

LEGAL THRILLERS & MORE

Compiled by the Readers Advisory Team of Rolling Meadows Library

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Old City Hall by Robert Rotenberg

In the aftermath of a seemingly open-and-shut murder investigation in which a leading Canadian radio show host has confessed to his wife's murder, the suspect's defense attorney struggles to make sense of clues that do not add up.

The Mayor of Lexington Avenue

by James Sheehan

The story centers on a young man who was railroaded into confessing to a murder and now, 10 years later, sits on death row awaiting execution. Jack Tobin, a New York lawyer with a high-powered past, is the only one who can prove the man's innocence.

Judgment Day by Sheldon Siegel

Mike Daley and Rosie Fernandez, once married, but now partners at a law firm, try to stop the execution of former mob lawyer Nathan Fineman, who was convicted of three killings in a Chinatown restaurant due to a possible police cover-up.

Hell Bent by William Tapply

Hired to represent Augustine Sinclair--a photojournalist who has returned maimed and suffering from PTSD after a stint in Iraq--in his upcoming divorce, Boston attorney Brady Coyne suspects murder when his client turns up dead, the victim of an apparent "suicide."



A Poisoned Mind by Natasha Cooper Barrister Trish Maguire is faced with a possible career-altering choice when her boss's terrible accident leaves her in charge of defending the corrupt World Waste Management company, a decision that is further complicated when her younger brother inadvertently becomes involved in the stabbing of a family friend.

The Lies That Bind by Edward DeAngelo This debut novel is gripping and emotional while asking the complex question: What defines fatherhood? Is it blood, legal obligation or love? This timely story deals with paternity and DNA testing.

Wrongful Death by Robert Dugoni Reluctantly aiding a bereaved widow in a wrongful death lawsuit against the government and military for the death of her Iraq war soldier husband, attorney David Sloane uncovers evidence of a dangerous adversary who retaliates by threatening David's family.

The Marriage of True Minds

by Stephen Evans

Lawyers Lena and Nick are divorced; with Lena retaining control of their Minneapolis firm and Nick pulling political protest stunts. When Nick lands himself in jail for filling the pool at the mayor's mansion with lobsters; Lena, feeling guilty, shepherds Nick into rehabilitation.

Scottsboro by Ellen Feldman

This may offer the most honest portrayal of the events surrounding the 1931 alleged rape of two white women by nine black men. Told from the perspective of Alice Whittier, a white female journalist, the story not only offers a historical replication of the youth's imprisonment and unjust trials but also reveals the other players the American Communist Party, attorneys, and journalists—who sought to gain from the acquittal or execution of the young men.



Above the Law by Tim Green

In the aftermath of a hunting accident in which an illegal immigrant is killed by a senator, the victim's widow claims that her husband and the senator's wife were having an affair, prompting a young attorney to discern the truth before the widow is deported.

Man in the Middle by Brian Haig

Investigating the suicide of a Washington defense official, military lawyer Sean Drummond is caught in the middle of a political struggle between influential power brokers and his own allegiance to the soldiers fighting in the Iraq war.

Blood and Bone by William Lashner Enjoying a life of minimal responsibility after botching a promising athletic career, Kyle is wrongfully implicated in the murder of his father's former law partner and finds himself questioned about his father's own death twelve years earlier.

A Plague of Secrets by John Lescroart Dismas Hardy finds himself on the case as Maya Townshend, a beautiful San Francisco socialite and niece to the mayor, becomes embroiled in conspiracy, cover-ups, and tabloidfueled controversy after the murder of two acquaintances.

Black Water Rising by Attica Locke

When African-American lawyer Jay Porter jumps into the bayou to save a drowning white woman in Houston, Texas, in 1981, he finds his practice and life in danger when he becomes embroiled in a murder investigation involving Houston's elite.



Fugitive by Phillip Margolin

Defending Charlie, a former fugitive who hid in Africa for twelve years after being falsely implicated in the murder of a congressman, criminal lawyer Amanda Jaffe struggles to prove the man's innocence while protecting him from a vengeful African dictator.

Jury Rigged by Laurie Moore

Cezanne Martin's life is turned upside down after an escaped prisoner tries to kill her, her longlost father dies and leaves her his house, and her brother returns wanting his share of the estate.

Show No Fear by Perri O'Shaughnessy A first murder investigation tale for Nina Reilly fans finds the future intrepid lawyer making her way through law school by working as a paralegal, an endeavor that is challenged by an exboyfriend's custody battle; her mother's failing health, and a suspicious suicide.

Dark of Day by Barbara Parker

A young woman vanishes from a celebrity-studded party on South Beach. The media descend, and the spotlight threatens to reveal the secret past of a high-profile criminal defense attorney.

A Cure for Night by Justin Peacock Taking a job with the Brooklyn Public Defender's Office, Joel Devereux agrees to assist lead attorney Myra Goldstein in a high-profile murder case involving a black pot dealer accused of killing a white college student in a street shooting.

Plain Truth by Jodi Picoult

Ellie Hathaway has gone to stay at her greataunt's home in Paradise, Pennsylvania. While there, she has the chance to defend a client that really needs her, not just one that can afford her. She finds herself having a clash of wills with a client that does not want to be defended and her brush with a culture (Amish) whose justice is markedly different from her own.