



The Candidate

Josie Brown

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Seduction and intrigue are rampant on the campaign trail when a political campaign adviser discovers that Washington's power broker elite have embroiled his presidential candidate in a plot involving an act of terrorism on US soil...

SYNOPSIS

Democratic political campaign consultant Ben Brinker can't remember the last time he was excited by a candidate's vision. He feels he's lost his way, both emotionally and professionally. Worst yet, his show-me-the-money policy seems to have finally caught up with him. Two of his recent clients have been disgraced in one way or another: a senator is caught in lurid sex scandal, and a congressman is indicted in a kickback scheme. In no time at all the political pundits are calling Ben a "candidate cooler." Now Ben is desperate for any campaign gig he can get.

As luck would have it, Andrew Harris Mansfield, the charismatic junior senator from North Carolina and former Marine pilot, asks Ben if he wants to run his soon-to-be-announced campaign for president.

Little does Ben know what's in store for Andrew, or their country--

Nor does he realize that the key to saving both have been placed in his hands...

The Candidate Details

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From Reader Review The Candidate for online ebook

Christy says

Ben Brinker has made his career being a Democratic campaign strategist. His history has been that of bad luck - he is usually aligned with candidates who have some sort of dirty laundry that is aired publicly while campaigning. That is, until what appears to be squeaky clean Replubican Senator Andy Mansfield declares his bid to be the next US President. After Ben's candidate's laundry is aired to Katie Couric on national TV, Ben is offered the opportunity to jump the democratic ship and befriends Mansfield and his wife, Abby. The Candidate is the story of what happens on the campaign trail, filled with lies, deceit, politics, scandal, love and murder, just to name a few. Ben falls for Abby's twin sister - who happens to be the black sheep of the family. The Mansfield's have the perfect marriage from the outside, but secrets come to light as the voting draws nearer. How will these secrets affect the campaign, and how will it affect Ben's life, both personally & professionally?

Josie captured my attention with this story from the very beginning. I got mad at myself because I had to put this book down to sleep at night. I wanted to finish it all - without taking a break! I am not a political person, and I was afraid that this would be more political jargon and less of a good story...but I was SO wrong. I enjoyed it, and I'm looking forward to reading more Josie Brown in the future!!

Sharisse Coulter says

I love a great political suspense story and The Candidate didn't let me down. Josie Brown blends politics, sex and corruption into a twisting narrative that contains just the right blend of suspense and intelligent storytelling that kept me reading way past my bedtime. If you love the show Scandal, you'll love this book.

Geoff Hunton says

Awesome

Great read that has me waiting for the release of the second book in the series with great anticipation for sure;

Georgie says

Potentially, there are some good things in here, and I read the first part with interest.

After a bit, though, the multiple plot lines get in the way - there's reviving a failing career, running an underdog's election campaign, a love affair with a woman who won't be tied down, falling in love with the boss's wife, twin substitution, corrupt politicians, international terrorism etc etc etc. Because there isn't room for any one line to be fully developed, the result is that each feels rushed and skimped.

Josie Brown writes competently, and if she'd developed just one or two plot lines, the book would have flowed well. All of them together unfortunately gave me indigestion.

Ann says

Wild! Didn't care much for it at first, must be due to my lack of fondness for politicians. And this bk will REALLY mess with your trust issues with that crowd. Such a nasty group of players. So I'm reading along kinda feeling ho-hum on this one and WHAM!! I hit the 57% mark and WOW did this story take off on a wild roller coaster ride I never saw coming. I'm talking a total WTF kinda thing!!! Exciting and fast paced at the point. No spoilers. You've got to read this one for yourself. More focus on the suspense/thriller than romance but yes there's still an HEA. Have to say the romance was a turn off for me. Parts of the story were totally unbelievable (especially the ending) but suspenseful, often a bit creepy and very entertaining. This was a free read and I'm just so incredibly surprised at how it all turned out. Talk about a thrill ride. Whew!

Gonna have to go with 3.5 for the suspense/thriller part of the story and the element of total surprise.

Aimee says

I am a huge fan of Josie Brown and I have been hooked on her Totlandia series, so I was very excited to read something a bit more mysterious and dark from this author. The Candidate had twists and turns that I certainly didn't see coming and it kept me reading on the edge of my seat the entire time. If you are looking for a book that is packed full of romance, suspense, and mystery, than I promise you, you won't be disappointed with this book. I absolutely LOVED it!

Gail Chianese says

Full review at <http://www.gailchianese.com/blog>

Heather Lecus says

I loved this book. I enjoy Josie Brown's books and love political thrillers. This book combines both and I could not put it down. I received and read this book in only a few hours and was sad that it ended because I wanted to keep reading about Ben and Abby

Gail says

Loved this book even though I am not a big politics fan. Lots of twists and turns. More please

Mary (BookHounds) says

MY THOUGHTS

ABSOLUTELY LOVED IT

Ben is a Democratic political consultant, with his career quickly unraveling, when he gets a phone call from a Republican candidate. After seeing himself on all the cable news shows as essentially a loser, he takes the position with Andrew Harris Mansfield, directing the young, superstar senator's quest for the presidency. Andrew's wife, Abby, has a trust fund equivalent to a small nation. Abby is actually the one who wants Ben on their side and with wise counsel to her husband, they are the perfect political couple with no known skeletons. As Ben becomes closer to the couple, he discovers the girl he is lusting after is actually Abby's twin sister, Maddy.

Ben is told to leave Maddy alone, both by Abby and Ben, although he can't figure out why. Maddy has a bad girl past and even she doesn't want a serious relationship. He also finds that she has an old boyfriend lurking in the wings. As the pair become closer, he also becomes the victim of a hacking scandal by the current Vice President (think evil Cheney), also on the campaign trail. Ok, I just gave away a bit of the plot detail here but the twists and turns of this one will make you want to read this one quickly. The hacking scandal is only the tip of the iceberg. Everything seems so true to life, especially with what is happening with all of the leaks in the news right now.

This is amazing. I always think I know where a plot like this is going, you know, identical twins, evil Vice President, but this caught me way off guard. I was surprised by the turns this one took. If you have never read a book by Brown before, you need to and this would be an excellent start. I adore all of her books and she can take characters to places most authors only dream about. I am really glad that she seems to put something out every three months or so since I would really have withdrawals.

Connie says

I have read several of Josie Brown's books and have yet to be disappointed. I really enjoyed the blend of suspense, corruption and romance wrapped up in politics. The characters are all well developed and relatable. I felt that the plot probably isn't too unlikely in today's political environment either. I was engrossed in the book right from the start. In fact, I would say that I did not read this one, but devoured it!

Vicky says

I liked the plot twists but the writing was not up to the standards of Josie Brown's earlier books such as *Secrets Lives of Husbands and Wives*. A weak 3 stars (more like 2 1/2).

GINGER DEVINE says

Fun drama, sex, murder

All of the above. Josie Brown keeps on giving. Masterful plot keeps you guessing. The story takes political back stabbing and greed to a new. Lowdown level. Family and blood can create monsters that should die.
