

THE MYSTERY GAZETTE

Suzy's Case – Andy Siegel

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In New York City criminal lawyer Henry Benson has given work to personal injury and medical malpractice attorney Tug Wyler that four times has led to the latter being called before the Disciplinary Committee. Once again he is slapped with an ethics violation and a fine of \$25.00 as Judge Howell knows Wyler was right. Observer Judge Piccone warns Tug he will throw the book at him if he oversees a lack of zealousness defending a client regardless of cause.

Benson asks Wyler to handle the Suzy Williams tragedy. In a Brooklyn hospital, six-year-old Suzy went into cardiac arrest; a seizure left her “a spastic quadriplegic with severe brain damage.” When Benson’s medical expert claims the child’s sickle cell anemia caused the seizure rather than staff negligence, Tug knows there is no complaint. However, Suzy’s single mom June persuades him to represent her daughter in their multimillion-dollar lawsuit.

Wyler will remind legal thriller fans of Joseph Teller’s Jaywalker (see *The Tenth Case*), as he strives to do the right thing regardless of personal costs. The engaging storyline is fast-paced though there are too many happenstance incidents. However the cast is top rate, starting with the wisecracking Wyler who enjoys busting the chops of righteous shitheads in power, the caring mom and especially Suzy.

Harriet Klausner