



Stranglehold

Robert Rotenberg

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Bestselling author Robert Rotenberg is back with his most shocking book yet, featuring Detective Ari Greene in the fight of his life.

It's just after Labour Day and the city is kicking back into gear. All eyes are on the hotly contested election for Toronto's next mayor and crime is the big issue. Greene is no stranger to the worst of what the city has to offer, but even he is unprepared for what happens next when he stumbles upon a horrific homicide.

In one nightmare moment his world is flipped upside down. Soon he is pitted against his young protégé, Daniel Kennicott, who arrests him for first-degree murder.

Tied down on house arrest as he awaits his trial, Greene has to find a way to not only clear his name but to face some very hard truths: that he didn't really know the people he believed in most; that there are unseen forces at work prepared to see him take the fall; and most of all, that he should never underestimate the price people will pay for love. *Stranglehold* is Rotenberg's fourth gripping mystery set on the streets and in the courtrooms of Toronto, capturing audiences with his masterful knowledge of the intricacies of the criminal justice system and understanding of the emotions that make people tick.

Stranglehold Details

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Author : Robert Rotenberg

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Genre : Mystery, Cultural, Canada, Fiction, Thriller, Mystery Thriller, Legal Thriller

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From Reader Review Stranglehold for online ebook

Erin Kernohan says

I'm not a big fan of crime fiction having saturated myself with it at a younger age, but my own biases aside Rotenberg's fourth Ari Greene novel is well written and clever. Being set in Toronto and unapologetically Canadian can, I think, be a bit of a risk if you're seeking wide appeal in a genre, but Rotenberg really does pull it off nicely. 3.5/5

Susan says

This is the first of Rotenberg's books I have read and I will look for his earlier works. A good detective story even without knowing all of the back stories. Really liked that it was set in Toronto - helped visualize what was happening and it was nice to hear the prosecutors referred to as "the Crown"

Johanna says

3.5 stars. I'm an easy target for a courtroom-based mystery set in Toronto. I've devoured all four books in the series, and will be first in line for the fifth as well.

Plot-wise, "Stranglehold" may be the weakest in the series. (I think "Old City Hall" was easily the best). There's not too much surprise when the different pieces fall into place. Instead, "Stranglehold" focuses on giving more flesh and colour to Rotenberg's characters.

As you'd expect from a book written by a criminal lawyer, the story shines during the courtroom scenes. But despite the fun of those scenes, this book still falls short for me. I want to like it more than I do. Rotenberg has a bad habit of describing everything and everyone in superlatives - he's constantly telling us how this cross-examination was "masterful", that strategic decision was "brilliant". Everyone is the "most" or the "best" or the "toughest" or the "kindest" or the "bravest." Even the featured homeless person fell from the very highest perch of a stellar career. No one is ordinary! This makes the characters not just hard to like (which is forgivable) but hard to believe (which is less so). More showing and less telling would help.

Finally, while I love reading about my beloved city, Rotenberg is winking at us Torontonians just a little too broadly. The bit about the fat, bombastic mayoral candidate who comes under fire for all the time he spends coaching the football team of a local high school? It's a little much.

Esil says

I have read all of Rotenberg's books and have enjoyed each one. The characters are great and the way he depicts Toronto is true to the Toronto I know. The best part being that he manages to highlight the best aspects of a city that at times can be very frustrating. But this was my favourite one yet. Ari Green is a great character and the mystery woven around him was a bit predictable but nevertheless had me reading

compulsively because I wanted to make sure things turned out ok for Green. Now I am looking forward to Rotenberg's next book...

Joanne says

Each book by this author gets better. The main characters, Detectives Ari Greene and Daniel Kennicott, are well-developed and sympathetic. I liked the pace of this book, although I figured out the guilty party about 2/3rds of the way through. The resemblance of Hap Charlton to a certain real-life mayor of Toronto is certainly well-drawn. I am definitely looking forward to the next book.

That being said, I have one bone to pick, and it isn't with the writer. How can a book published by such an established company have so many ridiculous errors of syntax and spelling? Does no one proofread anymore? There is no excuse for this irritating sloppiness except corner-cutting by the publisher. It is very, very annoying for someone who cares about grammar and spelling to see this messiness.

Richard Schwindt says

I have read the complete series to date and now wait impatiently for the next one. Robert Rotenberg has succeeded in creating his own universe of characters and now we are familiar with Ari Greene, Daniel Kennicott and a large cast of supporting players. In this outing we find Greene's illicit affair coming to a tragic end. Not only does he experience a loss but the fingers are pointing his way. At the centre is a family trying to save a drug addicted son and a similarly addicted Crown attorney trying to redeem her past failures. As always in Rotenberg's books Toronto is a character. I have written a trilogy of mysteries about Sioux Lookout and when I read his work I get why people there told me that the books were so much better if you knew the setting. This is a superior Canadian mystery series, ranking with Louise Penny's Inspector Gamache books. I think I see a film or television series in the works. Must read for mystery aficionados who have ever been to Toronto.

See less

Barbara Hutchings says

When a book has rave reviews on its front and back covers by such great authors as Ian Rankin and Kathy Reichs you know you are in for a treat. Rotenberg's mysteries set in my hometown of Toronto are suspenseful, well written and descriptive. The author is a lawyer and very knowledgeable about trials, criminal behaviour and police procedures. The only thing I dislike about his books is his negative description of Scarborough, the suburb of Toronto where I spent my formative years. Scarborough is not the desolate, crime ridden place he claims it to be. It has beautiful parks, great shopping and good schools. Perhaps, it has changed somewhat but I still believe that every part of Toronto has good and bad areas.

Marie Parsons says

Strangle hold might be the latest book for Robert Rotenberg, although it is the first of his that i have read, This was a great crime/legal drama, rich with a familiarity with neighborhoods of Toronto, and with the Canadian legal system both court and police.

More wonderfully, his characters, whether heroic, damaged, or questionable, all step out brilliantly from the page.

I am not a Canadian--but one need not be to enjoy this novel. I highly recommend it.

It will be my distinct pleasure to read both his earlier books and any more to come.

Sylvia Valevicius says

Nice surprise to read this! Not my usual fare - crime genre - but it's my library book-club's offering for November. So, I read it early. My first by Rotenberg, and his fourth. Will check out his earlier ones. I'm told his 'OLD CITY HALL' is terrific.

I must admit I was lured in by the setting - downtown Metropolitan Toronto. It was fun to recognize locations, and to look out from upper -level, office-building windows. There were views I took in myself, years ago, from those same spots, when I worked in the area.

This novel was totally engaging. Although, I thought I had the mystery solved by page thirty-eight. Was I ever glad to be wrong, and humbled! Rotenberg takes the reader through all the usual suspects and keeps us guessing. I love his characterizations, and his court-room expertise. Well-thought out plot. Great job.

I'm glad I read it and I look forward to the book-club discussion to come.

P.S. With such a book, I'm always wary of back-cover blurbs that hint too much. I try to avoid reading them.

Maureen says

Another excellent turn by Rotenberg. So happy his books are finally becoming available in the US and not just Canada. I figured this one out a little earlier than most but his writing is so well done I really don't care.

Luanne Ollivier says

I had a lively discussion with a patron at the library a while ago. He was looking for a good mystery or legal thriller to read. But he had a qualifier - nothing Canadian, he just finds American books 'better'. Oh boy, do I love a challenge...we compromised and I'm just waiting for him to come back and let me know what he

thought of the Canadian titles/authors I sent him home with.

Robert Rotenberg was one of those authors. This gentleman likes series, so I sent him home with the first in Rotenberg's excellent series - Old City Hall. The fourth book, Stranglehold, is newly released and I have to say - Rotenberg gets better and better with every book.

Recurring character Detective Ari Green returns, but in a different role. Rather than being the one in charge of the investigation; this time he's the one being investigated.....for murder. Green finds Jennifer, the married Crown Attorney he has been having an affair with, dead in the motel room they were meeting at - and the police arrive before he has time to call 911.....

I just love the Canadian setting - the descriptions of streets, stores and neighbourhoods that I recognize. It really brings the novel to life. Rotenberg himself is a criminal lawyer in Toronto. His courtroom descriptions and intimacy with the Canadian legal system again brings that 'extra' sense of authenticity to his work. There are some sly nods to present day Toronto that Canadian will 'get'. Notably, the overweight Mayor who coaches a boy's rugby team.

I enjoy Rotenberg's recurring characters. Green is less than perfect and this makes him all the more human. I really enjoy his father's scenes in this book. Kennicott is also a character I really enjoy as he feels his way through his new position. I hope we see more of Awotwe Amankwah, a reporter for the Toronto Star. Rotenberg gives each of his characters an excellent second story line with their personal lives. It lets us get to know them a bit better and carries their story forward into the next book.

The plotting in Stranglehold is excellent, believable and well played. But the exploration of relationships - familial and work are just as much a part of the story. I think this is probably my favourite of the series (so far) An excellent series and definitely recommended eh?

Suzanne Tremblay says

A real page turner: simply couldn't put the book down.

This time, Homicide Detective Ari Greene is the accused in the murder of the woman he loved Jennifer Raglan. Most of the book is focused on courtroom antics, which I find fascinating. Lots of twists of course, and unexpected outcomes, but very enjoyable. Some characters resemble Toronto Mayor Robert Ford or Trump....

Scilla says

Another excellent book with exciting trial in Toronto. Ari Greene has been meeting Jennifer Raglan, Crown attorney on Monday mornings. In the first chapter, Ari is late getting to the motel, and he finds Jennifer lying in the bed strangled. Ari hears someone outside, and chases someone through nearby streets. As he is about to call in the murder, his partner Kennicott calls him. Ari realizes if he tells Kennicott he was in the motel room he won't be able to investigate. Soon Ari is up for murder. The prosecutor is doing a great job with circumstantial evidence. Near the end it becomes very exciting as a witness is found.

Jessica says

This series never disappoints.

Janet Berkman says

This was a great read, not only because it is set in my city (Toronto), but because of its excellent plot and pacing. Detective Ari Greene becomes a defendant in a murder trial and Rotenberg keeps the suspense high as we move through the trial. I found myself both not wanting the novel to end and dying to get to the conclusion. His characters are well-developed and their humanity is clearly defined. I look forward to his fifth book with much anticipation.

Highly recommended to anyone who likes crime/police procedurals.
