for the murder of her sister was the person who committed the crime and she wants Mary to find out who did. Allegra is a serious child that has been patiently waiting for her trust fund to be released to her so that she can hire a lawyer and with money and way too much intelligence Allegra knows exactly what direction to send them in, away from the convicted man. The box of insanity this client has produced starts with influential parents that do not want this reopened, a legal system that wishes to not be shamed into a wrong conviction, and Mary's partner who does not believe Allegra is credible. There are so many voices screaming that Allegra is as unbalanced as others make her out to be, but Mary does not believe them she believes in her client. With blind faith she moves forward with and without support, taking on the system that sent a man to prison for life when Mary believes there is another person responsible. All the arrows are pointing toward another direction and with while there is more wrong than right answers to questions on this case, Mary is getting closer.

Problem is the person that Mary believes may be responsible produces an alibi that appears to not be breakable, but everything has a crack in it somewhere. Mary is dogging the suspected, trying to stay connected to a personal life, and hoping to draw back in the friend she fears she may have lost.

Lisa Scottoline is the master of creating a scenario of suspense, drawing a reader in, and taking them on a journey of mystery. The characters are always ones you can relate to and wish they were your friends and family, most of the time.

Elvan says

Legal Lite

I'm not sure what to say about this book. Accused is the most recent in a long line of Rosato and Associates books by Lisa Scottoline and one which should not be read before any of the others in the series.

There have been much grittier and complex books in the series. Think Twice starring Benny Rosato was an excellent thriller as were many others in the series.

In Accused, a 15 year old girl comes to the firm asking that they hunt down the real killer of her sister and help to release a man who she believes was wrongfully charged with her sister's murder.

There are a few suspects but the story revolves most around Mary DiNunzio and her whacky Italian family. Yes, there are lots of laugh out loud moments. The wise cracks come fast and furious but the humour, the intrusive family members, the caps lock every time Mary's dad Frank speaks because all old Italian men shout when they speak, it all gets to be a bit much.

The actual case/plot for the story takes a back seat to the DiNunzio family hijinx and the three Tony's. Yeah, don't ask.

From ponderous Grisham and Sycamore Row to legal lite Accused by Scottoline, I think I am done with the legal profession for a little while.

Mike says

I found myself debating whether this was a mystery or a soap opera. Like Kinsey Milhone and Stephanie Plum, the mystery is often obscured by the personalities of the on-going characters which is meant to make the next in the series a must read. I am not sure that I will be there for the next one, but to say I did not enjoy this would be an error.

The concept of a 13 year old genius girl who knows that the wrong man is in prison for killing her sister is a compelling place for a mystery to take route. It is not blood and guts, but rather persistence that wins out and the story is as much about Allegra (13 year old) and her dysfunctional family as it is about Mary DiNuncio (lawyer) and her strange brew of family and friends.

The thread that binds all the characters is the mystery - who did the killing, is the right person in jail, how can Mary find a way past the barriers of family and wealth that stand in her way. How can she justify this potentially free case when she has just been named partner in the firm and how can she handle her engagement and the excitement that everyone feels, except her.

In the end, it was a fun book, easy and quick to read.

Amy says

This has to be my least favorite Scottoline book. It is billed as a Rosato and Associates book, but beware...it is all about Mary and her family, and Mary and her family do NOTHING to endear themselves to me. Scottoline attempts to incorporate humor with the family dynamics of Mary and Anthony's families, as well as the Tonys. It falls flat, and quite frankly ruins the storyline. Mary, who now must be in her 30's, has survived the death of her first husband and is now a partner in the firm. One would expect maturity from this character. Instead it read like she was an immature young woman, fresh out of law school, who treats her boyfriend quite horribly! I find her to be very selfish. I am weary of reading about her "guilt" and other issues. Judy, who has always been a vibrant character, was a fly on the wall - a flat fly on the wall. I found the capital letters of Mary's dad YELLING at us to be annoying. Quite frankly Mary's whole family should stay out of the story and let it be a story about the Rosato and Associates characters. If I want to read about the endearing characteristics of family dynamics, I'll read Lisa's biographical/humor books, which I do enjoy! Note: Have Mary get married in Vegas or at City Hall before the next book so I don't have to read any more about this situation.

Chris says

I was so happy when the author brought back these characters. The book is about Allegra, a 13 year old who hires the law firm to exonerate Lonnie who she believes is innocent of murdering her sister Fiona 6 years ago. Mary has just been made a partner when she meets her new client who is very bright. On the same night she gets engaged to Anthony whose mother Mary refers to as el virus. Between the running around all over the City and the burbs to help clear Lonnie's name Mary has opened a can of worms. Allegra's family is ready to have an restraining order placed on Mary and anyone that works for the firm. Allegra is committed to a psychiatric hospital because of her OCD, and Anthony's mother would be honored if Mary would wear her wedding dress when she marries her son. The book is full of action and things that will make you laugh out loud. I am definitely looking forward to re-reading Betrayed. Just to find out how this female law firm has progressed since their inception.

Robin Claire says

Lisa Scottoline needs to lose the commas in this book; perhaps she should take a look at some other options such as the period or the hyphen. I find that the semicolon also works nicely when trying to consolidate a sentence or two. She may even want to try out a few prepositions to connect her sentences. The commas are peppered throughout - much like an overly spiced dinner, the commas add distraction rather than flavor. The list goes on...I am plowing through the book but just can't seem to get over the grammatical stumbling blocks (including the use of "were" when it should read "we're").

I find that Ms. Scottoline has a hit and miss record with her books some better than others. I can't quite understand why I am still reading this one but maybe it is in the hopes that it gets better. I am not a grammar freak; however, I do freak when the grammar is this terrible.

I am not sure how Mary got to be a partner as she doesn't seem to know the law, has difficulties making decisions, and acts like an immature first year associate rather than an established attorney.

Judy has lost her passion and flair for going after the truth no matter what the consequences - bring back the old Judy.

The engagement angle is also a nuisance better left out of this story. At 30+ years old it is time to know what you want out of life. Just tell the guy to move on to a better woman.

One other problem - Allegra. The new client is a 13-year-old genius; however, she does not understand the simplest terminology (the term retainer - something a genius should definitely understand especially if she has been interviewing several law firms). Allegra seems like a teen with problems, comes across more naïve than most teens her age, and is far from the genius she touts when first introduced to the reader.

In my opinion, the book is an awkward, clumsy read with little potential. AND ONE LAST THING - ENOUGH WITH THE ITALIAN YELLING!

Jackie says

It's been a while since I've read anything by Ms. Scottoline. I remember thoroughly enjoying those books I had read. So, what has changed in the intervening years? Maybe it's me. But, then again, maybe not.

I've read a few of the reviews here on Goodreads concerning this very book. Many of them are glowing. Many of the one or two stars are only stars (nothing written) so I can only guess at the reasons for the low rating.

For me it all boiled down to the characters. I seem to remember Judy being much more vivid in personality. This time around she felt mostly peripheral. And Mary, the central character of this book, was so completely immature it was hard for me to keep reading about her. Seriously. She's been widowed (albeit shortly after her marriage at a young age) for "many years". That puts her pretty solidly to my mind in her thirties. Her maturity level felt more like late teens early twenties. So to me, it was a conflict between her behavior and her accomplishments. One doesn't get to be partner in a law firm by acting so flighty all the time. And the way she treated her fiance, Tony, was totally selfish! People treat their dogs better than that!

I don't know, it's really hard to put my finger on the root cause. Maybe the writing is just too simplistic, character development fairly absent (except for the fact that we keep hearing about Mary's impetuous nature which really translates to adolescent actions) and the plot too by-the-numbers.

I struggled with this one. It held my interest well enough. That said - I've read books written for young adults that held my interest much more.

I wish I could rate this one higher.
