



Airtight

David Rosenfelt

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From David Rosenfelt, author of the beloved Andy Carpenter series, comes a high-octane thriller of murder, revenge, and family loyalty

A man stopped at a red light is dragged from his car, shot, and robbed. While tragic, the crime would be a fairly straightforward murder/robbery if it weren't for the victim's identity: an Appeals Court judge headed for the Supreme Court. An army of media and FBI agents descend on the case, and thousands of tips pour in. One leads FBI Agent Bryan Robbins to Kevin Franklin, newly released from rehab and living alone. All the evidence points to Kevin, and Bryan feels nothing but relief at finding the killer so easily. The arrest, however, is not so smooth—Bryan kills Kevin in self-defense, instantly becoming a hero in the eyes of the public.

But to one man, Bryan is no hero. Chris Franklin raised his brother Kevin almost single-handedly, and he cannot forgive the man who took his brother's life. When Bryan's younger brother disappears and Bryan finds a note saying, "You took my brother, and now I have taken yours," Chris Franklin quickly makes it clear the only way Bryan can save his own brother is to clear Kevin's name. So begins Bryan's solitary investigation into the terrifying forces that led up to the judge's death, and an unlikely but strangely close alliance between two men devoted to saving their brothers.

Airtight Details

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Author : David Rosenfelt

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Byron says

This was bare bones to the point where it almost felt like an outline someone would go back and fill in. I liked the fact that it moved quickly, and the plot was very topical and timely, in a ripped-from-the-headlines sort of way, but there wasn't a whole lot there to make me give a shit about what happened to any of these characters. Note that I don't read a lot of these kinds of books, and I've yet to find very many of them I really like. The last crime novel I read was Richard Price's the Whites, which I kinda liked, and before that, Don Winslow's Power of the Dog, which I absolutely loved.

Jim says

I didn't like this as well as his Andy Carpenter books for a couple of reasons. The first was the reader. Jeff Steitzer isn't Grover Gardner, the guy that read the entire AC series. They have a very similar, pleasant voice for most, but Steitzer tends to emphasize words that I wouldn't, so it's discordant for me. Worse, Rosenfelt tends to be somewhat repetitious about certain points, so Steitzer's emphasis makes the repetitions stand out even more. Not good. Worst of all, his other voices suck; bad or tough guys all have a bass whisper, women squeak. Ugh. Still, it wasn't that bad overall, just in comparison to the wonderful job that Gardner does.

I only gave this 2 stars for the story, too. Rosenfelt doesn't do real tough guys very well, although they're fine as secondary characters such as Marcus in the Andy Carpenter series. In this case, the hero is a State Trooper & the other main player is a Recon Marine & Rosenfelt never made them feel real & that didn't do the main plot twist any good. This was quite a twisty tale with a lot of mystery & drama, plus more murders than the entire Andy Carpenter series combined, I think. They almost became redundant & lost their horror. Overall, the twists were great as were the motivations.

Another ding was the computer stuff. I do this for a living so several points were just ridiculous, but I'll only list two. (view spoiler)

So, overall I wasn't thrilled. Some of this was a let down, but it just wasn't a great story. Still, it wasn't a waste of time. It had its moments & was interesting, even engaging at times.

Paul Pessolano says

“Airtight” by David Rosenfelt, published by Minotaur Books.

Category – Mystery/Thriller

Judge Daniel Brennan is brutally murdered. He was stabbed some thirty times. Luke Somers of the New Jersey Police Department is put on the case. His investigation leads him to Steven Gallagher, a drug addict, and kills him in self defense.

On would think that this was an open and shut case, except Steven's brother thinks his brother is innocent. In order to clear his name he kidnaps Luke's brother. He tells Luke that unless he clears his brother's name in seven days his brother will die in retribution.

In trying to free his brother Luke finds that the town of Brayton has issues of its own. It seems they are sitting on shale that could be worth millions by extracting gas by a method called "fracking" which could be detrimental to the environment.

Luke, who has only seven days to save his brother's life, finds that the fight over "fracking" may have something to do with Steven Gallagher's death and the kidnapping of his brother.

David Rosenfelt puts together a mystery that will keep the reader "on his toes" throughout the book, and supplies a surprise ending. "Airtight" is a book that will appeal to everyone not only for it's suspense and plot, but there is nothing that would be objectionable to any reader.

Pamela says

I eagerly awaited David Rosenfelt's new release, *AIRTIGHT*, but was terribly disappointed. It was a laborious read. It was boringly lengthy due to the undeveloped, flat charterers, simple and disingenuous dialogue, and an implausible and confusing storyline. By the middle of the book, I didn't even care who was the antagonist. I kept reading hoping it would redeem itself, but it did not. This book was substandard compared to all of Mr. Rosenfelt's past publications. I miss the author's *Andy Carpenter* series!

Jim says

I love mysteries and really good writers and I especially love really good writers who write mysteries. *Airtight* was the first of David Rosenfelt's books that I've read, and it was so well done that I can't imagine any sort of slippage in his other books, which means I've got a whole lot of fun ahead of me.

Airtight is smart and inevitable without being showoff-y or obvious.
And real people are witty and ironic and sarcastic and tender in just the way that Rosenfelt writes them.

That is all.

Una Tiers says

The terrific start pulled this from a two to a three star. The characters were flat. I didn't like the dialogue. The sub plots were poor. I didn't even like the reader. His emphasis was over kill.

Naomi says

Lt. Luke Somers of the New Jersey police is called to take in Steven Gallagher for the murder of a judge. When he confronts the drug addicted young man, he believes that the gun Steven has is pointed at him and shoots Steven to protect himself. He is called a hero by the media but soon finds out that things aren't what they seem. Steven's brother Chris comes home from Afghanistan to find out the truth. He takes a dangerous step to force Luke to find the real killer. A fast paced book, easy to read and a thriller.

Christine says

A judge about to rule on an important environmental case is murdered in his driveway and tips and clues all lead police to the home of down-and-out drug addict Stephen Gallagher. Not really believing Stephen is guilty, but feeling he may know something police pay him a visit and are greeted by the suspect pointing a gun. Detective Luke Somers wastes not time recognizing the fact that an unstable individual is pointing a gun at him threatening to shoot and pulls his trigger first. While the rest of the world considers it a justified reaction to the situation, ex-black ops Chris Gallagher, Stephen's brother has a different opinion. Living by his an eye for an eye credo he subsequently kidnaps Luke's brother to force Luke to reopen the investigation in order to prove his brother innocent. Keeping Luke's brother in an AIRTIGHT room with a seven-day supply of oxygen keeps the investigation on track and this story moving along at a satisfactory clip.

It's a mystery/thriller so as usual the reader must suspend reality for a little bit, but overall Mr. Rosenfelt keeps the action within reasonable bounds. The sub-story is about fracking and it's impact on the environment (the case the judge was going to rule on) so I learned a little bit about a term I had heard but did not know much about. Overall it was a good read.

Viccy says

Daniel Brennan is going to be a federal judge, succeeding Susan Dembeck, except he gets stabbed to death in his garage. Detective Lucas Somers shoots the suspected killer, Steven Gallagher, when he finds Steven sitting in his apartment holding a gun. Chris Gallagher, Steven's brother, comes back from Afghanistan to find out what happened and exact justice for what he sees as his brother's murder. Chris will do anything to avenge his brother and Luke finds out to what lengths Chris will go. Edward Holland didn't plan on ending up as mayor of a podunk town in New Jersey; he had much bigger plans than that. But first, he had to survive the federal lawsuit brought by Carlton Auto Parts. Nobody was going to walk away a winner from this.

Bob Lafary says

David Rosenfelt is one of the very best, and very underrated, authors of suspense today. His novels of suspense are written with a light touch, but in a way that keeps you on edge to see what is going to happen on the next page. He has a recurring main character of Andy Carpenter; and his series of 10 books featuring Andy, are a delight to read. His most current book, "Airtight," is a stand-alone novel. But one that I can certainly see as a very popular multi-book series in the future. The main character is Luke Somers, an N.Y.C.

detective. A Circuit Court of Appeals judge is murdered and Luke receives a tip on who did it. As he enters the alledged killers home, the man draws a gun, and Detective Somers is forced to kill him. What follows is just plain a most excellent read. Do yourself a favor--buy it, read it, and enjoy the heck out of it.

Nan Williams says

This is my first thriller by David Rosenfelt, but it certainly won't be my last!! What a page turner! After a bit of a slow start, the action never let up. It was good to the last page! Excellent plot development, excellent character portrayal and development, excellent pacing.

How refreshing to read a novel with none of the current "must-haves". There were no 4-letter words, no social issues, no graphic sex, no chases, no gore, no graphic violence. However, there was plenty of action - Murders, explosions, shoot-outs, etc.

Also, there was no filler in the book to make it longer. This is one of those things which, apparently, has become a "must have." Most current novels I read are 350-400 pages with at least 100 pages of just "filler" which has nothing to do with the plot. This book is 282 pages and there is substance on every page.

The situation fomenting the murders, etc., was fracking - which is a very real concern right now. I appreciate the light he shed on all aspects of this current practice.

The protagonist was not a superman with superhuman powers (nor a super-human computer). It was all very credible. It was extremely well written and completely enjoyable. The suspense went right down to the last page and all issues were tied up (and tidyed up) neatly. At the end the good guys and the bad guys were well delineated.

Maddy says

PROTAGONIST: Lieut. Luke Somers, NJ State Police

SETTING: Northern New Jersey

RATING: 4.0

The murder of a judge is always a high profile event, and that is certainly true when Daniel Brennan is killed a short time before he is scheduled to take a seat in an appeals court. Lieutenant Luke Somers of the New Jersey State Police follows one promising lead to the home of a drug addict, Steven Gallagher, who he ends up killing in self defense. Steven's brother, Chris, is convinced that his brother could not have murdered anyone. To achieve his goal of proving Steven innocent, he kidnaps Luke's brother, Bryan, and imprisons him in an underground room which has only a 7-day supply of air. If Luke doesn't prove that Steven is not guilty by then, his brother will die.

Initially, Luke only half-heartedly investigates Brennan's death—he is almost completely certain that Steven is the killer. But the further that he progresses on the case, the more he becomes convinced that he is mistaken and that somebody else is the perpetrator. The issue then becomes one of clearing Steven's name before Bryan's prison runs out of air. Bryan does have limited access to a computer, and he and Luke are able to communicate with one another. The ticking clock device is used with great success in AIRTIGHT.

Suspense mounts as the time limit comes near. There are many complications that don't bode well for a successful outcome.

The real strength of the book lies in its characters. Rosenfelt did a particularly good job in his depiction of Chris Gallagher. Chris was in the military and uses that background to manage the situation. Despite the fact that he has placed Luke's brother into grave danger, he is not an evil man and at times even helps Luke in his quest. Although the plot is well constructed, there were a few areas that didn't quite work for me. For one, it seemed improbable to expect that even a large contingent of law enforcement agents would be able to find an underground bomb shelter in northern New Jersey. Secondly, the book ends with a big twist that felt forced for effect. I wished that had been handled with a more subtle hand. Nonetheless, I enjoyed AIRTIGHT and found the pages turning quickly.

Sheila says

After loving Heart of a Killer, I looked forward to Airtight with all the hype about it. I found there were too many mistakes in the writing and/or editing. For example, 90 minutes became 3 hours in the beginning. Late in the story someone was laying face down while receiving CPR on their BACK. There were several other grammatical errors as well. Perhaps it was too quickly written. I would not really get into the characters as in the prior book. And I'll admit I surely suspected the correct antagonist from near the beginning. So this one was quite a disappointment to me overall.

Marca says

New Jersey police officer Luke Somers kills Steven Gallagher on-duty. Gallagher was believed to have stabbed to death a Judge. And when Somers hunts down and approaches Gallagher, Gallagher raises a gun and Somers shoots him. Boom! Somers is a hero. A hero to everyone but Steven's brother Chris. Chris kidnaps Luke's brother and tells Luke that his brother will die unless Luke finds the real killer of the Judge. Luke is pretty sure he did find the real killer: Steven, but what can he do? As he goes through the motions to satisfy Chris, Luke soon finds himself involved in something dark and much larger than any of them. Another nail-biter plot that keeps one reading/listening.

Donna says

2.5 stars but I will round up because the story was alright.

This is my second David Rosenfelt book, and I guess I'm not a fan. I struggled through this book and through the last one as well. I did the audio on this, I didn't like the reader so that may have contributed to the dislike, but I can't pin it all on him.

His stories are clean and not graphic, so that is something I appreciate. I guess my biggest complaints are dialog, character development and predictability. There are no surprises in any of those three things. Nothing

new. Everyone is always on their best behavior and always tries to say the right thing. It was like a job interview.
