

# BEST OF 2012 PROFESSIONAL

**“SUZY’S CASE”** by Andy Siegel (Scribner: July 2012): Introducing Tug Wyler, a dogged and irreverent New York City personal injury and medical malpractice attorney. He is as at home on the streets as he is in the courtroom, and larger than life in both places. Once you’ve met him, you won’t ever forget him.

When Henry Benson, a high-profile criminal lawyer known for his unsavory clients, recruits Tug to take over a long-pending multimillion-dollar lawsuit representing a tragically brain-damaged child, his instructions are clear: get us out of it; there is no case. Yet the moment Tug meets the disabled but gallant little Suzy Williams and June, her beautiful, resourceful mother, all bets are off.

With an offbeat, self-mocking style, Tug Wyler’s a far cry from your ordinary lawyer. Unswerving in his dedication to his mostly disadvantaged clients, he understands only too well how badly they need him with the system stacked against them. Tug is honest about his own shortcomings, many of them of the profoundly politically incorrect variety, and his personal catchphrase, handy in all situations, is “At least I admit it.”

When his passionate commitment to Suzy’s case thrusts him into a surreal, often violent sideshow, the ensuing danger only sharpens his obsession with learning what really happened to Suzy. Blending razor-sharp intuition, intellectual toughness, and endlessly creative legal brinkmanship, Tug determinedly works his way through a maze of well-kept secrets—encountering a cast of memorably eccentric characters along the way—to get to the truth.

*Suspense Magazine* (S. MAG.): Do you have an old manuscript you never did anything with that you’re now considering dusting off and giving another shot?

Andy Siegel (A.S.): *The thing is, I don’t have “old manuscripts.” I’m the new kid on the block. However, although “Suzy’s Case” is my debut novel, it’s the second Tug Wyler adventure I wrote in a series of crazy cases Tug finds himself entangled in, involving his colleague Henry Benson’s shady clients, otherwise known as HICs (Henry’s Injured Criminals).*

S. MAG.: Is there a genre—other than the one you write in now—that you’ve considered dabbling in?

A.S.: *The answer is no. That’s because, to my knowledge, there’s never before been a mystery series with a hero practicing medical malpractice and personal injury law. “Suzy’s Case”—and all the other Tug Wyler novels I hope to write—offers a veteran insider’s perspective on this often high-stakes specialty. And when I say “high stakes,” I don’t mean just those dollar awards that frequently make headlines but also the eye-opening truths of severely compromised human lives. Having practiced for over two decades in New York City, believe me, I’ve seen it all. And felt it. So the characters and the atmosphere you get in “Suzy’s Case” are based on the real deal. And it’s this authenticity, combined with my sometimes outrageous imagination (at least I admit it), that gives my writing the distinctive flavor its fans have been responding to. I’m having fun escaping into this “alternate” version of my own everyday world and what’s been great is that readers are, too.*

S. MAG.: What do you think are your three best qualities? Worst?

A.S.: *Best: Loyalty, persistence, kindheartedness. Worst: Excitability, impulsiveness, over-reacting.* ■

