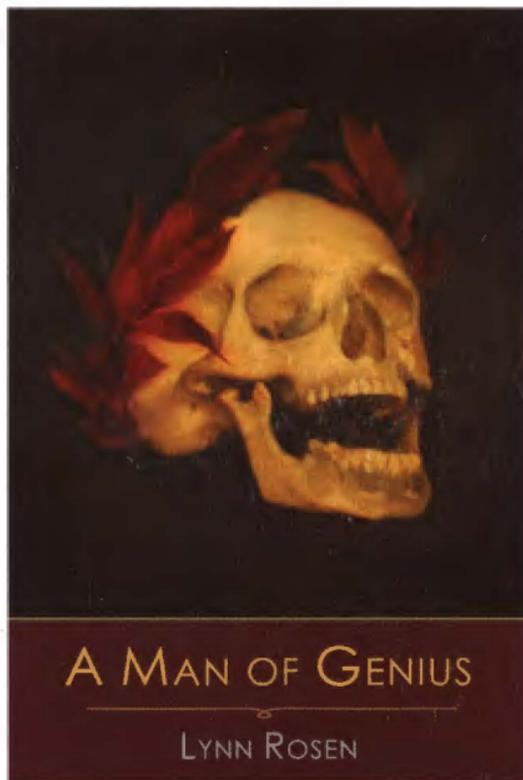


# A Man of Genius

Lynn Rosen

By Bethany Bushen



Lynn Rosen creates a remarkable and refreshing suspense thriller in *A Man of Genius*, her debut novel.

Rosen was eighty-four years old when the book was published earlier this year. The New York City native earned multiple graduate degrees at the University of Rochester, where she was later faculty. She currently splits her time between here and there.

When the novel was first published, she told the *Huffington Post*, “I don’t consider myself a writer. I’m a storyteller. Some stories just stay with me—not in pure form because our memories don’t retain events as they actually happened. They’ve been reconfigured.”

A recollection-based story is the basis of this novel. It is told through the eyes of Arthur Dolinger, an attorney whose firm is tasked with managing the estate of the late visionary architect, and Dolinger’s estranged friend, Samuel Grafton-Hall.

An associate of Dolinger, a young female attorney named Carlyle Richards, pays a visit to Grafton-Hall’s renowned Gothic mansion, Upuna Rose, driven by an odd request to have part of the will read out loud in the presence of Grafton-Hall’s widow.

Dolinger then gives his version of the story following Grafton-Hall’s rise to fame in the late 1940s, his incurable ego, and secretive affair with a much younger woman. While

the architect weaves a web of lies to protect his reputation, his wife, Catherine, a talented architect herself, lives in Samuel’s shadow, unaware of his hidden deeds.

As she learns of his betrayal, Catherine’s journey of self-realization unfolds, and the story accelerates full force until you can’t stop turning the page.

Rosen adds a twist that leaves the reader with a complex case of blurry identities and leads one to question the moral gray areas surrounding the characters’ web of greed and deceit.

Grafton-Hall will stop at nothing to preserve his own legend, even in death. Those left behind must then weigh the legality—and morality—of their actions as they struggle to navigate through the uncertainty that remains. Could spurned love and jealousy, taint our view of the central character, or can we trust Dolinger’s memory?

Rosen’s writing is simply stunning to read. She weaves a tale so rich and complex that I predict its appeal will be wide reaching for many years to come.

Do yourself a favor and read this five-out-of-five-stars book. (5/5)

*Bethany Bushen is a Rochester area freelance writer. Follow her at @BRBushen.*