



A Criminal Defense

William L. Myers Jr.

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Losing the trial of his life could mean losing everything.

When a young reporter is found dead and a prominent Philadelphia businessman is accused of her murder, Mick McFarland finds himself involved in the case of his life. The defendant, David Hanson, was Mick's close friend in law school, and the victim, a TV news reporter, had reached out to Mick for legal help only hours before her death.

Mick's played both sides of Philadelphia's courtrooms. As a top-shelf defense attorney and former prosecutor, he knows all the tricks of the trade. And he'll need every one of them to win.

But as the trial progresses, he's disturbed by developments that confirm his deepest fears. This trial, one that already hits too close to home, may jeopardize his firm, his family—everything. Now Mick's only way out is to mastermind the most brilliant defense he's ever spun, one that will cross every legal and moral boundary.

A Criminal Defense Details

Date : Published April 1st 2017 by Thomas & Mercer

ISBN :

Author : William L. Myers Jr.

Format : Kindle Edition 347 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Thriller, Legal Thriller

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From Reader Review A Criminal Defense for online ebook

Tulay says

Great legal thriller.

This unpublished book was free with Kindle First March selection. So very glad I picked this book. Legal mystery/thrill lovers should read this book.

All the characters with their actions explained to us who and what they are. Other than little girl Gabrielle and Tommy, they all are disgusting.

Michael McFarland has small legal practice, his very rich friend since law school is accused of murder. Trial and investigations keeps you guessing and glued to your seat. You'll never guess the mind blowing ending.

Amy says

All of my reviews can be found on www.novelgossip.com

4.5/5

I'm always slightly hesitant before I read a legal thriller, will it be full of legal jargon that bores me to tears? Will it be bland and dry with more long speeches by blabbing lawyers than actual thrills? None of that happened here, in fact it was quite the opposite. I was highly engrossed in this story and had a hard time putting it down. This isn't a straightforward legal drama, there is much more going on under the surface than you initially think, which is exactly why I ended up loving A Criminal Defense so much!

This was jam packed with complex characters with even more complex relationships and they all toed the line in terms of morality. Mick is the protagonist and the defense attorney for his old friend, David. He was caught at the scene of the murder of Jennifer and things don't look good for his case at all. You also have the prosecutor, Devlin, Mick's wife Piper, his brother Tommy and David's wife Marcie. No one seems to be playing by the rules, they all have hidden agendas and dark secrets full of corruption and betrayals. It was a tangled web to say the least and I couldn't have loved their twisted relationships any more.

The beginning of the book is a lot of build up as the case doesn't actually go to court until after the halfway point, however the author was laying the groundwork for some explosive moments later on down the road, so it was all necessary in the end. His writing style is crisp and his legal knowledge is on point, but as I mentioned earlier, it's not over the top. He details exactly what the reader needs to know and nothing more or less. The final twenty percent is where things get super intense, the courtroom drama is full of tension and is vividly rendered. The main plot twist blindsided me, I'm talking jaw dropping, I never saw it coming type of twist, though in hindsight, the breadcrumbs were all there, I just didn't follow them. A Criminal Defense is an outstanding debut from a talented writer to keep your eye on.

Jean says

This is a new author for me. The book was recently published on April 1, 2017. The author is a practicing attorney.

A young female reporter is found dead and a prominent Philadelphia businessman is accused of the murder. Our protagonist is Mick McFarland. He finds himself in a quandary. David Hanson, the defendant, is a close friend and law school buddy. The T. V. news reporter had call Mick to seek help only hours before her death. Mick had been a prosecutor before becoming a defense attorney. Mick discovered his friend had lots of skeletons in his closet. The ADA in charge of the case was his major rival in the D.A.'s office when they worked together. Nothing is as it seems even to the point as to whether it was an accident or murder.

The book is well written. The plot is complex with subplots interwoven. The characters are well crafted, layered and complicated. The diverse characters include flawed and damaged people and broken relationships. The ending was a surprise. The courtroom scenes were electrifying. The book is highly entertaining.

I read this as an audiobook downloaded from Audible. The book is thirteen hours long. Peter Berkrot does an excellent job narrating the book Berkrot is an actor, voiceover artist and audiobook narrator. This is the first time I have heard him narrator a book. His voice is ideal for a certain type of book, such as this one. I will keep an eye out for more books narrated by him.

Selene says

3.75 stars

This book featured a slow burning legal drama based in Philadelphia about a lawyer juggling multiple open cases, an unsteady marriage, unstable family ties, and a financially shaky legal firm. Michael "Mick" McFarland was the protagonist whose POV provided the central vision for this story.

The beginning was a bit dull with all of the background information being laid out, but this story gradually became more interesting as the story unfolded. Mick was sort of lifeless and bland *to me* for the majority of this book, but he became more lively during the David Hanson/ Jennifer Yamura trial and that streak of energy continued to the end of the story.

I loved the courtroom dialogues and tidbits about the jury's expected reactions. The tension between Mick and the detectives, the fine details gathered to build the David Hanson defense, and the preparation for presenting the case were my favorite parts of this story. There wasn't a single twist or turn in this book that I didn't love and the ending was *to die for!* I loved it! Actually, the last 15 percent of this book was really the meat and potatoes of this story and transformed that part of the book from a legal drama to a legal thriller! Before that, the protagonist was stiff and a little boring. It was almost as if Mick needed his heart to be ripped to shreds (view spoiler) and to unload those pesky secrets (view spoiler) before he could appreciate his life again. The thought of losing that carefully crafted lifestyle was enough for Mick to put greater effort into repairing the damage he had a part in creating and to strengthen his family's bonds.

Terynce says

[And Walker asking about scars or visible marks in

Angelica says

Every once in a while I enjoy a good book about the law. This was an engrossing story of criminal defense but I hated the ending. There were no good guys and justice was not served. Maybe I'm naive, but at least in fiction, I want to like at least one person, and there was no one.

Nazanin says

2 Stars

This story is about a defense attorney (Mick) who his recent client is his college friend (David). David is accused for killing a reporter. Two detectives found him at the crime scene while he was sterilized the place and tried to run away from them and he insisted on he's not the killer. I read the first 32% but I couldn't concentrate on it. The multiple open cases were too much for me (and also too many names). So I skipped and skimmed and I'm sooo happy for doing that because that ending pissed me off SO MUCH! I don't care that the victim was b!tch/sl*t or she could have destroyed a family. The thing that is important is she was a human and she had a right to be alive and now right has been taken from her and she is dead, it's her right that her killer/killers will be punished. JUSTICE WAS NOT SERVED in this book. I don't care the perp/perps (view spoiler) It's not fair! I just wanted to see the justice! I HATED THAT ENDING!

Liz Barnsley says

Review to follow but LOVED this. I'm on the lookout for good legal thrillers I mean REALLY good ones and this hit the spot.

Cathie says

[In the end the one person I was sure was on that tape was not and they were the one that had actually done the deed. I guessed the right person but not the right motive. (hide spoiler)]

Leslie says

This is a legal procedural set in Philadelphia. As a Philly local I love books set in Philly. Love them. And the first 50% of this book had me absolutely charmed. It was an excellent mystery and Philly was well featured. when the twist in the tale came I was stunned. Stunned. STUNNED. And then annoyed.

So 4 stars rather than 5. I still plan on reading the next book by the author.

Terri Lynn says

I enjoyed the writing itself but took off 3 points for the plot, storyline, and the way it ended. The plot and storyline had the feel of a bad soap opera. Yes, I understand wanting to add twists and surprises but this was absurd. I mean, having our "hero" lawyer Mick, his troubled brother Tommy, the prosecuting attorney, Mick's wife, the defendant David Hanson, and David's wife Marcie all cheating and being cheated on and involved in the murder of reporter Jennifer Yamura in different ways was just unbelievable and too over-the-top. It's as if the author couldn't decide who to make guilty. The ending is disturbing. He tried to make something positive out of it but that made it even creepier and was no justification for Mick's (or any other character's) behavior.

Jill says

Fantastic! I was really blown away by this book. There are so many surprises and plot twists- I was kept guessing until the very end. I love clever lawyering and tense courtroom drama-I really enjoyed the courtroom scenes. The real surprise for me, though, was the characters and the drama/conflict between them. Legal thrillers these days are too often filled with thin, almost cliché'd characters. The characters in this book, including the protagonist Mick, are layered and their relationships complex. As the story unfolded, I enjoyed learning the causes underlying the tensions and estrangements between the characters and the conflicts inside them.

Stephanie says

I got this through Kindle First and I guess I'll never learn that free books are terrible books. I chose it because it had the best reviews of them all... what are y'all smoking??

Also this author didn't seem to know that Thatcher Gray (Grey) is a well known soap opera character from Grey's Anatomy.

Matt says

Exploring the world of William L. Myers, Jr., I had hoped to be dazzled by his skills and dedication to the genre. Legal thrillers are a dime a dozen, but well-crafted ones are much harder to come by. Mick McFarland is a gritty Philadelphia lawyer trying to make the world a better place, one case at a time. However, he is in private practice, so his clients must also have the money to pay for his expert legal advice. While handling some meat and potatoes casework, a stunning bit of news hits the wire; a well-known investigative journalist, Jennifer Yamura has been found at the bottom of her stairs, dead. What's worse, McFarland's long-time friend, wealthy businessman David Hanson, was seen by the police fleeing out the back door. After being retained, McFarland starts in damage control mode, learning that Hanson is clear in his innocence, but that there was a sexual relationship in play with Yamura. However, early discussions and evidence points to the fact that Hanson could well have killed Yamura, or was at least in the house with her dead body and had been cleaning up any sign of his presence. McFarland goes into pitbull mode, but must stay one step ahead of his client and three of the salivating District Attorney's Office, where senior ADA Devlin Walker has his eye on burying Hanson. While the case is progressing and heading towards a trial, McFarland must face a number of personal struggles involving various members of his family: a wife whose family is money rich but cannot see past their country club lifestyle, and a brother who is now the firm's investigator, but who harbours a past filled with less than savoury decisions. As guilt exudes from Hanson's pores, McFarland

must trust that his friend is telling the truth and that he is innocent of murder. Could Yamura's flashy news reports on dirty cops have met with retribution? Might there be another jealous lover who wanted her out of the way? Or, worst of all, might Hanson be colluding with others to cover-up this crime and lying to McFarland at every turn? Whatever the answers, McFarland will stop at nothing to craft 'a criminal defense'. A stunning legal thriller that mixes all the ingredients to deliver a story that will keep the reader hooked until the bitter end, and what a twist awaits there! Myers is surely an author who knows how to connect with his audience and deliver a realistic account of life in criminal law.

This being his debut novel, I had to use this book as my first impressions of Myers. It serves as a wonderful starting point and the legal nuances embedded into the story keep the reader engaged. Myers is able to create a wonderful set of characters, developing them as the narrative builds. Mick McFarland is surely a lawyer of note, whose work ethic and personal foibles make for a highly entertaining protagonist. Myers develops him in many ways and does not shy away from offering the good, the bad, and the ugly, though not in equal measure. Branching out from there, Myers fills the story with a wonderful cross-section of legal minds, money-grubbing business folk, and those who see themselves as above the fray. Peppering them throughout the narrative allows the story to mutate into something more than a courtroom drama, as lives are placed in the balance. Myers is also keen on showing that a lawyer's work is never tied to a single case, forcing a precarious juggling act to keep a firm afloat. McFarland is forced not only to deal with clients, but also other lawyers and shady witnesses, in hopes of providing the best defense that money can buy. Myers shows that his first foray into the genre has been a great success and I cannot wait for his follow-up, another standalone, out in the early part of 2018.

Kudos, Mr. Myers for such a wonderful opening salvo into the world of cutthroat readers and reviewers. Your legal know-how will surely propel you to the top of the pack, given time and great word of mouth.

Like/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

Amanda Jane says

Review to come
