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Andy Siegel, a New York City personal injury and malpractice lawyer, introduces Tug Wyler in his debut *SUZY'S CASE* (Scribner, \$26) and Wyler shares both his creator's profession and location as he tackles a variety of cases, including that of a young girl who suffers severe brain damage while under hospital care. Wyler is a feisty, appealing character (except in his utter surrender to his shrewish wife).

When criminal attorney Henry Benson is forced to give up his injury practice because of a "civil litigation misadventure" (i.e. malpractice), Wyler inherits all twenty-one of Benson's ongoing cases with the two lawyers splitting fees fifty-fifty. Wyler refers to the cases as HICs (Henry's injured criminals) and while some of the cases are lucrative, others are mainly headaches and ALL of them involve bona fide criminals who have been tried, convicted, and jailed.

These cases provide Wyler with some of his best scenes in and out of the courtroom. But there is one case that is different. It involves a little girl, Suzy, who at age six was in the Brooklyn Catholic Hospital receiving treatment for sickle cell anemia when something went dreadfully wrong and Suzy, a child prodigy, was transformed into a spastic quadriplegic with severe brain damage. Benson tells

Wyler there is no case, their own expert witness, Dr. Laura Smith, says there is no case, and the defendant has filed for dismissal.

Siegel does an excellent job of detailing the legal hoops that Wyler has to jump through since he is now the attorney of record for Suzy but it is Suzy's beautiful and determined mother, June, who really makes him jump and convinces him to look into the case more deeply. And Wyler finds enough to be sure that someone is covering up something and that there really is a case to be made.

While Suzy's case is the one that involves sleuthing and danger, as well as legal maneuverings, Wyler's other cases represent a delightful smorgasbord that illustrate his creative approach to lawyering both inside and outside the courtroom. Wyler's catch phrase for all his shortcomings is "at least I admit it" and it's hard not to look forward to future Tug Wyler novels. At least I admit it.

