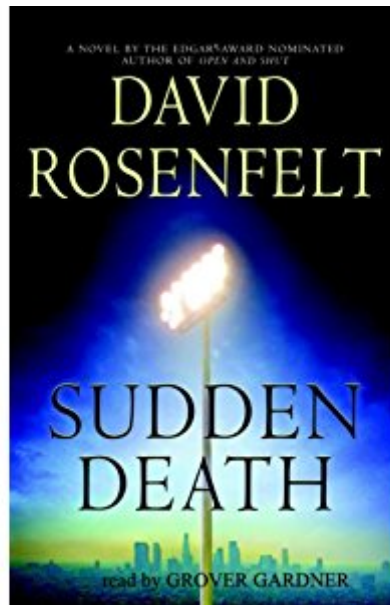


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Sudden Death



Synopsis

Edgar-nominated author David Rosenfelt returns with his hero, Andy Carpenter, who must defend a football player accused of murder. The Giants' running back Kenny Schilling stands accused of killing Troy Preston, a wide receiver for the Jets. As Andy investigates, he finds that Troy is not the only football player who was killed after contact with Kenny--and his snooping starts to set off alarms with a drug king. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

Wisecracking but lovable Andy Carpenter is at it again in David Rosenfelt's fourth book, Sudden Death, featuring this lawyer and sometime detective. Along with a group of friends who have helped him before Andy is up to some of his old tricks when called upon to defend a would be murderer. And while it's been three months since his last high profile case, Andy is once again up to the occasion not only employing all of his skills but his wonderful sense of humor and take on life. But Andy really needs to be tournament tough for this trial as it may be his hardest one yet. In the home of Kenny Schilling, a quarterback for the Giants, police find a missing and very dead quarterback from the Jets. While Kevin Schilling maintains he is innocent, things may not be that way at all. And as if Andy doesn't have his hands full with his canine rescue partner Willie, his somewhat interesting law associate and his not too hardworking and crossword puzzle secretary, Andy's long standing girlfriend and private investigator is thinking of leaving New Jersey and taking a job in the hometown where she grew up. In the tradition of characters like Myron Bolitar from the Harlan Coben series and Patrick Gennaro from Dennis Lehane's series, David Rosenfelt takes his rightful place next to these

men in the fast paced world of suspense sprinkled with both humor and pathos.

David Rosenfelt's "Sudden Death" features Andy Carpenter, a wisecracking defense attorney who has taken on a high profile case. Kenny Schilling, a star running back for the New York Giants, has barricaded himself in his house with the dead body of another football player, Troy Preston. Kenny claims that someone else killed Troy and left him to take the rap. After arranging for Kenny's surrender, Andy agrees to defend him, and the battle is straight uphill. Andy is the first person narrator and he is a sweet and funny guy, similar to Ben Kincaid in the early William Bernhardt books. Unlike Ben, Andy is a multimillionaire who doesn't need to work for a living. Andy's lover, Laurie, is also his investigator, but she is seriously thinking about returning to the small Wisconsin town where she grew up. Andy loves his home in Paterson, New Jersey, and moving to Wisconsin is not an option for him. He spends much of the book worrying that he will lose Laurie. "Sudden Death" features nasty mobsters, courtroom wrangling, media hype, and, on every page, Andy's one-liners. Rosenfelt has a gift for spare writing and deft characterization. Marcus, Andy's fierce bodyguard, who grunts rather than speaks, can frighten the most hardened criminal with his stony stare. Tara, Andy's beloved golden retriever, would be the one true love of his life were it not for Laurie. Edna, Andy's secretary, sidles in to work when she feels like it; her true passion is crossword puzzles. "Edna is to crossword puzzles what Gretzky was to hockey." As the case against Kenny becomes more watertight, Andy digs into his bag of tricks to cast suspicion on some nasty New Jersey gangland types. This would be a brilliant idea, except for the fact that Andy is quickly targeted for death. Rosenfelt's ending is both far-fetched and predictable, but "Sudden Death" is so entertaining that it scarcely matters. David Rosenfelt's easygoing and amusing writing style makes this novel a pleasure to read.

When a mystery writer creates an engaging character with ample opportunity for enticing cases, a series is born and readers await with anticipation each new installment of crime solving. SUDDEN DEATH, by David Rosenfelt, is the fourth mystery that features Andy Carpenter as a crime-solving criminal defense attorney. Both Carpenter and Rosenfelt appear on the way to long and successful careers in the mystery business. Andy Carpenter has a luxury that most lawyers would love to possess. He inherited \$22 million from his father, and that bankroll allows him the opportunity to pick not only his clients but his cases as well. In one of his earlier novels he successfully represented Willie Miller, wrongfully convicted of murder. Miller's release and subsequent civil suit continue to make everyone around Andy financially secure. That group includes Miller, Andy's secretary Edna,

his associate Kevin Randall, and Laurie Collins, who serves as Carpenter's private investigator and love interest. As the novel opens, Carpenter and Miller are on their way to California to meet with movie producers to discuss a possible film surrounding Willie and his vindication. Prior to becoming an author, Rosenfelt had a career in Hollywood, and the opening scenes of SUDDEN DEATH are an entertaining and humorous look at the West Coast lifestyle. Soon after arrival the wining and dining commences, and within a day Andy and Willie are on a flight back to New Jersey speculating in their minds as to who will portray them in the movie that will chronicle their achievements. But before the casting call can begin, a new client needs Andy's services. Kenny Schilling is a star running back for the New York Giants. Andy meets his new client while he is barricaded in his home surrounded by police officers. Also inside the home is the corpse of Tony Preston, wide receiver for the New York Jets. The evidence appears overwhelming, but Carpenter finds other facts indicating that Schilling was framed. Of course the reader knows that Andy will establish his client's innocence, but how he accomplishes that task makes SUDDEN DEATH great mystery reading. Rosenfelt has two wonderful writing talents that serve him well in the mystery milieu. In addition to Andy Carpenter, a cast of quirky and interesting characters --- some previously introduced in the series, and some who make appearances only in this saga --- are portrayed. All of them are interesting individuals who add to the story and plot development. In SUDDEN DEATH Andy's girlfriend Laurie must decide whether she should return to her hometown to resume her law enforcement career. As both Andy and Laurie wrestle with that dilemma, so does the reader. Caring about characters is what distinguishes good mysteries from mediocre efforts. This series creates characters who readers genuinely care about. Rosenfelt's other ability comes in his creation of courtroom scenes. Many legal-related novels fall apart when they enter the courtroom. For a non-lawyer, Rosenfelt has a wonderful ability to capture what transpires before a judge and jury. Sometimes Andy does get away with a few strategies that real-life attorneys would not attempt, but after all this is fiction, not real life, and plot sometimes trumps life. A future Andy Carpenter novel may find him toiling for even longer periods of time in the courtroom. It would not make Rosenfelt's effort any less readable or enjoyable. What is the best recommendation that one can give a mystery such as SUDDEN DEATH? Perhaps there are two. The first is to observe that each new episode of the series continues to maintain the quality of previous installments. The characters and style are by now comfortable to readers. You can enjoy this book, go back to previous Carpenter adventures and get up to speed without a problem. The second recommendation is perhaps even stronger. This reader anxiously awaits Andy Carpenter's next case. There is no doubt that it will be another enticing courtroom adventure. --- Reviewed by Stuart Shiffman

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