



The Wages of Sin

Nancy Allen

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“The Elsie Arnold series deserves to run and run.”— **Alex Marwood**, author of *The Wicked Girls* and *The Killer Next Door*

In rural McCown County, Missouri, a young pregnant woman is found beaten to death in a trailer park. The only witness to the murder is Ivy, her six-year-old daughter, who points to her mom’s boyfriend—father of the unborn child. County prosecutor Madeleine Thompson promises the community justice, and in the Ozarks, that can only mean one thing: a death sentence.

When Madeleine’s first choice for co-counsel declines to try a death penalty case, she is forced to turn to assistant prosecutor Elsie Arnold. Elsie is reluctant to join forces with her frosty boss, but the road to conviction seems smooth—until unexpected facts about the victim arise, and the testimony of the lone eyewitness Ivy becomes increasingly crucial. Against Elsie’s advice, Madeleine brings in the state attorney general’s office to assist them, while cutthroat trial attorney Claire O’Hara joins the defense.

Elsie will not let the power of prosecution—of seeking justice—be wrested from her without a fight. She wants to win the case, and to avenge the death of the mother and her unborn child. But as the trial nears, Elsie begins to harbor doubts about the death penalty itself. Meanwhile, the child Ivy is in greater danger than anyone knows.

“Unflinching and gritty.” — **Library Journal**

The Wages of Sin Details

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Author : Nancy Allen

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From Reader Review The Wages of Sin for online ebook

Velda Hall says

Another good book.

If you've read any of Nancy Allen's book then you know their as ways a page turned you never know till the end you the real bad guys are. If you haven't tried one of her books your missing a very good book.

Trevahearne says

Definitely the ozarks

Subject matter rang true. Elsie is very flawed. No resolution to lack of services for abused women which is typical Ozarks that I knew. Good page turner but end was too quick.

Shane says

Love it, as good as Nancy's others

Nancy Allen is raw and brilliant. I love her work. This is my favorite of all her books so far. Elsie's character is beautifully flawed and real. Easily relatable.

Lelia Taylor says

How credible is a 6-year-old witness to a crime? Certainly that question has been a concern in the past and will continue to be so in the future but, in the case of Ivy's mother's boyfriend and the murder of her mother, it's really critical because the stakes of conviction are so high. Can...or should...a prosecutor seek the death penalty based on that small child's testimony even when the man confesses? After all, we all know confessions are frequently false for a variety of reasons.

There are many people who do not believe the death penalty is just or effective but many others who truly do believe it's sometimes necessary because of the nature and/or the heinousness of the crime. I won't get into my own opinion but I was captivated in The Wages of Sin by the zeal of both Madeleine and Elsie to carry this prosecution to its farthest reaches although their reasons may not be entirely altruistic.

There are other threads in this story, such as domestic violence and the effects of poverty and, together with the central issue of the death penalty, Nancy Allen has provided the reader with much to contemplate. At the same time, her characters and the Ozarks setting are as compelling as any I've seen in a while and I'm glad to have "discovered" this fine author.

Kathleen says

In *The Wages Of Sin*, the third book in the Ozarks Mysteries Series, author Nancy Allen once again draws upon her professional legal experience to weave a riveting legal thriller that captivates the reader's attention from beginning to end. Set in the small town of Barton, Missouri, in the heart of the Ozarks, the reader follows Assistant Prosecutor Elsie Arnold as she aggressively pursues and brings to trial a death penalty murder case against a man who allegedly killed his eight month pregnant girlfriend and their unborn child.

The author transports the reader into the small Ozark town of Barton with its close-knit townspeople and its many dark secrets. As McCown County Prosecutor Madeleine Thompson and Assistant Prosecutor Elsie Arnold prepare to bring the case of the State of Missouri v. Larry Paul to trial, their rocky working relationship is a big problem, and issues arise during their investigation of the murder suspect and victim, leaving one little six year old girl to help them get justice, even though danger lurks around the corner.

The Wages Of Sin is a fast-paced, multi-layered, gripping, and complex story that has a great mixture of intrigue, romance, violence, and enough suspenseful twists and turns, and richly descriptive courtroom drama that will leave the reader breathless. The reader is taken on one hell of an emotional roller coaster ride as they follow Elsie on her difficult journey, she is determined to seek justice in a convincing and brutally honest style where no one is left unscathed.

If you are a fan of legal thrillers, then I would highly recommend reading the Ozarks Mysteries Series!

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author / publisher via Edelweiss in exchange for my honest review and participation in a virtual book tour event hosted by Partners In Crime Virtual Book Tours.

<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

Etta M. says

Elsie Arnold is back—full force! Fortified by mac-n-cheese and diet Coke, she gives the court what it needs. And Nancy Allen gives us what we need! Just in time for summer reading with an edge but not too difficult to pick up by the pool, on a plane, or wherever you choose to take the time. In true Ozark's color the characters unfold as Elsie does her job with a child witness of horrific domestic abuse and murder. If you liked Allen's first two Elsie accounts, you won't be disappointed with this one. After all, the third's usually a charm, and this one is definitely Allen's best!

Kathy says

I have been a fan of Nancy Allen since her first book in the Ozark Mystery series...A Code of the Hills. She is an excellent writer who understands the court system first hand. And she is a realist. And James Patterson obviously noticed what a great author she is as well because she is his latest co-author. Already looking forward to that book.

The Wages of Sin is the third book in the Ozarks Mystery series. And it is another winner from Ms. Allen. It has some fabulous twists and turns at the end that left me breathless as I was racing toward the conclusion!

Elsie Arnold is a smart lawyer who does not take any crap from anyone. And author Allen has surrounded her with an interesting cast of characters including her boss Madeleine and boyfriend Detective Ashlock. All of the characters were fleshed out more in this latest book and they are all very multidimensional. I found that I was much more sympathetic to all of them. And my heart broke for the tiny victim Ivy...what a horrid life she had endured. And was continuing to endure.

The Ozarks drug and poverty issues are once again front and center in this latest book from Nancy Allen. She had a front seat view during her time as an Assistant Prosecutor and as the Assistant Missouri Attorney General. I feel like I am right there in the midst of the action.

The Wages of Sin is a great read and I highly recommend the Ozarks Mystery series by author Nancy Allen.

Tracy says

They just keep getting better and better, loved it! The characters are brought to life so vividly, and Elsie can always make me laugh in the midst of all the drama. Highly recommend!

Stephen says

A young pregnant mother, Jesse Dent is murdered and the police pretty much knew who did it.....a meth dealer named Larry Paul. They have him in custody and are going to charge him. But an aggressive defense attorney is planning to say there are no reliable witnesses. Elsie Arnold, the assistant DA has been assigned the case by her boss, Madeline Thompson. Madeline is not an easy person to work with and Elsie is not comfortable with the situation. It is a death penalty case so there is much on the table. it now appears that there is a witness....the murdered woman's 6 year old daughter , Ivy , who witnessed the murder.

Can the prosecution protect the witness and how reliable will she be ? In the background is Larry's partner , Bruce Stout and his mother , Nell who is determined that the one witness disappear. This fast paced story keeps the action going a rapid clip.

What may start out at a measured pace easily becomes a page turner . This is the third in Nancy Allen's ' Ozark Mystery ' series! The site of this story is in Barton, Missouri , the heart of the Ozarks.

Taria Dees says

Great read

Great story line. Kept my interest. Believable characters. Anxious to read more by this author. I really enjoyed this book

Randall Allen says

Wow! Awesome read!

Joan says

This thought provoking novel provides a look at the legal system in a rural Ozark county. It is not so much a thriller as it is an exploration of personalities and court proceedings.

The plot centers around the death of a pregnant woman and unborn child. She had been beaten to death by her boyfriend, high on drugs. Witness to the murder was the woman's six year old child, Ivy. When the man confesses to the murder, a conviction seems secure. The county prosecutor decides to go for the death penalty. When her first choice as co-counsel declines to participate, she turns to assistant prosecutor Elsie Arnold. The two do not have a friendly relationship and their personalities flare as the case moves forward.

I like a novel that, while being a good novel on legal procedure, also gives me much to think about. The major issue in this novel is the death penalty. The prosecutor views this crime as so horrible that the death penalty is appropriate. It's still in place in Missouri. Her first choice for co-counsel is totally opposed to such punishment and refuses to work on the case. That aspect of the novel made me think again of my own view on the death penalty.

Another issue the novel highlighted was the responsibility of the police in cases of domestic abuse. There had been previous police calls to this couple because of violence yet no action had been taken. That made me think about the whole issue of domestic abuse and how effective the police are in preventing further harm to battered women.

And yet another issue concerned the relationships between the residents in the county. Some had lived their whole lives there and many alliances had been formed protecting those breaking the law. That can pose a serious problem in the legal system when individuals charged with convicting or defending a person have long standing ties to the accused.

I enjoyed reading this novel set in the rural south. The characters were well developed. My favorite was Ivy, a girl who had seen way too much of life at her tender age. Still, she was a survivor. The setting was well done. As a northerner, I was a little shocked at the behavior and language of some of the characters. I trust Allen has given us a realistic view of life in that area.

I recommend this novel to those who enjoy being taken through a legal procedure including court drama. There is a little suspense but the majority of the novel deals with personalities and how young Ivy is handled. The main characters are all women so I am not so sure if men would like reading this novel.

I received a complimentary egalley of this book through Partners in Crime Virtual Book Tours for the purpose of an independent and honest review.

Peggy says

I liked this book better then book #2, I love the plots that Nancy Allen, the trouble the Ozarks have. this is a good read.

Deborah Durbin says

I really am irritated with the main character in this series. She is so unprofessional.

Kimberly Chavez says

My Thoughts **contains possible spoilers!**:

I like author Nancy Allen, she's a good storyteller whose writing style makes the subject matter easy to understand. But even though *The Wages of Sin* can stand on its own, I think I would have benefited from reading books 1 and 2 before this one. I had a hard time connecting with Elsie and found her to be one-dimensional and perhaps not very good at her job. She forgot to interview the single most important person in her case – the eyewitness. What kind of prosecutor puts this interview off for several days, especially when your only witness is a child? She does recover from this mistake, but it just struck me as odd.

The reader knows from the beginning who is responsible for the murders and there are no big surprises during trial, so this isn't a typical mystery. The verdict is assured, not because the prosecution is so good, but because the defense has other priorities in mind. The final chapters are exciting, and the ending is satisfying, finally bringing justice for the senseless murder of a pregnant woman and her unborn child.

I enjoyed the passages written from Ivy's perspective and was dismayed to think about how much this six year old has seen in her short life that she should never have been exposed to at any age. It would be nice to see her make an appearance in a later book as a young adult and see how her life turns out. This is one girl who can overcome a tragic childhood and become a successful adult!
