



## Revision of Justice

*John Morgan Wilson*

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### **Revision of Justice** John Morgan Wilson

There's a Hollywood one never gets to see on Oscar night, the Hollywood of wannabes, has-beens, and never-weres. It's this hidden Hollywood that Benjamin Justice finds when he accompanies Alexandra Templeton - the go-getting young journalist he met in Wilson's previous novel, *Simple Justice* - to an open house at the home of the well-known teacher of screenwriting Gordon Cantwell. Templeton is on assignment, but the body she finds in Cantwell's garden isn't part of her story, and Justice suspects that the death isn't natural, either. The dead man is Raymond Farr, born Reza JaFari, and as it turns out, almost anyone at the party might have wanted him dead. The quintessential Hollywood deal maker, Farr's credentials were as phony as his name, and his scruples were as nonexistent as his credits. Justice - ever the investigative journalist, however reluctant - begins to nose around, and unearths a tangled web of relationships that lead him, finally, to the killer. Along the way he also reawakens a part of himself, the part he had kept buried, or preserved in alcohol, ever since the death of his lover from AIDS seven years before.

### **Revision of Justice Details**

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Author : John Morgan Wilson

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## From Reader Review Revision of Justice for online ebook

### Fritz42 says

I have to say that I enjoyed Ben, the MC, in this book more than in the first. In this one, he started to come out of his self-hating purgatory, showing us a hint of a human being in that cynical shell we saw in the first book

The mystery was interesting, but I figured out the killer halfway through the book. What was interesting was finding out how they did it.

The part of the book dealing with AIDS was heart wrenching, bringing back my own personal experiences. Because of that I'm going to have to take a break from this series before I read the next one. Which I probably will do, if only to see how Ben is handling what happened in the end.

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### LARRY says

As posted in [<http://www.amazon.com>]:

This is the first Benjamin Justice book I've read. I have to say that I really liked it, next to Michael Nava's Henry Rios.

At a party filled with directors, actors, screenwriters and other wannabes, Raymond Farr, a.k.a Reza JaFari, an Iranian actor, is found murdered.

Disgraced gay reporter, Justice, has been offered an opportunity to assist Alexandra Templeton in an article regarding the situation. Strapped for cash, Justice has no choice but to participate.

Homophobic detective, Claude DeWinter, strongly believes that Raymond's roommate, Danny Romero, is the murderer. Perhaps against his better judgment, Justice falls hard for Danny. Just one problem...Danny is HIV-positive. However, so was Justice's deceased lover, Jacques. It seems that Justice is reliving and amending his past through Danny.

Meanwhile, Justice has to help finish this article in time. However, the Hollywood people, especially the bigwigs, are giving Justice the runaround by giving him half-truths and lies. Justice has no choice but to ask blunt questions and to trap his interviewees in compromising situations in order to get the answers he need. Justice may be a disgraced reporter but he sure does know the art of reporting.

This book was interesting as it was filled with titles and synopses of old, classic movies. This book was hot in terms of gay sex. Wilson doesn't hold back with sordid details of Justice's sexual encounters with some of the suspects. Whooo...hot!

\*Revision of Justice\* was a good read that not only focused on solving the murder but also on Justice's personal issues on making amends with his past.

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## Kim says

This was one of the weaker books in the Justice series. The whole Hollywood story line didn't hold my interest, but I did enjoy Justice's POV, as usual. His relationship (if you can call it that) with Teal was particularly amusing to read. Just the right amount of sleaze, lust, and contempt to raise my eyebrows.

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## Michael says

I'm almost speechless. This is the first book by the author or series I've read. Another series and another author which I'm going to add to my list of "to-reads". What was surprising to me was the detail of sexual encounters he included. While I was shocked for, oh about three seconds, I'm glad to see such titles in the public library no matter what the content. Definitely NOT for the younger generation to read. Besides that, another wonderful author who puts the reader in the present and spins a story that brought tears to my eyes.

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## Ami says

*Without Hollywood, Los Angeles has no point!* (Chapter 12)

There is a murder in a Hollywood party that Benjamin Justice attends to, as companion to *Los Angeles Sun* reporter Alexandra Templeton. The victim is a young wannabe screenwriter -- who ends up having a lot of important people connected to him, who have reasons to want him dead.

It's been awhile since I read murder mystery that has more than 450+ pages (this one clocks at 471 pages on my Kindle). But it is oh, so satisfying. I always love murder in a party setting -- where the guests immediately become suspects. Blame early experience with Agatha Christie's stories, I guess.

The hints of the murderer is there, and it's related to the old dream of becoming big in Hollywood. I enjoy the process of Benjamin Justice gathering all the information, bullying his way to finding answers from the suspects. Reporters are like detectives, and when they get their nose on clues, they will not let go easily, huh?

I love the big names thrown here, the people in Hollywood that we know are big names now. I especially smiled big when the name mentioned was of Quentin Tarantino.

There is one scene, that makes me particularly worried about Benjamin Justice's temper ... (view spoiler). Since I've been spoiled with the dark twist on book #3 from a friend, I wonder if this is the 'seed' heading that way.

Since this book is released in the late 90's, the HIV/AIDS situation is very prominent, and I find it heartbreaking to read. What the disease does to the people infected ... particularly to those who caught it without being aware they they have exposed to it.

Over all, a solid murder mystery, and I will definitely try to read book #3.

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### **Susan says**

I read the first book of this author and really liked it and then promptly forgot all about him. While I was forgetting he was busy writing! Bless his heart. This is the second in the Benjamin Justice series. Justice is a defrocked de-Pulitzer'd journalist still trying to get his life back together. He stumbles into a party and then into a murder of a guy that no one had any use for at all. But which one of those 'no ones' killed him?

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### **Steven Werber says**

Greed, ambition and the tragedy of HIV mixed in with a murder mystery. I love this series!! You should try it.....

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### **Writerlibrarian says**

Benjamin Justice series second novel. Approximately a year after the events of Simple Justice, we find Benjamin Justice still the outsider, still struggling with his inner demons. Booze, guilt, self pity, a little depression. Alexandra Templeton, the rookie journalist, now a journalist with a name and some pull, is taping Justice for some help on an article she's writing for a LA magazine about Hollywood's business : the movie. More specifically the writing of movies. This second novel in the series is still a dark, angsty ride. But Justice finds a road to some redemption for his guilt. The plot does use the Hollywood writers paranoia, delusion and big ego nicely, you get some interesting description of life in West Hollywood and a cop that's a lot more than the sum of his dysfunctional parts. I liked it. Looking forward to "Justice at risk" to get here some time this month.

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### **Ije the Devourer of Books says**

This was such an excellent story from a gritty and excellent series. I am really not sure how to review it.

I love mysteries and I love stories with gay characters in them. This has a gripping mystery that reveals the underbelly of Hollywood with its desperation of the many who seek fame and fortune, and its hypocrisy and false lives. Benjamin Justice is thrust into this shadow world as he seeks to discover who murdered an aspiring Hollywood scriptwriter.

As he does so Benjamin is forced to confront the spectre of Aids which has been haunting him since his lover died of the disease leaving him bereft and adrift. Benjamin is forced to find who murdered the scriptwriter so that a young man falsely accused can die in peace.

But this story is not just about uncovering the truth about a murder, it is a story that makes the reader realise that we all have shadow parts of our lives. We all want to believe that we are good and living well but we never really fully know this until we are forced to confront those secret hidden parts of ourselves.

I enjoyed this story. I read it slowly and took my time with it instead of devouring it as I normally do. I allowed the heat, dust, glitter and emptiness of Hollywood to soak through me as I read and I had a great reading experience that left me wanting to cheer Benjamin on and also left me wanting to hug and comfort

him as he confronts his own fears and the brokenness of his own life.

The best part of the story is that even though he is down and hiding, Benjamin is actually tough, dogged in pursuit of the truth and compassionate. I also love this series because Benjamin has a sassy, black, intelligent, determined female reporter colleague and I love the way they both work together and get on each others nerves.

This is a great series for anyone who likes gritty mysteries with flawed heroes and thank goodness I still have more in this series to read.

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### **Catherine Mustread says**

Ben Justice develops as a character and begins to come out of his self-imposed exile where he's been mired since the death of his partner from AIDS. Since book #1, Simple Justice, Alex(andra), his journalist friend, has gotten a promotion; and their police contact DeWinter, has become more human. Justice eases his way back into the world of journalism while investigating and interviewing leads in the death of a promising young gay screenwriter during a Hollywood hills party. The gay sex scenes are a bit tamer than in the first book, although still graphic.

Justice is an interesting and likable character and I'll be looking for #3 in the series, Justice at Risk, on my next library visit.

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### **inbetween says**

Wilson tied me firmly to him with his second novel. The humanism makes it a good book, when the Hollywood setting, name dropping and newspaper-article-like chapter endings would have turned me off. Despite the wider LA setting I also find unattractive, and the illogical/crude relationship with a beautiful "cold" man, it is actually Justice's occasional violence, his drinking problem and AIDS deaths that made me like him and the books more, when just written down like this I would not even be interested in reading about such things.

"I wanted him very, very badly but was frightened of him just as much, frightened by the poison he carried in his blood and semen, and by his mortality."

The way he wants someone very much and is equally afraid of them is a simple powerful truth that exemplifies what I like about this author.

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### **Michael says**

The strength of "Revision of Justice" doesn't lie in the plot, I was certain I knew who the murderer was long before the end, but in Wilson's rich characters and in capturing the moment. I was very moved by the AIDS references which were so haunting in their veracity that I felt I was reliving experiences from the 80's and early 90's.

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## **Ikhneumon says**

An aspiring young screenwriter dies at a Hollywood party attended by disgraced reporter Benjamin Justice, who was dragged there for a story by his writing partner, Alexandra Templeton. Did Raymond Farr die of natural causes, or was he murdered? If he was killed, the list of suspects with possible means, motive, and opportunity seems to keep expanding rather than narrowing down. Templeton and Justice dig their way through the movie industry's tightly-knit, backstabbing community, interviewing agents, writers, directors, aspiring actors, ambitious assistants, has-beens and wannabes, trying to identify the culprit.

In addition to the professional opportunity the case provides, it also takes on a more personal dimension for Alex and Ben. The pair alternately assist and obstruct a homophobic police detective who has taken a shine to Alex, herself on the rebound from a failed relationship. Ben, meanwhile, finds his attentions divided between an amoral, sexually aggressive actor and a frail, HIV-positive artist, both of whom are suspects.

Hollywood provides rather too easy a target for Justice's jaded commentary, and the name-dropping of real life celebrities becomes tiresome. A key piece of information makes the killer's identity fairly obvious perhaps a little sooner than I would have liked, though the how proves a more clever problem than the who or the why (a few clues I had completely overlooked prove crucial to understanding the logistics of the crime). And Ben's instant bond with the ailing Danny is more than a little suspect, as he quite explicitly sees the younger man as a stand-in for Jacques, the lover he failed. But Wilson's dark story of deceit, betrayal, corruption and redemption, coming to an appropriately apocalyptic ending during one of California's devastating wildfires, ultimately delivers a compelling and satisfactory mystery.

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## **Steve says**

I didn't enjoy this book as much as the first one, unfortunately. Seemed like the plot was a stretch of the imagination. The characters seemed more two dimensional, and the sex scenes seemed like they were just shoehorned in.

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## **Freyja Vanadis says**

Benjamin Justice is becoming an even bigger asshole and alcoholic than he was in the first book of the series. If Mr. Wilson wasn't such a good writer, I wouldn't read any more of the series. Someone definitely needs to give Justice the ass-kicking he so richly deserves. But otherwise, the book is great. If it wasn't for Justice, I'd give it 5 stars. How's that for ironic?

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