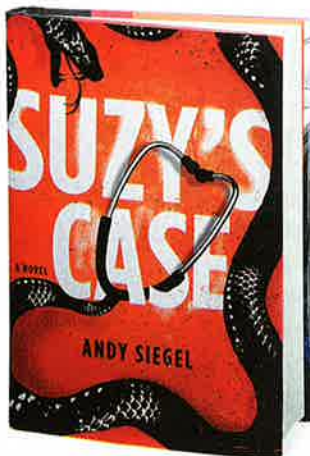




Med-Mal Tragedy



“**THE STORY REVEALS** the main character’s good side—a passion for justice and the heart to help a disabled little girl.”

Suzy’s Case is a fictional account of an attorney’s experience as he takes on the medical malpractice case of a young girl who became severely injured after being hospitalized. The personal injury attorney, Tug Wyler, faces personal challenges as he seeks to do the right thing for his clients and his profession.

The book opens with Suzy lying in a hospital bed and experiencing rapid heartbeats and difficulty breathing as a result of her sickle cell disease. Despite this serious complication, the doctors expect her to pull through easily. But when Suzy begins to code, her brain and other organs are deprived of oxygen, leaving her with spastic quadriplegia and severe cerebral palsy. Suzy’s mother, June—who was at Suzy’s bedside until the doctors made her leave as they tried to respond to the code—undertakes a mission to find out what happened to her little girl. June compels Wyler to represent her daughter in a medical malpractice case.

Author Andy Siegel, a plaintiff lawyer, interlaces the story of Suzy’s case with stories of personal injury cases that high-profile criminal attorney Henry Benson refers to Wyler. Throughout the book, Siegel creates interest, adventure, and danger by weaving in the lives of hardened criminals as Wyler struggles to represent them in their personal injury cases. Although Suzy’s case had no criminal connection, it sat in Benson’s office for years before he gave it to Wyler. The statute of limitations was about to run out, and the only expert who looked at the case found nothing wrong. But June was provocative and persuasive, and she convinced Wyler to find the truth about what happened. He unravels a conspiracy to cover up a secret in Suzy’s case that almost gets him killed.

Despite the numerous characters and the book being peppered with more legal concepts than an ordinary non-attorney reader would know, it is easy to follow. Wyler has his share of personality flaws, and the raw side of the characters in *Suzy’s Case* distracts from Siegel’s good underlying story. But the story also reveals Wyler’s good side—a passion for justice, the heart to help a disabled little girl, and the courage to free a mother from the belief that she was the cause of her daughter’s disability. ■

Suzy’s Case
Andy Siegel
Simon & Schuster,
Scribner
www.simonandschuster.com
352 pp., \$26
Reviewed by
Gale D. Pearson

Gale D. Pearson is a partner at Pearson, Randall & Schumacher in Minneapolis.