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Contact: Dee Dee De Bartlo
Phone: 212-207-7498
E-Mail: diana.debartlo@harpercollins.com

**RAP STARS, CRUSADING ATTORNEYS, INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISTS...**

*FOR MELANIE VARGAS, IT'S JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE,
WHERE THE LINE BETWEEN WHO UPHOLDS THE LAW AND WHO BREAKS IT IS
THINNER THAN EVER*



With 2007's COVER-UP, Michele Martinez proved that her Melanie Vargas series is the gold standard in edgy, sexy suspense. This February, the feisty Manhattan prosecutor returns in NOTORIOUS (on sale 2/26/08), an intricate, nuanced murder mystery that showcases the author's gifts for characterization and plotting.

On an uncomfortably hot day in March, Melanie is deep in conversation with Lester Poe outside New York City's federal courthouse. Lester is a superstar defense attorney whose legendary courtroom reputation (and shoulder-length hair) dates back to the Civil Rights era. Melanie is prosecuting Lester's client, the famous rapper Atari Briggs, in a blockbuster case involving narcotics and weapons charges.

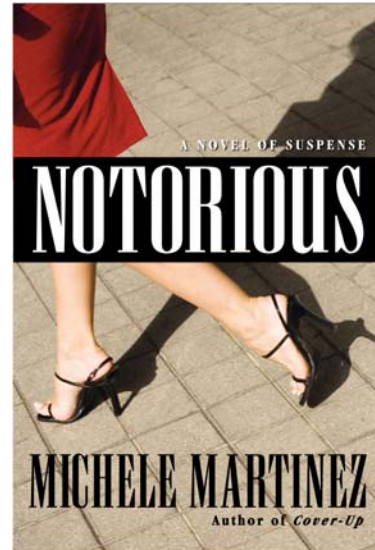


www.michelemartinez.com



Lester is urging Melanie to postpone the trial, because he's sure he can get Atari to plead guilty to a lesser charge and give them information that will help reel in a much bigger fish: feared terrorist Gamal Abdullah, who is allegedly funneling billions' worth of Afghan heroin into the United States. Atari claims he hosted a meeting with Abdullah and his buyers on his yacht, where hidden surveillance cameras captured every face and every word.

Intrigued by the prospect of busting a major source of revenue for Afghan terror warlords, Melanie agrees to look into Atari's claim. Satisfied, Lester turns (after exchanging flirtations with Melanie) and heads for his silver Maserati parked across the street. As Melanie watches him go her attention is diverted to a nearby man in a dark jacket. At first he appears simply to be a dog walker, but he's looking at Lester with a suspicious intensity that unnerves Melanie. Then he takes out a cell phone and points it at the car just as Lester opens the door. Melanie yells Lester's name to warn him a split second before the car explodes in a haze of blood and metal.



Now, with Melanie as the sole witness to a high-profile murder (and privy to information that could be the key to breaking up an international drug ring), there's no shortage of people who would like to see her silenced for good. And as she digs deeper into Lester's and Atari's pasts, each answer she finds spawns new and deadlier questions. Danger abounds as Melanie races to solve the case, navigate her tumultuous romance with hunky FBI agent Dan O'Reilly, and find quality time to spend with her adorable daughter Maya.

With imaginative plots and characters that grow deeper and more multidimensional with each book, Michele Martinez is here to stay. For anyone who wishes *Sex and the City* had more suspense or Sue Grafton had more sizzle, **NOTORIOUS** is just what the lawyer ordered.



Check out what Michele has to say about love, laughter, laundry and the mysteries of writing life at <http://thelipstickchronicles.typepad.com/>

Or visit her website at <http://www.michelemartinez.com/>

NOTORIOUS
by Michele Martinez
William Morrow Hardcover
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\$23.95/\$27.95 (Can.)

ABOUT THE

Michele Martinez was born and raised in inner-city New Haven, Connecticut and went on to graduate with honors from Harvard University and Stanford Law School. She worked at the prestigious Manhattan law firm of Debevoise & Plimpton before spending 8 years fighting crime as a federal prosecutor in New York City, including a 2-year stint as Deputy Chief of Narcotics. Many of her cases involved murders, kidnappings, home invasions, and other acts of violence, and she has extensive courtroom experience. Michele lives with her husband and two sons.

AUTHOR



Michele Martinez Photo © Sigrid Estrada

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