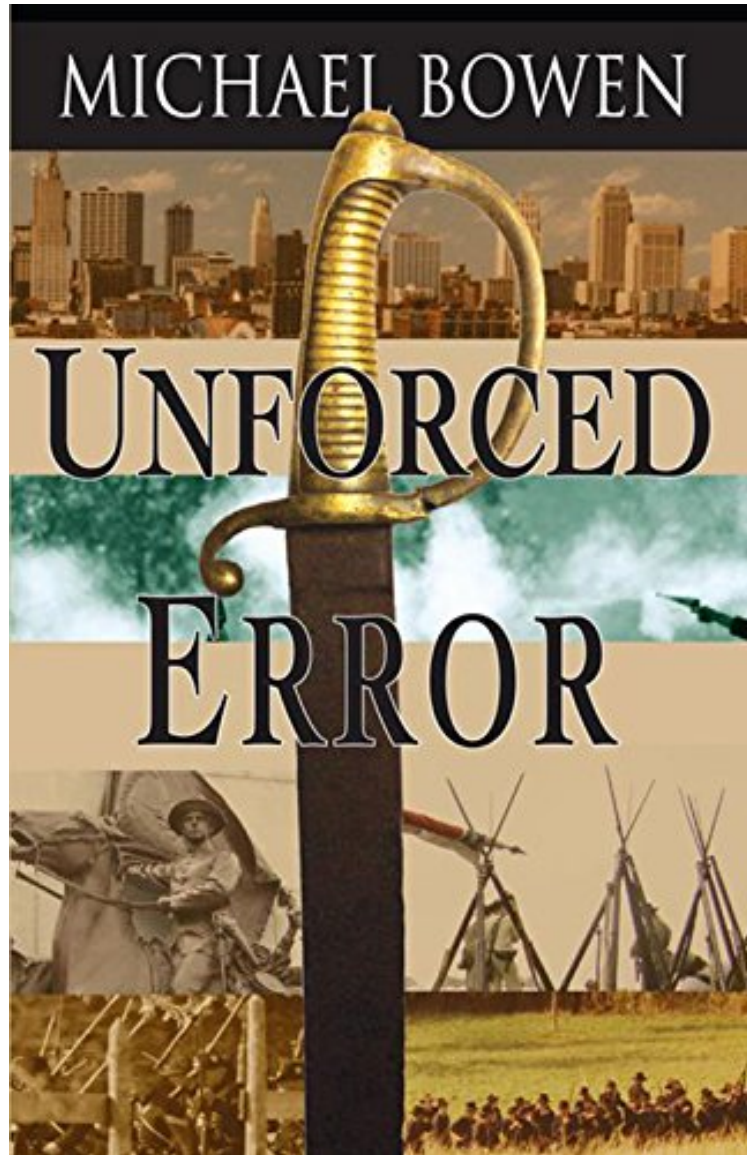


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Unforced Error (Rep Melissa Pennyworth Series)

Michael Bowen

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Michael Bowen : Unforced Error (Rep Melissa Pennyworth Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unforced Error (Rep Melissa Pennyworth Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a bit far-fetchedBy moderatelymoderateBoth good bad guys didn't behave with much sense the literary allusions were a bit forced. So I cannot recommend it.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Cute, literary, maybe a bit over the topBy booksforabuckIntellectual property lawyer Rep Pennyworth figures he'll do just about anything to bring in a big-bucks client. He'll even spend a weekend as a civil

war reenactor while he tries to decide whether the publisher really can trademark the idea of a faux civil war unit. He can't figure out how the publisher could make any money at it, but that isn't the lawyer's job and a hundred thousand bucks is real money. But when an editor ends up killed and Rep's friend Peter is the lead suspect, Rep realizes he's going to have to do more than dry lawyering--he'll have to figure out what really happened before Peter is sent to prison. The dead man isn't exactly a saint--he had an affair with Peter's wife, for one thing--which gives Rep and his wife Melissa a cast of suspects. But the police like to follow the obvious, especially when Peter's civil war cavalry sabre tests positive for the dead man's DNA. Plenty of library research into civil war battles and Vichy France politics, as well as a scad of literary allusions add depth to the story as Melissa tries to decide which philosopher to use to advise her friend--finally to decide on Travis McGee (of John D. MacDonald fame) and Rep finally agrees to play Nick and Nora (of *The Thin Man* fame) with Melissa. Author Michael Bowen dishes up plenty of literary allusions for fans of mystery and literature, a clever opening scene involving a potential affair and reality T.V. and some interesting looks into civil war reenacting. I thought that the final revelation into the badguy's ultimate plot was a bit over the top, but that didn't stop me from enjoying the adventure, the witty dialogue, or the way nerdy librarians, book editors, and intellectual property lawyers become action heroes.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Delightful mysterious romp in Kansas City
By Carl Brookins
The tone of this novel and the author's attitude toward murder and mystery fiction, is immediately encapsulated in the prologue. "First degree murder is punishable by death in Missouri, even if the victim is an editor of romance novels." Reppert G. Penneworth, top copyright lawyer and his wife Melissa go off to Kansas City to explore the possibility of groundbreaking legal stuff, something most lawyers aspire to. He's dropped almost immediately into a puzzling murder case involving Civil War re-enactors, a publisher, a philandering editor, a huffy romance novelist, and a raft of other engaging characters. The book is replete with literary allusions, clever dialogue and one of the smartest amateur detectives to grace the pages of mystery fiction in a long time. Now, writing new copyright law may sound a bit dull, but be assured, it isn't, not in the deft hands of this author. This is a very well-written novel, moves with great pace, avoids pitfalls of deficient logic and rockets to a terrific ending.

Rep and Melissa Pennyworth go to a re-enactment of a Civil War battle in Kansas City, Missouri in search of a cutting-edge copyright case for Rep and find a corpse instead. Linda Damon, Melissa's best girlhood friend, worked for the victim before his death, and on one regrettable occasion got a bit too intimately involved in her job. Her husband, Peter, an enthusiastic Civil War hobbyist, had a motive, an opportunity, and a Civil War saber that turns out to have been drenched in the victim's blood. Logically, Rep's knowledge of trademark and copyright law, Melissa's Ph.D in Literature, and the passionate Anglomania of Peter's boss, librarian Diane Klimchock, should be no help in what is clearly a job for the police. When Rep and Melissa are involved, however, logic is seldom a reliable guide. Their contribution ends up being essential to the solution of a crime whose roots go back to an execution during World War II and a contemporary hatred much more dangerous than one husband's jealousy.