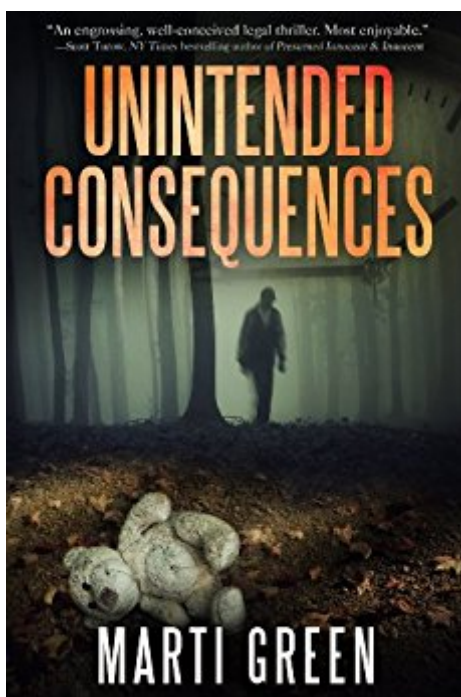


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Unintended Consequences (Innocent Prisoners Project Book 1)



Synopsis

Nineteen years ago, Indiana police found the body of a young girl, burned beyond recognition and buried in the woods. They arrested George Calhoun for murdering his daughter, and his wife testified against him at the trial. George maintains he didn't do it. That the body isn't his little Angelina. But that's all he's ever said: "no other defense, no other explanation. The jury convicted him. Now his appeals have been exhausted, and his execution is just six weeks away. Dani Trumball, an attorney for the Help Innocent Prisoners Project, wants to believe him. After all, there was no forensic evidence to prove that the body in the woods was George's daughter. But if the girl isn't Angelina, then who is it? And what happened to the Calhouns' missing daughter? Despite the odds, the questions push Dani to take the case. For nineteen years, George Calhoun has stayed silent. But he's ready to talk, and if the story he tells Dani is true, it changes everything. Revised edition: This edition of Unintended Consequences includes editorial revisions.

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Customer Reviews

George Calhoun has spent years on death row, convicted of murdering his young daughter. Dani Trumball is an attorney working at HIPP, the Help Innocent Prisoners Project organization. When

George contacts HIPP, just six weeks before his scheduled execution, and proclaims his innocence. Dani is intrigued. With the help of two assistants, she begins a race against the clock to determine whether George is guilty of the crime and, if not, going through the court processes to have his execution stayed and his prison sentence overturned. As a courtroom drama, the reader gets the sense of how frustrating and demanding it must be to argue a case for innocence with a system that has been created to keep the status quo intact. Was George a victim of ineffective counsel? Of course, but is that reason enough to retry his case? Did the testimony of a depressed and psychologically unstable witness go uncontested - and is this enough reason to sentence someone to an execution? And, most importantly, can the State execute a man for murdering his daughter if there is any chance that this daughter is alive? And if she is alive, then who was the little girl found murdered? This book is written well and keeps the reader guessing until the end. Parts of it seemed a bit predictable, and I think that female readers might enjoy this book a bit more than male readers - Dani was always torn between spending time with her son or working on the case, for example. In any case, it was a thought-provoking and engaging story. I'd recommend this book to anyone wanting an enjoyable "light read" and who finds the subject of capital punishment to be of interest, as well as readers who like legal thrillers. It moved at a good pace and I found it difficult to put down.

The main character heads up an investigation seeking to exonerate a man on death row for killing his young daughter. Unfortunately, the character development just wasn't there. Believing in the characters was a huge issue for me. The investigator's son has Williams syndrome, which the author described fairly well. Unfortunately, the illness has absolutely nothing to do with the story. In fact, it was distracting. Dani, the mom, was so upset by every little thing the child did, thinking the worst when he got a simple cold. Yet, we are supposed to believe that this woman chooses to practice law in a setting where she will be required to travel. But it gets worse. SPOILERS: We are also to believe that a girl who is treated for childhood cancer at age 2-3 and later abandoned by her parents at age 4 will have no memory of either event. As a former nurse working with children undergoing cancer treatments, I can tell you that no 3 year old ever forgets chemotherapy. Then we have two supposedly loving parents who borrow money for their child's first round of treatments, then when the cancer returns, they can't afford to treat her and opt to drop her off with her medical records at a hospital. Tell me what hospital would let a child die without treatment? The author tells us the father made too much money. Um, I think I would quit my job to take care of my ill child and would then qualify for medicaid. Then we are supposed to believe that a nurse finds this 4 year old girl with leukemia and just keeps her as her own. I guess nobody asked any questions. The author

explains this away by saying the girl is her niece that she is caring for because her parents died in an auto accident. How does the kid attend school without a birth certificate?

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