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**ATTORNEY, AUTHOR, & ACTIVIST ROBYN GIGL TACKLES THE
COMPLEXITIES of GENDER, CLASS, RACE, POWER & PUBLIC
PERCEPTION IN GRIPPING LEGAL DRAMA WITH A
“RIPPED FROM THE HEADLINES” PLOT**

**~ BY WAY of SORROW, a stunning “Own Voices” debut by Robyn Gigl,
on sale March 30, 2021 ~**

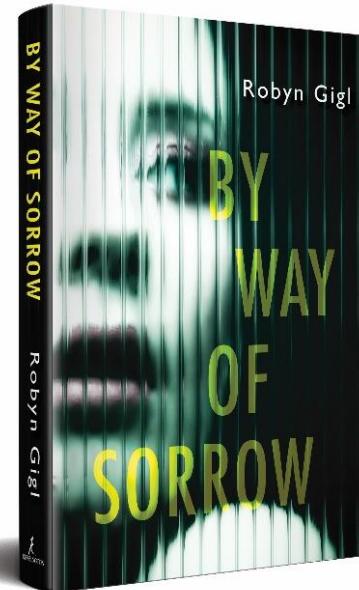
Advance Praise for BY WAY OF SORROW

“A compulsively riveting page-turner with a complex heroine, a captivating plot, and no easy answers. It’s one of the best thrillers of the year.” — **Mystery Scene**

“Gigl, a transgender lawyer herself, provides provocative insights into the legal system and the challenges of gender identity.” — **Booklist**

“This enthralling series debut features a twisty plot full of surprises and a cast of exciting characters—most notably, tough and relatable defense-attorney Erin McCabe—all while diving into the mud of corrupt local politics. An original legal thriller that is sure to be among the year’s best!” — **Edwin Hill, author of *The Missing Ones***

“A compelling, provocative legal thriller like no other. It’s addictive as hell, one of those ‘just one more chapter’ books that keep you reading late into the night”—**Kevin O’Brien, New York Times bestselling author**



Crackling with authenticity and featuring a protagonist who, like the author, is a transgender attorney, *BY WAY OF SORROW* is both a gritty, riveting legal thriller and an “Own Voices” story bringing much-needed diversity to the genre. It introduces Erin McCabe, a criminal defense attorney doing her best to live a quiet life in the wake of her transition, divorce and estrangement from most of her family. But when a young, Black, transgender prostitute is accused of murdering a wealthy politician’s son, Erin feels duty-bound to defend her – even if it means having her personal life thrust into the spotlight.

Unlike many novels featuring trans characters, *BY WAY OF SORROW* is not a story about a journey towards self-acceptance and the process of gender confirmation. It’s a fast-paced thriller with two strong, complex female characters who are much more than their genders. At the same time, they’re

both dealing with what comes “after” – the personal dramas, the public perception, and the business of living day-to-day.

Robyn Gigl is an attorney and activist who's been practicing for over 40 years and fighting for LGBTQ+ rights in and out of the courtroom for more than a decade. In her novel, she raises relevant issues of how race, class, sexual orientation, and gender identity impact the justice system. She also takes on the more personal struggles faced by minority groups, including feelings of isolation and alienation, strained family relationships, and public discrimination, inspiring empathy and creating understanding in readers from various walks of life.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Erin McCabe has been referred the biggest case of her career. Four months ago, William E. Townsend, Jr., son of a New Jersey State Senator, was found fatally stabbed in a rundown motel near Atlantic City. Sharise Barnes, a nineteen-year-old transgender prostitute, is in custody, and given the evidence against her, there seems little doubt of a guilty verdict. Erin knows that defending Sharise will blow her own private life wide open, and doubtless deepen her estrangement from her family. Yet as a trans woman, she feels uniquely qualified to help Sharise, and duty-bound to protect her from the possibility of a death sentence.

Sharise claims she killed the senator's son in self-defense. As Erin assembles the case with her partner, former FBI agent Duane Swisher, the circumstances hint at a more complex and chilling story with ties to other brutal murders. Senator Townsend is using the full force of his prestige and connections to publicly discredit everyone involved in defending Sharise. Behind the scenes, his tactics are even more dangerous. His son had secrets that could destroy the senator's political aspirations—secrets worth killing for. And as leads begin mysteriously disappearing, it's not just the life of Erin's client at stake, but her own . . .

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Robyn Gigl is an author, attorney, speaker and activist who has been honored by the ACLU-NJ and the NJ Pride Network for her work on behalf of the LGBTQ community. Appointed by the New Jersey Supreme Court to the Committee on Diversity Inclusion and Community Engagement, she is active in the New Jersey State Bar Association where she is a member of the Diversity Committee, the Women in the Profession Section and a Past Chair of the Bar's LGBT Rights Section. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of Garden State Equality, New Jersey's largest LGBTQ+ Civil Rights Organization and a frequent lecturer on diversity issues. She lives in New Jersey.

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BY WAY of SORROW

By Robyn Gigl

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