



Sandrine's Case

By Thomas H. Cook

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Shortlisted for the 2014 Edgar Award and Barry Award for Best Novel

Thomas H. Cook is peerless in finding the humanity behind crime. In one of his greatest novels yet, a man explores unspools the history of his fractured relationship with his wife, as he stands trial for her murder.

Samuel Madison always wondered why Sandrine chose him. He was a meek, stuffy doctorate student; she a brilliant bohemian with limitless imagination. On the surface, their relationship seemed tranquil: jobs at the same liberal arts college, a precocious young daughter, and a home filled with art and literature. And then one night Sandrine is found dead in their bedroom from an overdose of pain medication and alcohol, and Samuel is accused of poisoning her.

As secrets about their often tumultuous marriage come to light in the courtroom, Samuel must face a town convinced of his guilt, a daughter whose faith in her father has been shaken to its core, and the truth about his wife, who never ceased being a mystery to him. *Sandrine's Case* is a powerful novel about the evil that can lurk within the heart of a seemingly ordinary man, and whether love can be reawakened even after death.

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Sandrine's Case By Thomas H. Cook Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. In this slow-burning, intricate thriller from Edgar-winner Cook (*The Crime of Julian Wells*), Sam Madison and his wife, Sandrine, both professors at Georgia's Coburn College (he of literature, she of history) and parents of a grown daughter, appear to have a solid marriage. But below the surface there are problems, which culminate in Sandrine's death from a cocktail of Demerol and vodka. While the coroner rules the death a suicide, the police suspect foul play and soon zero in on Sam as his wife's killer. The local prosecutor is so certain of Sam's guilt that he seeks the death penalty. In the course of the murder trial, which runs from unexpected revelations on the witness stand to torrents of legalese as the attorneys jockey for power, Sam reflects on his relationship with the brilliant, beautiful, and vexing Sandrine. Through Sam's memories, Cook pulls off the tricky task of rendering Sandrine—a lover of ancient history, particularly Cleopatra, and the intricacies of language—as vividly as if she had never died. This crime novel, one of his best, builds to an unforeseen, but earned, climax. (Aug.)

From [Booklist](#)

Master plotter Cook upends the traditional linear progress of the typical mystery from crime through solution (and sometimes) trial by starting this head-scratcher at the trial itself, with the opening argument of the prosecution. We sit with college professor Samuel Madison, on trial for murdering his wife, Sandrine, also a college professor, as he thinks about what has happened to him over the past week: for example, how the first responding officer on the scene seemed much more interested in what had happened than Samuel had expected; how the people in his tiny college town all seemed to have turned against him, assuming that such a socially graceless, homely man as he certainly would have killed his beautiful, faithless wife; and how excessively well prepared the prosecution seems to be. Part of the thrill of reading this unusual mystery is that we're confined to Samuel's head, and he's not saying if he did indeed murder his wife. Another fine effort from the always insightful Cook. --Connie Fletcher

Review

"A consistently engaging court procedural. . . . The real treat is Cook's tender, gradual exploration of the push and pull between Samuel and Sandrine, an unlikely pair."—*People* (three stars)

"Cook supplely strips the courtroom thriller down to its bones and then animates it with a warm, beating heart. . . . This is a story of the mysteries of a long marriage and of a couple who might or might not be meant for each other. Cook plays with and against the conventions of the noir mystery to craft a novel deeper and richer than the genre would seem to allow."—*Columbus Dispatch*

"*Sandrine's Case* is a story of love lost and rediscovered during the course of a murder trial. Who but Thomas H. Cook could blend love and death with such seamless elegance? He remains one of my favorite writers."—Harlan Coben

"With *Sandrine's Case* Thomas H. Cook once again proves he's one of the very best. Here he uses the courtroom as a prism on the inner workings of life and relationships. It is gripping, moving and elegiac. This book shows a master at work."—Michael Connelly

"A mystery novel by Tom Cook is always something more, and unpredictable. It is very difficult to resist turning pages rapidly to discover the outcome of this disturbing case."—Joyce Carol Oates

"Often praised for the clarity of his prose and the sheer drive of his storytelling, [Cook] deserves a special citation for bravery. In *Sandrine's Case*, he not only dares to write a novel with an unpleasant protagonist, but also makes him the narrator."—*New York Times Book Review*

"Bravo to Cook for giving us a story that slowly grows with intensity and depth. . . . [An] insightful, cleverly nonlinear novel."—*Christian Science Monitor*

"[A] wonderful genre-breaking novel. . . . *Sandrine's Case* is as good as anything written by Scott Turow and John Grisham."—Huntington News

"A remarkable piece of writing that sits right at the top of the genre."—*Deadly Pleasures*

"A tender love story in the form of a tense courtroom drama, *Sandrine's Case* is mystery, metaphor, and morality wrapped together in a nifty package, a chance to observe grace (or treachery) under pressure. Thomas H. Cook's elegant new novel offers all that great narrative pleasure. You'll be baffled right up to the Wow of an ending. What a terrific story!"—Susan Isaacs, author of *Compromising Positions* and *Goldberg Variations*

"Who could write a gripping novel of tenderness and mercy—its subject a woman who might have decided to frame her husband for her own suspicious death? Thomas H. Cook has done just this. In his prime as a master storyteller, he goes from strength to strength."—Jacqueline Mitchard, bestselling author of *The Deep End of the Ocean*

"*Sandrine's Case* is a heart-breaking, heart-stopping love story as well as a taut, gripping courtroom drama, woven as masterfully and diabolically as a hangman's noose. Nobody does it better than Thomas H. Cook!"—Judith Kelman, bestselling author of *Summer of Storms* and *The First Stone*

"*Sandrine's Case* brings to mind *Body Heat* and *Presumed Innocent*, those pinnacles of adultery, marriage and murder. Thomas H. Cook is at his best here as he grabs the reader by the throat and doesn't let go until the verdict is announced."—Ann Hood, author of *The Knitting Circle* and *The Red Thread*

"From the compelling opening to the poignant resolution, *Sandrine's Case* is a hauntingly beautiful and deeply moving novel that is at its core a story of a love both complex and enduring. Ingeniously conceived and elegantly written, it throbs with the suspense and insight into the human heart that we've come to expect of Thomas H. Cook."—Anne D. LeClaire, author of *Entering Normal* and *The Lavender Hour*

"Cook is one of the finest crime writers of modern times. . . . Told in the sparest style, *Sandrine* gradually reveals the web of deceit that married couples can weave around each other until it threatens to suffocate them both: horrifying but hypnotizing."—*Daily Mail* (UK)

"One of the best mystery novels I've ever read. Cook has it all. The nuanced engaging characters, the clean and subtle plot, a perfectly imagined setting, and a slow-burn pacing that makes it impossible to stop reading. . . . Don't miss it."—*Globe and Mail* (Canada)

"Vintage Cook: different, interior, another one that resists categorization."—*Providence Journal*

"A marvelous tale of human nature."—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

"[A] slow-burning, intricate thriller. . . . This crime novel, one of [Cook's] best, builds to an unforeseen, but

earned, climax."—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"Compelling . . . Cook deftly explores the question of what we truly know about the people we love—and, in reflection, what we truly know about ourselves."—*January Magazine*

"[Cook's] lyrical prose, his flawless movement back and forth in time, his utterly surprising ending, and his masterful use of suspense put *Sandrine's Case* at the top of my list."—And Sometimes She Writes. . .

"*Sandrine's Case* is loaded with quiet metaphor and shot through with turns of phrase that would fill a small notebook on their own. It can be read in one sitting. . . . Still, I suggest reading it slowly, taking in its nuances and perhaps even re-reading it after finishing, just to enjoy how Cook so carefully constructed it."—Bookreporter.com

"Cook has a patented way of bringing out the deep and vulnerable heart of a character. . . . It is tenderness and kindness that mark Thomas Cook's novels and it is evident in the beautiful *Sandrine's Case* as well."—Murder By The Book

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jesus Puga:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled Sandrine's Case. Try to stumble through book Sandrine's Case as your pal. It means that it can to get your friend when you sense alone and beside that course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , let us make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

Mary Wing:

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Adrian Kao:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always try and and must have the extra time or they will get lots of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , when we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to you of course your answer can unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, the particular book you have read is Sandrine's Case.

Danny Jarosz:

A number of people said that they feel bored stiff when they reading a guide. They are directly felt the item when they get a half regions of the book. You can choose often the book Sandrine's Case to make your reading is interesting. Your skill of reading talent is developing when you similar to reading. Try to choose simple book to make you enjoy you just read it and mingle the feeling about book and studying especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to wide open a book and examine it. Beside that the reserve Sandrine's Case can to be your brand new friend when you're truly feel alone and confuse using what must you're doing of this time.

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