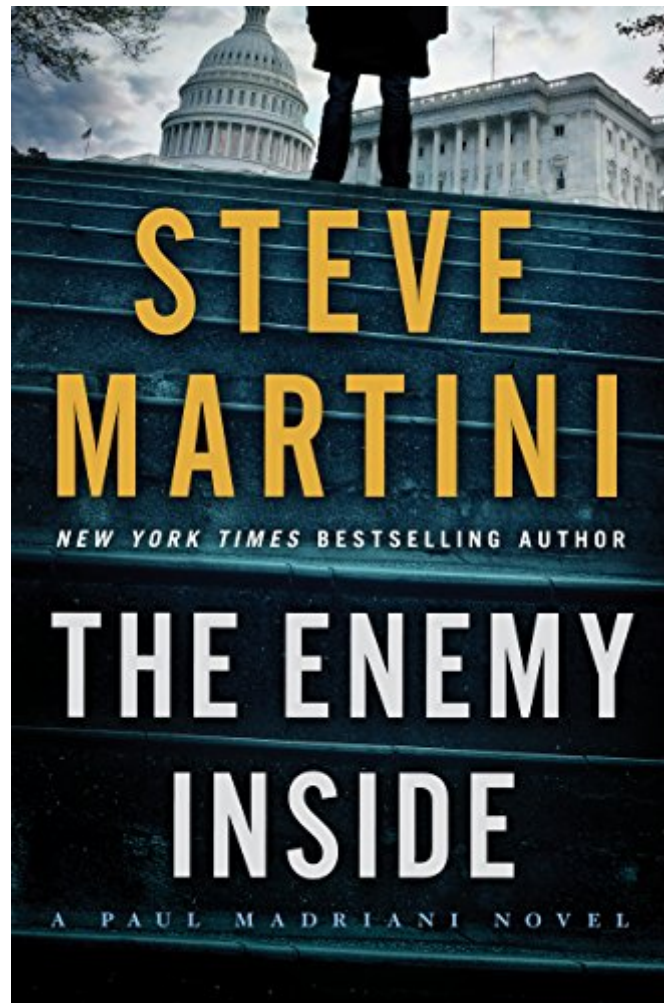




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# The Enemy Inside: A Paul Madriani Novel (Paul Madriani Novels Book 13)



## Synopsis

Defending an innocent young man, defense attorney Paul Madriani uncovers a morass of corruption and greed that leads to the highest levels of political power in this electrifying tale of suspense from New York Times bestselling author Steve Martini. One of the most successful lawyers in the country, Olinda Serna is a master at managing money as well as her influential clients. After years of fierce combat in the political trenches, Serna knows all the dirty secrets, where the bodies are buried, and how deeply they are stacked. When she's killed in a roadside crash in the high desert of Southern California, powerful heads in Washington begin to panic, worried that their secrets may not be safe anymore. Alex Ives, a friend of Paul Madriani's daughter, is accused of vehicular manslaughter in Serna's death. Ives claims he had only one drink on the night of the accident, yet he can't remember anything between the time he left for a party north of San Diego and the moment he woke up in a hospital the next morning. He's still dazed and a little bruised, but also obviously very afraid. After all, a woman is dead, and he's sure he didn't kill her. To save an innocent young man's life, the brilliant defense attorney must uncover everything he can about Serna and her clients—no matter how unsavory—a search that will lead him into a vortex of corruption, and at its center, a devious killer poised to strike again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Martini went on a break for a few years. I was a big fan. Now he's back with two books and neither measure up to earlier work. Not sure what happened. Too bad. His early stuff is great. Right up there with Lescroarts

I'm about 40% of the way through this book, having just finished his prior one which really was a trilogy. I'm not sure if I will continue. Long political harangues. The previous three had Madriani playing terrorist chaser all over the world. This is yet another spy type book. Really, there are far better spy authors. Martini knows the courtroom. He should stick to it. And if I want story-derailing political opinions, I'll open a newspaper, turn on the TV, etc. Madriani is supposed to be a lawyer, not a spy, not law enforcement, or special ops. If Martini must write about something other than the law, then create a new character. If Madriani's legal business is going down the tubes, it's because Martini is going down the tubes. Maybe he's farmed out things to a stable of second rate hacks and just putting his name on things? Can't believe this is an author I used to love.

I was so looking forward to this book, and ended up just stopping reading it about halfway through. There's just too many storylines going on. I'm sure they'll all come together in the end, but I was too bored to bother reading it. I have read every single one of his books, and have enjoyed every single one, until now. Will definitely read the next book, and may eventually finish this one, but just really disappointed.

I have been a Martini reader for many years. I was hooked by his early books as his sparse but clear and complete writing style is perfectly suited to the personality of the protagonist, Paul Madriani. However Mr. Martini's latest books, including this one, have tended to fantastical premises, with worldwide conspiracies and complicated and unbelievable over the top characters and situations. His early books tended to be focused on local (to him) events and relate-able plots. Now it is routine for him to involve international terrorists, White House occupants, Supreme Court justices and other highly improbable persons. Add to that the extremely unlikely plots and I have to say I am disappointed. His ability to make a local and seemingly routine events seem real and possible was what drew me to him originally and this recent tendency to the outrageous have taken

away some of his allure. That said he still writes very well and the book was enjoyable, but I am not sure that I will rush out to get the next book he writes.

Steve Martini has shifted from legal thrillers to trying to write international conspiracy action books. I don't think he does it well. I used to read all Martini books as they came out. After the last 2 books I will hesitate before reading his books again. I wish he could write more books like *Undue Influence*. That was a great book. *The Enemy Inside* is not. *The Enemy Within* actually started out interesting and well written while the activities were centered in San Diego. Once the book started with multiple narratives and events and characters on multiple continents it was hard to follow, less interesting and I was trying to decide if it was even worth finishing. I did finish the book because I was on a plane. I would say the ending was predictable but it actually wasn't because I was predicting some sort of interesting ending or a twist and this had neither. My suggestion is to skip this book, read his early books and hope he goes back to his early writing approach.

First, it is far too long. Second, the characters, with their very un human capabilities to kill on command, destroy anyone who gets in their way, make cognitive leaps that defy believability while solving unsolvable questions is just total hogwash. "Bwana" and the cast of characters reminds me of shows we would put on in the back yard summers when I was a kid and charge the neighborhood kids a nickel to come to see--including a glass of lemonade. The characters are cardboard, undeveloped, and the whole book is a waste of time. Good comic book material, but Steve Martini writes like he is finishing an assignment for school of so many pages. He wrote some good ones, but this is not one of them.

Not sure I know what I read...the story rambles from this to that. Martini spends half the book expressing his political views...some of which I agree with...but much too much in a "thriller". Characters are shallow and plot is convoluted. Guess we have to wait for the next installment to find out what happens to all the bad guys. A hohum book

Steve Martini is a talented writer and storyteller. But he's wandered out of the courtroom in his last few books to his discredit. He is attempting to make Paul M. and Harry H. action heroes and it isn't working. Steve, do yourself a favor, stick with the legal thriller where you compete with the best and where Paul Madriani and Harry Hinds are most comfortable. Herman Diggs a good character also but giving you 3 stars on this was a push.

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