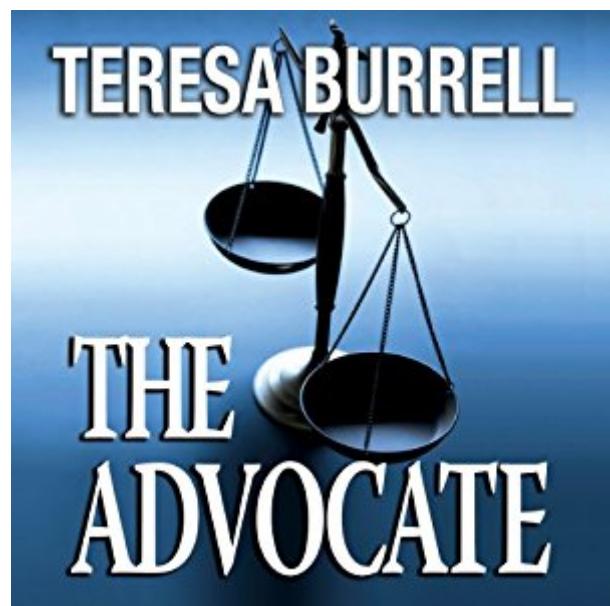


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# The Advocate: The Advocate, Book 1



## **Synopsis**

For Sabre Orin Brown, life is good; she has it all...or would have, if only she could solve the mysterious disappearance of her brother. The search for her brother and her career as a juvenile-court attorney collide when she defends a nine-year-old whose father will go to any length to obtain custody. Sabre finds herself immersed in a case with too many unanswered questions. Her quest for the truth takes her coast to coast and five years into the past. Confronted with mysterious clues and strange occurrences, Sabre is threatened by someone wanting to make her suffer the unbearable anguish of losing everything - including her life. As Sabre's passion to find the answers intensifies, she discovers a twisted history of desperation, deceit, and revenge. And she discovers how obscure and treacherous the truth can be. The Advocate, a legal-suspense murder mystery, is the first book in The Advocate Series. Three characters continue throughout the series, Sabre Orin Brown, defense attorney; her investigator, J.P. Torn; and her colleague Bob Clark. The Advocate is followed by The Advocate's Betrayal, The Advocate's Conviction, The Advocate's Dilemma, and The Advocate's Ex Parte.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Need a break from stories about ivory tower law firms and want to get down and dirty in the streets? My wife is a legal thriller junkie and told me it was the best novel she read in years. I do not usually read her type of books but told her I would see how I liked it. Well I did not like it, I loved it and finished the book in three days. The story tugs on your heart while you are on the edge of your seat,

strange combination, but it works and works well.

I actually met the author in a Barnes & Nobel and bought this book partly so as not to hurt her feelings by turning her down. I didn't read the book for two years later. I am a Sue Grafton fan, so I couldn't help but compare The Advocate to Grafton's Kinsey Millhone series. The Advocate was every bit as good as Grafton's early stories and I enjoyed it very much. Obviously, as a series progresses there is more development and one becomes more attached to the on-going characters. I look forward to reading the next two books in the Advocate series, which I have just downloaded in E-book format.

It was a great story, and had plenty of twists and turns to keep me guessing. The viewpoint changed often, too, which helped keep my interest. Occasionally, there was a coincidence or small plot hole that was a bit stretched, but overall it was good. I also liked the fact that the author refrained from throwing in some contrived romance, but instead concentrated on the story. The writing style was a bit flat, but with more practice, I'm sure the author will improve.

After about 4-5 chapters, the dialogue is just too contrived or forced, I just couldn't read any more. After her first visit with a child, Sabre is not happy and her lawyer friend, Bob immediately says: "You'll win her heart, just as she'll win yours." This is not "man-speak", plus it's said after the briefest of details are given, so why would Bob say this? Just one example.

I'm an attorney and was really irritated at first because the description of courtroom procedures was just wrong. Even the words used to describe some of the parties and the roles of various attorneys and courtroom staff were wrong. I could get past that, though, because the legal proceedings pretty quickly became background noise thrown in just to remind the reader that main character was an attorney. You wouldn't have known otherwise because nothing she did was remotely appropriate for her role as a lawyer. This read like a first-semester creative writing class assignment. Terrible dialogue! The author should read her dialogue out loud and rewrite the parts that do not sound like sentences any human being anywhere on earth has ever or would ever utter. The depiction of the relationship between the main character, Sabre, and her friend, Bob, was goofy. They talked to each other like lovers and were constantly hugging or touching each other, which would have been fine except for the frequent mentions of Bob's wife and kids (who never appeared in the book). Here

is one example of the things in this book that irritated me: In the beginning of the book, Bob and Sabre called each other "honey" several times, but apparently that was just to set up a plot point. When another character wrote a letter that began, "Dear Honey," which was not the addressee's name, Sabre shrugged it off because she and Bob called each other "honey," but after that they never called each other "honey" again. I do admire this author's persistence in completing and publishing this book. She thought up a story that was mildly entertaining, though completely unrealistic, and got it onto paper. Perhaps a good editor could have helped her turn it into a good read. If she got some editorial help, the later books in the series might be worth reading. I'm not going to take a chance on them; I'll stick to Scott Turow for my legal thrillers.

Two books in one for me: first and last by this author. I kept hoping that it would get better but it never did. While there might be a kernel of a plausible plot somewhere in the book, I did not find it. I did find the book very disjointed and choppy. It reminded me of cheap sweater panels sewn together in a garment sweatshop. It might hang together on the rack but would you really want to invest (time or money) in it? Since I try to find something good to say in any review, there were very few typos in this book.

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