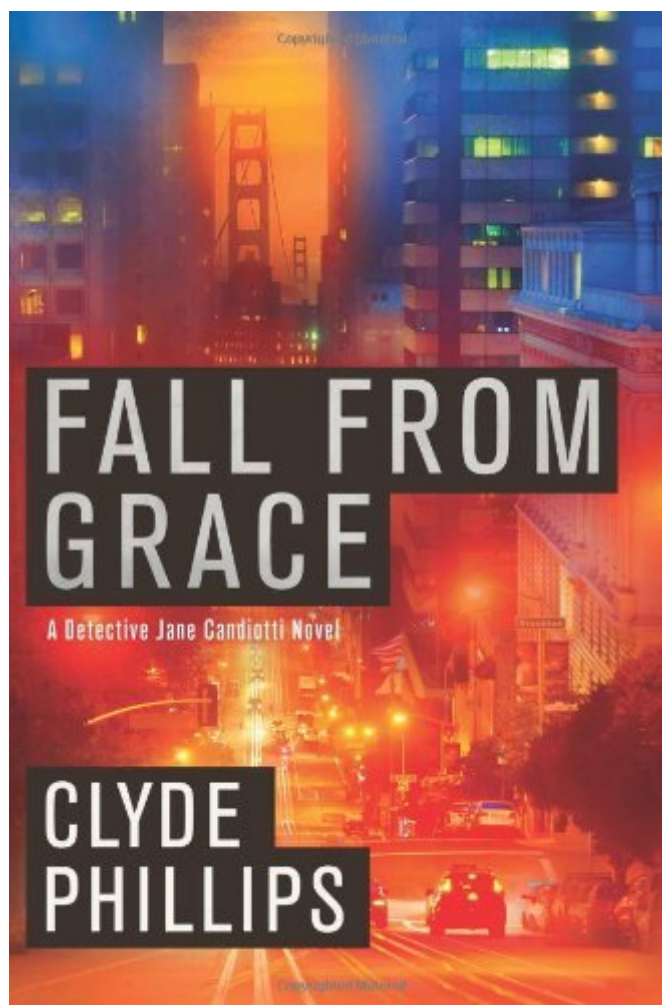


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Fall From Grace (The Detective Jane Candiotti Series Book 1)



Synopsis

Veteran San Francisco homicide detective Jane Candiotti never had a problem drawing the line between her personal and professional livesâuntil the night she meets David Perry after his socialite wife, Jenna, is brutally murdered. The facts are damning: the Perrys were embroiled in a bitter divorce and now David stands to inherit millions in the wake of Jennaâs death. But Janeâs instincts tell her thereâs more to this case than just greed and love gone sour. To uncover the truth, she must dig into the sordid secrets of the cityâs most powerful families, a quest that will draw her inextricably closer to David and his teenage daughterâand to the cold-blooded killer whoâs stalking their every move. But when the case takes a shocking turn, itâs not just Janeâs reputation thatâs hanging in the balanceâitâs her life. A terrifying noir thriller from the executive producer of *Dexter*, *Fall From Grace* was hailed by Dennis Lehane as âa deftly plotted first novel with the pace of a hurricane and the impact of an earthquake.â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I rarely review books, but found "Fall From Grace" disappointing enough to warrant an exception. The book was offered as a 99-cent option following purchase of another Kindle book. As a thriller

reader, I decided to give it a try. The author is a television screenwriter, and he writes well enough and can weave a relatively compelling page-turner. Unfortunately, his screenwriting experience shows. The characters are typical TV-movie caricatures and the shallow plot something you'd expect to see on Lifetime. You'll see the ending coming at least 200 pages before the climax. And those are my positive comments. If you're a Hitchcock fan, you already know much of this plot. It's taken directly from one of Hitch's most famous films. I won't say which, in case you decide to read "Fall From Grace." But I was shocked that none of the characters said, "Hey, didn't I see this in a movie once?" Sure, the film is in the public domain, so the author is free to borrow. But it seems he'd at least acknowledge his source material. The worst thing about this novel is the negative female stereotype that harkens back to the 70s or 80s. The lead character--Detective Jane Candiotti--is an emotional disaster. She's introduced not as a strong character reminiscent of Patterson's Women's Murder Club, but as a pitiful gal desperate to snag a husband. Fellow officers use her for sex but have no interest in meeting the family ... sob, sob. She hides in the kitchen when her family lines up family photos because--oh my!--how can she show up in the photos as the only one without hubby and kids? ... sob, sob.

This book is a major disappointment. Even more disappointing are the reviews on the cover of the paperback from authors (William Diehl and Dennis Lehane) most of whose works I've enjoyed immensely. Do these authors read the book? Do they write the reviews? There's nothing here that hasn't been done better before (much better). It's unfortunate that the commercial success it seems to have enjoyed, appears to be from readers who have been overly influenced by the drek usually put out on television from whence the author hails. I had hoped the San Francisco locale would enhance the book, no such luck. The plot is predictable. Successful lawyer (David) loses mentoring father-in-law in a 'plane crash and expresses his wish that his wandering wife would disappear to someone he meets on the subway (which in San Francisco doesn't go near where he lives). The police inspectors of the murder are (apparent series regulars) Jane and Kenny. They are as two dimensional as the rest of the cardboard characters in this "mystery". Jane is conveniently starved for affection and is ready to jump into bed with David, the main direct or indirect suspect. Her history with Kenny conflicts with her involvement with Dave and reaches screaming level. There is almost no professionalism manifested by the police. Just like in tv, all you have to do is figure who all the characters are, and eliminate them to figure out the villain. It was amazing Kenny let Jane go without any backup to meet the actual murderer. Kenny's driving should put him back walking a beat in the Castro where he could resensitize himself.

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