



## **The Aspen Account**

*Bryan Devore*

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After a colleague at Denver's top accounting firm dies in a mysterious skiing accident, Michael Chapman is assigned to replace him on an audit of software behemoth X-Tronic. At the same time, rookie journalist Sarah Matthews of the Denver Post starts nosing into rumors that may connect X-Tronic to her brother's death. And the reclusive Aspen billionaire who founded X-Tronic thirty years ago begins to fear that events unfolding at his company will finally make him pay for a past he would love to forget: when he sold out friends and neglected family in his single-minded pursuit of success. Soon all three will discover just how much they are willing to risk to uncover the truth behind a conspiracy that will shock the world.

"The nature of Michael's double life can be frustratingly elusive, but it's exciting to watch him risk everything in order to unveil an elaborate, insidious conspiracy." - Publishers Weekly

"Taut suspense...swiftly paced plot...an atmospheric backdrop...The strength of this debut will have many readers clamoring for more. Devore displays a sure hand in a tight, eminently readable thriller certain to draw a substantial following." - Kirkus Reviews

"An engaging mystery story...Michael is no James Bond, but Devore portrays him with enough panache to keep the pages turning...The fascination is in the telling of how (the essential) conflicts play out. It is an enjoyable read." - ForeWord Clarion Review

"Timely...enough plot twists to keep the reader turning the pages...For anyone who's had enough of action lawyers, make way for a new breed of hero." - BlueInk Review

## **The Aspen Account Details**

Date : Published 2012 by Amazon Digital Services

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## From Reader Review The Aspen Account for online ebook

### William Goldbach says

Good business intrigue. Probably typical of what happens .  
have seen some of this sort of thing myself

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### Austin Steele says

The Aspen Account by Bryan Devore is a mystery story taking place in the state of Colorado. It follows the story of a man named Michael Chapman, a seemingly normal accountant at a firm in Denver, who is actually an operative for the Department of the Treasury. He is assigned to his friend's account following his mysterious death, and begins to unravel a huge fraud and the reasoning behind his friend's death.

The story starts off following a man named Kurt Matthews who is on vacation, skiing in the mountains of Aspen. Not much detail is given about who this man is, but he is killed off in the first few pages of the novel. This intense beginning hooks you onto the story and makes you want to find out the motive behind this seemingly innocent accountant's death. The story then shifts to Kurt's good friend and coworker Michael Chapman, who has recently made a large mistake on an account and was near getting fired, but caught a lucky, yet tragic, break when his friend Kurt dies. He is assigned to Kurt's account at a company called X-Tronic and begins to unravel a huge fraud with the company, along with the late Kurt's sister Sarah Matthews, who was the first to raise suspicion about the death of her brother.

I really enjoyed this story, which kept me quite interested until the end and had many unexpected twists and turns of the plot near the end. I was a little worried about not understanding jargon about accounting, but the author did a nice job of putting it into terms the average reader would understand. The writing style was very easy to follow and kept me engaged and interested. A motif that I noticed was that he seemed to be quite good with imagery, describing the cold and the mountain scenery of Colorado, "as he sat gazing over the forty-foot drop, a cold gust brushed across his face and nearly blew the lit joint out of his gloved hand. He looked out over the evergreens and aspens sloping down below him." his images of the Coloradan mountains really brings me back to my multiple visits there. I also noticed that he seems to mention and describe the eyes of the characters in intense moments, "the stillness of this beautiful, solitary place only seemed to heighten the sense that behind those kind gray eyes lay information that would forever change Michael's life." I'm not sure what he meant to accomplish by describing eyes, but it's just something that I noticed a few times through the book.

Overall I really enjoyed the book, it was easy to read and was quite hard to put down near the end, with a cliffhanger at the end of nearly every chapter. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys suspense and figuring out a mystery, don't be intimidated by the financial and accounting side of the book.

--Austin

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### Sharon says

This is a fictitious story set in the world of financial accountancy and involves, amongst other things, death, skiing, a journalist and the financial audit of a software giant.

Although the book was set in, and involved details about financial accountancy, it was easy to read as it wasn't too technical but when you read that the author has a background in accountancy then this made sense.

Don't let the accountancy part put you off, it was needed for the story but didn't play a bit part, it was more about corporate deception, who to trust, and how such decisions can be life changing.

I especially liked the early intrigue of who Glazier was and the way the story was revealed piece by piece.

Some of the ending of the book kept me guessing as some information was withheld from the reader but this added to the story and made sense in the end.

Overall, if you like a good mystery, I would recommend this as it was a good read from a debut novelist that kept my interest until the end.

\*I received a complimentary copy of this book in order to review it.

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### **Ronda says**

#### **Great read**

Kept me reading to the very end. Kept the story moving with the twists and turns. Never sure where it was going next.

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### **Megan says**

I enjoyed this book quite a bit. I really liked the main character.

I do wish there had been some closure to the research project mentioned midway through the book - even if it was a simple epilogue of X-tronic back on top after a couple of years of success from the program developed by Seaton's former partner.

The twins could have used a little more character development - or at least have Lance do the killing since Lucas showed hesitation earlier, but overall I really enjoyed the novel.

One huge positive for me was, as someone with no business/accounting background, I appreciated the comparison to Enron and the details surrounding that situation with what was unfolding in the story. It was laid out so that anyone could understand it and I appreciated that.

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### **Jeffrey Ellis says**

First, the good: There are no annoying grammatical errors, and the dialog seems natural rather than contrived. There are only one or two cringe-worthy Dan Brown-esque choice of words that I can recall.

Now, the bad:

The story is rather clumsily written in terms of its pacing and the order in which information is revealed to the reader. For the first part of the novel, I felt as if this was a sequel to a story I should have read first in order to understand the character's hinted-at backstories.

In terms of the story itself: Meh. Not bad, not good. It didn't pull me in like a good thriller should. It was definitely not a page-turner. The story dragged enough that I finally gave up and did not finish it.

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### **Mikael Carlson says**

As an author, I enjoy reading stories that are well thought out and have believability to them. *The Aspen Account* has both of those in spades.

The first part of the book feels like the reader is being mocked - the author chooses to consistently remind you of what he isn't telling you. It's an early flaw, but don't let this dissuade you. Once this story gets rolling, it becomes impossible to put down. The characters are believable, the events dramatic, but not far-fetched, and the misdirection perfectly executed in this narrative ballet.

The work is not heavy on accounting or business jargon that would make a reader weary. There is enough explanation to provide context to the story and move it forward without inviting boredom. The author managed to walk that line with precision, having multiple opportunities to go to far.

In short, this book is worth every dime you pay for it. The lessons the author espouses in this work will not be lost on you by the end.

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### **Nancy says**

I thought this was a good book. The writer did a good job keeping the reader in suspense and wondering what was going on. I usually can figure out the plot early on but not with this book. There was enough mystery and suspense and an interesting story line for an enjoyable read.

There was only one part of the story that the writer seemed to forget about at the end of the book. What about the subsidiary and the big software project being worked on that Don Seaton stumbled upon? I thought it would come up again at the end but it never did so I am not sure of the purpose. In fact it never came up again.

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### **Richard Tolleson says**

This is the author's first book, so one can't be too harsh--especially since it was free for Kindle readers. The book is written in the style promoted in book marketing classes--short chapters with cliffhanger endings. The author pulled that trick off we'll a couple of times. There were points in the book where I thought shortcuts were being taken--characters did things that didn't make sense based on their behavior so far. The last few chapters contained many twists and turns: the good guy is the bad guy--no, he's the good guy being accused

of being the bad guy. Or is he? The author is an accountant, and so is his protagonist. Is this the author's first attempt in a successful literary career, or is he just working out his inner Walter Mitty?

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### **Keri says**

Who knew a story about accounting fraud could be exciting? Michael Chapman is an undercover Treasury agent living a double life as he tries to hone in on a complex fraud scheme linking several technology companies, and ends up stumbling into a colleague's murder to boot. Nicely paced, engaging dialogue, lots of exciting chase scenes, double-dealing and near-misses. As another reviewer wrote on Amazon, it's a nice change from adventure-chasing lawyers!

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### **Beverlee Couillard says**

I really enjoy reading books by this author. He writes so darn well. This is my second book by him. I thought I wasn't going to be all that interested in a book based on the financial horrors by a corporation, (thought I got it all in the real world) but boy was I fooled. Mr. Devore led me on and on. There is fraud, murder, heartbreak, and satisfaction at the way this story ended. I do recommend any book by this writer. He takes you into the environment of his stories, and you feel you are there. This book is set in wintry Denver, Aspen...lovely places. I liked the protagonist a lot! You won't be disappointed in this book.

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### **Laura Craven says**

#### **real page turner**

I would recommend this book to anyone that enjoys a thriller with a real twist at the end. The characters are well developed.

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### **Victor Gentile says**

Bryan Devore in his new book, "The Aspen Account" published by the author takes us into the lives of Michael Chapman, Sarah Matthews and Don Seaton.

From the back cover: After a colleague at Denver's top accounting firm dies in a mysterious skiing accident, Michael Chapman is assigned to replace him on an audit of software behemoth X-Tronic. At the same time, rookie journalist Sarah Matthews of the Denver Post starts nosing into rumors that may connect X-Tronic to her brother's death. And the reclusive Aspen billionaire who founded X-Tronic thirty years ago begins to fear that events unfolding at his company will finally make him pay for a past he would love to forget: when he sold out friends and neglected family in his single-minded pursuit of success. Soon all three will discover just how much they are willing to risk to uncover the truth behind a conspiracy that will shock the world.

Who knew accounting could be so dangerous? I was excited to get my hands on this book and worked to get a copy of it because I knew I would be reading a good thriller mystery. Guess what? I was 100% correct!

Bryan Devore, is a CPA with a Master's degree in Accountancy so when it comes to accounting he knows what he is talking about. Get ready for a mystery that begins with a murder and rockets along from there with characters that each have an agenda and something to hide. "The Aspen Account" is rich with sub-plot and mystery that will keep you guessing as you flip the pages as fast as you can read them. It is going to take all three of the main characters to join forces to combat the villain who will stop at nothing, including murder, to complete his schemes. And it is a romance too. My only regret is the "R" rated language that is used liberally by the characters. I feel that it detracted from the story and didn't need to be there. However, keep in mind this is just my opinion. Otherwise "The Aspen Account" is great fun to read.

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To listen to 24 hours non-stop, commercial free Christian music please visit our internet radio station [www.kingdomairwaves.org](http://www.kingdomairwaves.org)

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from the author. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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### **Michael says**

Looking at all of the glowing reviews for this novel, I am perplexed and think I am the only former Big Six public accountant who tried to read this. I found it very unrealistic and quit reading at the 7% mark on my Kindle.

Without having a spoiler, I think it is very unrealistic a new second year staff - let alone one with a performance issue - will all of a sudden be put in charge of the equivalent of a Microsoft and is working directly for the partner on the account; audit teams don't just show up for public registrants and in this case multi-billion dollar companies and spend a month on the job start to finish: they are there year-round with multiple layers of more experienced and senior professionals (staff work for seniors, senior work for managers and in this case there would also more likely than not be a senior manager, who reports to the partner).

However, the one that made me just stop reading entirely was when the second year staff shows up for the job and the COO walks him around to the executive suite and to get a gauge for the timing and performance of the audit on this billion dollar client.

The story may have been one of the best mysteries ever (seeing all the 5 star reviews makes me wonder), but if you're going to use a specific job such as public accounting as your background, at least make some attempt to get it right so the people who know that business won't call b.s. on nearly every situation you present as your background cover.

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### **Nona says**

Loved this book. Bryan is a new author for me and I am sure to read more of his books.

This was one of those books that you just can't put down.

I love intrigue stories and this one just kept me going. I kept thinking that I knew what was going to happen, and then he took another twist or added another character who may be the head of the whole bad group. I don't want to give anything away, so I just have to say that this is a book you should read.

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