



The Wrong Man: A Novel

By John Katzenbach

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Scott Freeman is a man of reason—a college professor grounded in the rational and practical. But he becomes uneasy after finding an anonymous love letter hidden in his daughter's room: "No one could ever love you like I do. No one ever will. We will be together forever. One way or another." But the reality of Ashley's plight far exceeds Scott's worst suspicions.

One drink too many had led Ashley, a beautiful, bright art student, into what she thought was just a fling with a blue-collar bad boy. But now, no amount of pleading or reasoning can discourage his phone calls, ardent e-mails, and constant, watchful gaze.

Michael O'Connell is but a malignant shadow of a man. His brash, handsome features conceal a black and empty soul. Control is his religion. Cunning and criminal skill are his stock-in-trade. Rage is his language.

The harder Ashley tries to break free, the deeper Michael burrows into every aspect of her life, so she turns in desperation to her divorced parents and her mother's new partner—three people still locked in a coldly civilized triangle of resentment. But their fierce devotion to Ashley is the common bond that will draw them together to face down a predator.

For Ashley's family, it is a test of primal love that will drive them to the extreme edge—and beyond—in a battle of wills that escalates into a life-or-death war to protect their own.

From the bestselling master of suspense, John Katzenbach, *The Wrong Man* is an elegantly crafted and breathtakingly intense read that asks the question, "How far would you go to save the child you love?"

From the Hardcover edition.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Bestseller Katzenbach (*The Traveler*) manages the impressive feat of taking a thriller cliché and using it as the basis for a powerful and complex story. The one-night stand that Ashley Freeman, a Boston art history grad student, has with Michael O'Connell, a determined psychopath, leads to dire consequences. O'Connell quickly moves to obsessively control every aspect of Ashley's life, coupling a relentless will with ingenuity and computer skills that soon ensnare Ashley's loved ones as they seek to protect her from him. When their feeble attempts to buy or scare off O'Connell fail, Ashley's divorced parents, as well as her mother's lesbian partner, embark on a convoluted but ingenious plot of their own. The author deftly shifts perspective among his central characters, raising this page-turner above the run-of-the-mill by making all of them emotionally credible. (*Sept.*)

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From [Booklist](#)

Ashley Freeman is a promising art-history student passionate about every aspect of her life. One night, the twentysomething Bostonian meets Michael O'Connell, a handsome, dark-haired stranger whom she readily forgets after a single steamy session between the sheets. But Mike, a street-smart psychopath who stalks women for sport, has no intention of letting Ashley go. He watches her every move from the shadows and sends her countless e-mails professing his love. Ashley's family and friends shrug it off as a crush, until O'Connell, an ingenious computer hacker, reveals the damage he can do: he sabotages the reputation of Ashley's professor father with a stinging accusation of plagiarism and nearly gets her mother, a lawyer, disbarred. Bribes and threats do nothing to deter him, and when a private investigator assigned to the case turns up dead, the Freeman family takes extreme measures to quash O'Connell's relentless pursuit. Although his ending is a bit too contrived, the best-selling Katzenbach (*The Madman's Tale*, 2004) keeps the pages turning in this unsettling tale of obsessive love. *Allison Block*

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Review

Praise for John Katzenbach's *The Madman's Tale*

“A tour de force . . . superior storytelling.”

—The Washington Post

“This haunting story will linger in your mind long after you've left the asylum. . . . Katzenbach's wonderful, tense narrative flows effortlessly, drawing you deeper and deeper into a chilling atmosphere of evil, darkness, and shadows.”

—The Miami Herald

“Beautifully written, thoroughly engrossing.”

—The Boston Globe

“[An] impossible-to-put-down thriller.”

—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Tillery:

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Clarence Frey:

The Wrong Man: A Novel can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to set every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing The Wrong Man: A Novel nevertheless doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource information that maybe you can be one of it. This great information may drawn you into completely new stage of crucial contemplating.

Betty Serrano:

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