



The Spellman Files: Document #1

By Lisa Lutz

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The Spellman Files is the first novel in a winning and hilarious mystery series featuring Isabel “Izzy” Spellman (part Nancy Drew, part Dirty Harry) and her highly functioning yet supremely dysfunctional family of private investigators.

Meet Isabel “Izzy” Spellman, private investigator. This twenty-eight-year-old may have a checkered past littered with romantic mistakes, excessive drinking, and creative vandalism; she may be addicted to *Get Smart* reruns and prefer entering homes through windows rather than doors—but the upshot is she’s good at her job as a licensed private investigator with her family’s firm, Spellman Investigations. Invading people’s privacy comes naturally to Izzy. In fact, it comes naturally to all the Spellmans. If only they could leave their work at the office. To be a Spellman is to snoop on a Spellman; tail a Spellman; dig up dirt on, blackmail, and wiretap a Spellman.

Izzy walks an indistinguishable line between Spellman family member and Spellman employee. Duties include: completing assignments from the bosses, aka Mom and Dad (preferably without scrutiny); appeasing her chronically perfect lawyer brother (often under duress); setting an example for her fourteen-year-old sister, Rae (who’s become addicted to “recreational surveillance”); and tracking down her uncle (who randomly disappears on benders dubbed “Lost Weekends”). But when Izzy’s parents hire Rae to follow her (for the purpose of ascertaining the identity of Izzy’s new boyfriend), Izzy snaps and decides that the only way she will ever be normal is if she gets out of the family business. But there’s a hitch: she must take one last job before they’ll let her go—a fifteen-year-old, ice-cold missing person case. She accepts, only to experience a disappearance far closer to home, which becomes the most important case of her life.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In a family of private investigators, privacy is nonexistent. The Spellman parents spy on the kids just as much as the kids spy on the parents. But after 28 years of this, middle child Isabelle wants out of the family business. Her parents agree, but only if she solves the 10-year-old cold case of a missing teenage. Amusing and entertaining, Lutz's tale of investigation, family and love is given an additional bemusing touch by Ari Graynor. She grasps the material and Isabelle's resigned disposition of both loving and loathing her family. She captures Isabelle's more emotional responses and the youthful tone of her younger sister, Rae. However, she is occasionally too breathy, literally blowing into the microphone. While these come off as sighs, they still seem to cross that line between narration and interpretation. The abridgment of some of the book's various subplots increases the speed of this already fast paced comedy-mystery.

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From [Booklist](#)

Fans of Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum series will enjoy this clever debut (the first in a series) featuring Izzy Spellman, an irrepressible 28-year-old sleuth who works for her parents' San Francisco PI firm. Members of the dysfunctional and relentlessly nosy Spellman clan include Izzy's 14-year-old sister, Rae, who engages in recreational surveillance (a fancy term for tailing people just for kicks), and her uncle Ray, a cancer survivor and recovering health-food addict who regularly disappears on liquor-drenched "Lost Weekends." Scenes showcasing the relationships among the various Spellmans are often laugh-out-loud funny. (The novel's prologue is an amusing example of the boundaries--or lack thereof--between Izzy and her mom and dad). Alas, bit after comic bit does not a mystery novel make, and only toward the end does Lutz pick up the narrative pace. Addicted to *Get Smart* reruns and forever attracted to the wrong kind of men, Izzy Spellman is definitely an appealing heroine; all this series needs to become a smashing success is a more generous dose of story and suspense. *Allison Block*

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Review

"Fast-paced, irreverent, and very funny, *The Spellman Files* is like *Harriet the Spy* for grown-ups."

-- Curtis Sittenfeld, author of *The Man of My Dreams* and *Prep*

"Hilarious. My enjoyment of *The Spellman Files* was only slightly undercut by my irritation that I hadn't written it myself. The funniest book I've read in years!"

-- Lauren Weisberger, author of *The Devil Wears Prada* and *Everyone Worth Knowing*

"*The Spellman Files* is hilarious, outrageous, and hip. Izzy Spellman, P.I., is a total original, with a voice so fresh and real, you want more, more, more. At long last, we know what Nancy Drew would have been like had she come from a family of lovable crackpots. Lisa Lutz has created a delicious comedy with skill and truth. I loved it."

-- Adriana Trigiani, author of *Lucia, Lucia* and *Big Stone Gap*

"A spirited, funny debut...a rush of humor and chaos...casual, swift, and hip...A fresh story that works real issues through an offbeat premise."

-- *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Douglas Henry:

The book *The Spellman Files: Document #1* make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable much more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make reading a book *The Spellman Files: Document #1* to become your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like start and read a guide *The Spellman Files: Document #1*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science guide or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this e-book?

Raquel Black:

Do you certainly one of people who can't read pleasurable if the sentence chained inside straightway, hold on guys that aren't like that. This *The Spellman Files: Document #1* book is readable by simply you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the facts here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving perhaps decrease the knowledge that want to offer to you. The writer connected with *The Spellman Files: Document #1* content conveys objective easily to understand by a lot of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just different available as it. So , do you nonetheless thinking *The Spellman Files: Document #1* is not loveable to be your top list reading book?

Allison Walters:

The Spellman Files: Document #1 can be one of your starter books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing *The Spellman Files: Document #1* but doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource information that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can drawn you into fresh stage of crucial considering.

Joseph Johnson:

Some people said that they feel fed up when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt that when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the actual book *The Spellman Files: Document #1* to make your current reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading talent is developing when you including reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy to see it and mingle the opinion about book and reading through especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to wide open a book and study it. Beside that the guide *The Spellman Files: Document #1* can to be your new friend when you're experience alone and confuse with what must you're doing of the time.

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