



Mystery Scene

Suzy's Case

by Andy Siegel Scribner, July 2012, \$26.00

With Obamacare and medical issues topping the news, Andy Siegel's debut novel is well timed, but he isn't concerned with political matters; he is too intent on spinning a fast-paced tale of medical malfeasance and cover-up. When personal injury attorney Tug Wyler is handed the case of Suzy Williams, it is supposed to be a simple paperwork exercise ending with a "no fault" conclusion for the hospital involved. Vibrant, intelligent six-year-old Suzy entered a Brooklyn hospital with a slight reaction to her sickle cell disease, but she left a brain-damaged paraplegic. Suzy's mother, June, sued and the case languished for years until landing in Tug's in-box. Tug's medical specialist concludes the client has no case and the hospital is not to blame, but Tug isn't satisfied and, with June's help, he sets out to prove just the opposite.

Siegel, a medical malpractice attorney, has set himself a difficult task here and he succeeds hands down, albeit with a few minor first-book glitches such as over-plotting and stereotyping some of the characters (i.e., the bad guys are too evil to be truly believable). Tug is a very likable protagonist, although wisecracks are often more insulting than witty. However, Siegel is a good writer and I'm sure he will smooth over these minor bumps on the road to a series of medical thrillers. I, for one, eagerly await them. —*Bob Smith*