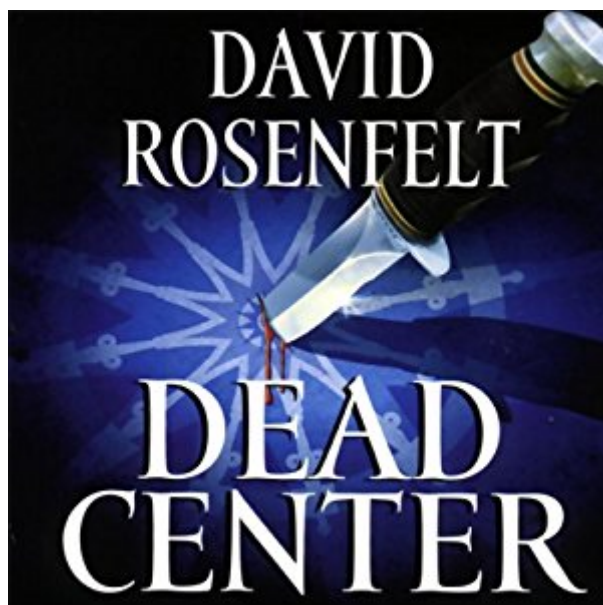


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# Dead Center



## Synopsis

After Laurie Collins left him and headed west, New Jersey defense attorney Andy Carpenter didn't expect to ever see her again. So he's shocked when his ex-girlfriend appears on TV--and then calls him pleading for his help. Two coeds in Wisconsin have been found brutally stabbed to death. As the town's acting police chief, Laurie had to arrest a young college student with a carful of bloodstains who argued with one of the victims just before her death. Yet Laurie strongly believes that the suspect, Jeremy Davidson, is innocent. Trading the refineries and factories of Paterson for the frozen pastures of Findlay, Wisconsin, Andy soon finds himself in a small town handling a big-time double homicide case. He looks into Jeremy's romance with one of the victims--and the possible involvement of a bizarre religious cult--one that may sanction the most unholy, and vicious, of acts. While Andy tries to save Jeremy, make sense of his love life, and find a decent pizza for his beloved dog, Tara, the secrets of an ultra-religious community begin to rain down on him like bricks from a cracked fortress. But as Edgar®-nominated Rosenfelt proves to us once again, the path to the truth is littered with lies and misdirection. And before it's all over, the unexpected is the only thing Andy can count on. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Murder mystery on the light side; our hero is Andy Carpenter; a lawyer who cares; obviously a work of fiction. Andy is like an old fashioned gumshoe with a great sense of humor and irony along with a very clever mind and relatively hapless when it comes to physical confrontations. However he has lurking protective muscle in Marcus and his lady love is a police officer so he's covered. Highly

recommend the Andy Carpenter Series.

Andy and Tara are distressed as Laurie has moved to Wisconsin. Some time later Laurie asks Andy to come and consult on case she feels person arrested is not guilty. Andy runs into a town who religious beliefs are contrary to the normal belief. This belief makes investigation difficult as he not welcome to interview witnesses. There are a number of twists and turns in the story. The ending might surprise you.

You have to suspend belief to a certain degree with just about every murder mystery that's been written. One of the things I've liked about the first four Andy Carpenter books was that, although the stories included some rather extraordinary situations, they seemed conceivably possible to me (with the notable exception of his too-good-to-be-true girlfriend!). That all went by the wayside in this story. While the prose remained well written, the plot was unrealistic and unbelievable: The religious community, the motive and the murderer (among other things) just didn't seem to ring true. It's a shame, too; with a little work it could have been edited into a much more credible story. While I will admit to finding the book to be a page-turner, I felt rather cheated upon completion. I will read the next installment in hopes that this one was an exception, but will probably discontinue reading the series if it turns out to have similar flaws.

As always, the story and plot are sound and well written. His usual clever dialogue is here again, as well as the last minute plot twists. It is more than worth the read.

A great read, as we're all the previous books in this series. They just keep getting better. Can't wait to read the next one.

As always, Andy Carpenter novels keep you in suspense as to who did it.

This series is light very funny and a good read mystery

Rosenfelt's Andy Carpenter series is a must read for me. His writing is witty, sometimes laugh out loud funny and most importantly believable. He takes a departure from believable in "Dead Center". Andy is nursing his broken heart from his long time love Laurie Collins leaving him and returning to her native Findlay, WI. Four and a half months after she has left him he sees her on a

nationally televised news conference announcing an arrest in a double homicide in Findlay. Shortly afterwards he picks up his phone to find Laurie on the other end asking him to come to Findlay to represent the accused - she doesn't believe he is guilty. As implausible as that scenario is - the murder victims are members of a cultish religion with a Jonestown-like feel. The members of this religion are so one dimensional and their "closed to outsiders" town so unbelievable as to undermine the story. Rosenfelt adds his trademark twists and Carpenter is his usual wise-cracking, irreverent self - but it isn't enough to elevate the book to the standard the series has previously set.

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