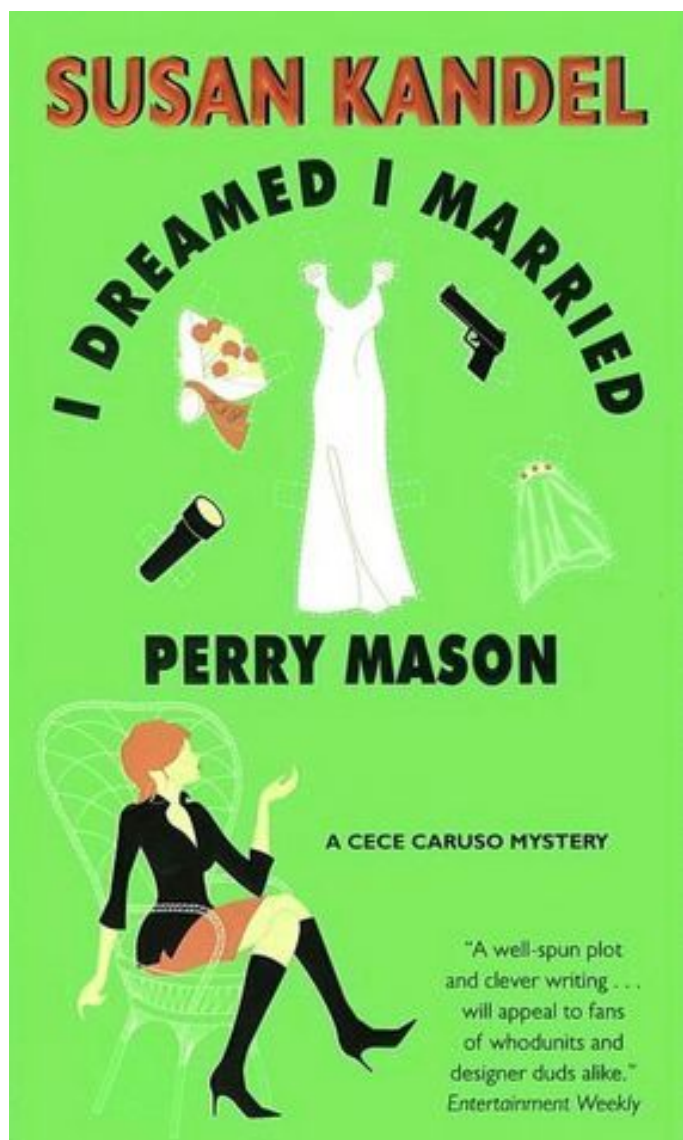

Susan Kandel

I Dreamed I Married Perry Mason (A Cece Caruso Mystery #1)



Title: I Dreamed I Married Perry Mason (A Cece Caruso Mystery #1)

Author: Susan Kandel

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Description

The Barnes & Noble Review

It started with a case of writer's block. Pretty, vivacious Cece Caruso turned to a life of crime after her divorce. But she's neither breaking and entering nor running cons. Instead, she's writing biographies of famous crime novelists, and now it's Erle Stanley Gardner's turn under Cece's magnifying glass.

While the creator of Perry Mason had an exciting life, including his own share of courtroom dramatics as a lawyer, it was his Court of Last Resort that fascinated Cece. The Court of Last Resort was a place where those wrongly convicted could petition Gardner to find enough evidence to reopen their cases. Cece was researching the Court in the hope it would give her enough material to propel her through her unfinished chapters. In a last-ditch effort to procrastinate—while pretending to work—she goes to visit an elderly prison inmate whose desperate appeal she finds misfiled and unexplored among the otherwise meticulously organized files of the Erle Stanley Gardner Archives.

From there, it's a surprisingly short step to working the long-neglected case, just to get a feel for what Gardner did so often. That's the first step down a slippery slope that soon pulls Cece into a case closed 40 years ago, when a man was sent to jail for killing his wife. And that cold case suddenly turns hot when the murdered woman's sister is knifed to death shortly after Cece interviews her. Inspired by the thought of Perry Mason at her side in her quest for justice, ex beauty queen Cece straightens her stocking seams (she's a vintage clothing buff) and sets out to untangle mysteries, solve two murders, and finish her manuscript on time.

"*L.A. Times* art critic Susan Kandel is sure to delight readers with her innovative fictional exploration of a fascinating facet of the history of crime fiction." *Sue Stone*

Insightful reviews

Pam: TITLE/AUTHOR: I DREAMED I MARRIED PERRY MASON by Susan Kandel

RATING: 4.5/B+

GENRE/PUB DATE/# OF PGS: Mystery, 2004, 280 pgs

TIME/PLACE: Present, LA

CHARACTERS: Cece Caruso/writer

COMMENTS: Cece is divorced, late 30's, loves vintage clothing and has one married daughter. She writes biographies for mystery authors and is currently working on Erle Stanley Gardner (Perry Mason series). While doing research she comes across an unresolved murder case from 40+ years ago. Very good debut!

Anne: Another mystery series that is light and fun! These books takes place in Los Angeles and I love reading the descriptions of places I know. In this book, our main character, CeCe Karuso, is writing a biography of Earl Stanley Garner. Garner was the author of the Perry Mason books

and live in Ventura, CA. Garner often received letters from real inmates, asking him to review their trial.

CeCe gets involved when she finds a letter that Garner received at the end of his life, and she takes over the investigation.

Mark Baker: Cece writes biographies of dead mystery authors. While working on a biography of Erle Stanley Gardner, she finds a letter he'd received from a prisoner who claimed to be innocent. Can Cece dig up this cold case and prove the man innocent? I found this debut a little slow at times, but I was still drawn to Cece and the mystery.

Read my full review at [Carstairs Considers](#).

Katie Casey: A enjoyable whodunit with a distinct spin - the most personality is a biographer who's doing a narrative at the writer of Perry Mason, Erle Stanley Gardner, and finally ends up operating a case he by no means acquired round to. this is often the 1st in a series. Of course, i'm going to need to learn the following one because it has a Nancy Drew subject (Not a woman Detective)!

David: The identify of this one grabbed me whereas buying in a neighborhood used bookstore. I had by no means learn this writer before, however the name simply kind of tickled my analyzing funny-bone and so I picked it up. i used to be now not disappointed. Cece Caruso's is a biographer via trade. As our tale opens she is operating on biographical fabric on Erle Stanley Gardner, the author of Perry Mason in addition to the personal eye crew of Bertha Cool and Donald Lam. (He additionally did rather a lot of pulp writing lower than a few pen names- and i'm drawn to monitoring down one in every of his tales a few "human fly" who solves crimes. Anyway, she has a major case of writer's block whilst she stumbles onto a mis-filed letter to the author, who as soon as was once lively in a kind of "innocence" venture - aiding evaluation and examine hopeless instances of parents who claimed innocence yet have been sitting in prisons, or maybe on demise row. This leads her to an research of a a long time outdated homicide and she or he does so with gusto.As the tale progresses, our heroine stumbles backward and forward among engaged on proving the convict's innocence, the necessity to proceed her biographical work, in addition to facing her daughter's marital problems. Okay, the daughter's scenario may perhaps most likely were omitted and the radical could have been a section better.Another a part of the tale (apparently it is going to pay a key a part of this series) is the heroine's model sense. She is a fashionista, and lots of references are made to styles, fashions, designers, accessories, etc. Honestly, this distracted me-- simply because I felt that the tale was once far better whilst the writer used to be exploring the biographical background. In fact, this e-book was once best as a result of its description of Mr. Gardner's life, activities, and locations the place he lived and worked. It excelled whilst describing the locales that the heroine used to be vacationing or the episodes of Perry Mason, or just the plethora of titles pointed out and a short description of Gardner's skill to create remarkable titles that provided either an exhilarating cadence and a catchy wording. Eventually, the writer is pressured to maneuver the characters into a few peculiar situations, and a few issues that standard humans would not do (sneaking into an exact crime scene at night).. yet i feel the ancient background, etc. retains this one rolling along, prior the style nonsense, etc. to a becoming conclusion, with a well-written secret

and adequate fascinating characters to carry the reader's curiosity to the end.

Julie: This used to be a fun, funny, a little adventurous, homicide mystery. Cece Caruso is simply the correct stability of zany that makes for an excellent read. I enjoyed studying such a lot of attention-grabbing proof approximately California. the writer has an aptitude for giving adequate own information whereas retaining you trying to find the subsequent clue to unravel the mystery. You gotta love a secret that retains you simply as attracted to the garments the characters are donning and what they're consuming as by and large storyline!

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