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Damaged: A Novel (A Rosato & DiNunzio Novel)



Synopsis

One boy. One lawyer. One chance for justice. Ten-year-old Patrick O'Brien is a natural target at school. Shy, dyslexic, and small for his age, he tries to hide his first-grade reading level from everyone: from his classmates, from the grandfather who cares for him, and from the teachers who are supposed to help him. But the real trouble begins when Patrick is accused of attacking a school aide. The aide promptly quits and sues the boy, his family, and the school district. Patrick's grandfather turns to the law firm of Rosato & DiNunzio for help and Mary DiNunzio is on the case. Soon Mary becomes Patrick's true champion and his only hope for security and justice. But there is more to the story than meets the eye and Patrick might be more troubled than he seems. With twists at every turn and secrets about the family coming to light, Mary DiNunzio might have found the case that can make her a true protector, or break her heart...With Lisa Scottoline's trademark emotional depth and fast-paced action, *Damaged* will have readers riveted to the last page as they root for the beloved characters and their fight for justice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

So many reviews are posted for Scottoline's titles, chances are this one will never be read. Still, I have to try to warn others off. I have enjoyed this author's work in the past, but *Damaged* reads like a 300-page transcription of a court case with 5 pages of more interesting, personal plot about Mary DiNunzio thrown in. I found myself skipping, skipping, skipping page after page of dry, word-for-word, moment-by-moment detail in an attempt to find something to capture my attention. And for \$14.95?? I don't think I'll be reading any future Scottoline titles. It's too bad when an author loses her groove.

This is the second book in this series I have read (though I have read other books by Lisa Scottoline as well.) I am getting the drift that in each of these book, Ms. Scottoline focuses on one of the two partners in this law firm and picks a social issue to focus on as well. In this story, we follow Mary DiNunzio as she takes on the needs of a special education child who is not getting the attention he requires and the education assistance he should receive. Patrick O'Brien is a ten year old with diagnosed dyslexia. He is picked on and made fun of at school not only by other children but, shockingly, by the adults who should be helping him. His grandfather, Edward, is compelled at last to find an attorney to help Patrick and, with that one move towards assistance, sets into motion the events of this legal procedural, action book. Mary is the attorney that Edwards finds. Mary is getting ready for her marriage to Anthony. I haven't read the books that bring these two together but, during the course of most of this story, I wondered at how two individuals with such different agendas found their way together. For most of the book, Anthony is off in California and has little to say or do to progress the story. The book got a little deep into the minutiae of family court child custody hearings. While the custody hearing was important to the progression of the story, the detail was a tad too much and started to wear at my attention a bit. Once done, the story picked back up and gained in momentum through the end. While I think the ending was wrapped up a tiny too bit too happily, I was willing to suspend my slight disbelief and enjoy it. All in all, I enjoyed the story and will enjoy reading more in this series in the future. As someone who is fairly new to the series and who is just figuring out the overall story progresses, I find the books to be interesting legal procedural and social issues novels.

Ms. Scottonline always writes exciting, page turning books, but for this one you might want to have a pack of tissues near you while reading it. Edward who is Patrick's grandfather has been taking care of him for many years. His mom died in a car accident and his wife died, several years ago so it is just the two of them. Patrick, who is ten years old is dyslexic and has special needs. When the

school aide quits his job and sues Patrick and the school district Edward realizes he needs a lawyer. Mary is extremely knowledgeable about the Individual with Disabilities Educational act plus the Federal law and is determined to represent him. What she finds out is that the lawyer bringing the suit is Nick Machiavelli, someone who she remembers from her days in High School. With only two weeks till her wedding and other cases she has more than she can handle but she just feels compelled to help these people and accepts and starts working on the case immediately. What Mary is not prepared for is some of the things Patrick tell her and also the authorities. As if that is not upsetting enough she is afraid she might be being stalked by the man who is suing Patrick and the school. We learn some very upsetting things and then things take a turn and seem to get even worse when we do not expect it. This book is amazing as when we think we have finally figured it out we find another obstacle in the way. Anthony, Mary's fiancé is not very happy about how things have been going and Mary is worried also. We see how Mary, who is more determined than ever to help this poor victim, Patrick and help the family get the justice and happiness they deserve. A fantastic read.

As a reader of all previous Rosato & DiNunzio novels, I bought this upon its availability earlier this week. And couldn't put it down until it was completely read. A marvelous story you will thoroughly enjoy!

I have read everything Lisa has written and I think this book is one of my favorites! I absolutely love how much Mary has grown and become a strong, confident, independent woman! I thoroughly enjoy the relationships she has with her co-workers and her parents and South Philly family!! I'll do my best not to give away too much of the storyline. If you've never read a Mary DiNunzio book you are in for a treat! Mary is born and raised in South Philly. Her parents are first generation Italians and the bond and love between them is tangible. Mary works in Philadelphia as a partner in a law firm that was traditionally an all female firm. Within a few years, they added a male to the mix who has been brought into the story in this book. The story begins with Mary fretting over her upcoming nuptials to the love of her life Anthony. As she is handling wedding chaos, she meets Edward who wants to hire her to handle a special education case concerning his grandson Patrick. Patrick is an orphan and is being raised by his grandfather. Mary takes the case and immediately becomes emotionally involved with Patrick and his grandfather. Patrick is a sweet boy with some educational issues and Mary becomes his passionate advocate. To add fuel to the fire, the opposing counsel is a nemesis of Mary's from the old days. Mary enlists the help of the new male lawyer from the firm to help her

fight for Patrick. In typical Scottoline form, the case takes on new life and Mary finds herself battling more than just an educational issue. The relationship between Mary and Patrick is heartwarming. Add to it Mary's love for her family and the story just envelops you! I hated for it to end!! My only complaint, if you can even call it that, is I wish there was more with Bennie and Judy from the law firm. I love the relationships Mary has with her very strong partner Bennie and her crazy hippie bestie Judy. I can't wait for the next Mary DiNunzio book!

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