



## Dying for Justice

*L.J. Sellers*

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### Dying for Justice L.J. Sellers

Ten years ago, Hector Vargas confessed to the cold-blooded murder of Detective Wade Jackson's parents. Now, facing his own death, Vargas has reached out from prison to declare his innocence. Armed with the shocking new truth that dirty cops railroaded Vargas, Jackson must revisit the painful past to get justice for his parents—and jail the ruthless killer.

Meanwhile, Gina Stahl awakens from a two-year coma with a chilling message on her lips: *He tried to kill me*. Now Detective Lara Evans must probe the young woman's desperate claim that her near death was not failed suicide, but attempted murder.

As their investigations intersect, Jackson tangles with his estranged brother, hunts a loan shark turned philanthropist, and confronts his parents' long-buried secrets, while Evans contends with a relentless reporter, shadows a fellow cop with a dangerous reputation, and struggles with her feelings for Jackson. But the more dark revelations they make, the deadlier the resistance they face from a killer terrified of losing everything...and willing to stop at nothing.

### Dying for Justice Details

Date : Published January 15th 2013 by Thomas & Mercer (first published February 26th 2011)

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Author : L.J. Sellers

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## From Reader Review Dying for Justice for online ebook

### Keith Grove says

#### Surprisingly GOOD.

It is very rare that I read a book from an author I have never heard of before and LIKED IT. I WILL be reading more, after all that is how I discovered Ian Rankin.

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### Andrew Finan says

#### Great paced thriller

Love Sellers books. Good pace and character development and intrigue. I've read a few. Good holiday material. Not too taxing.

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### Patricia says

Clark and Evelyn Jackson were shot to death in their home eleven years ago. Detective Wade Jackson has moved beyond the horror of his parent's murder and his estrangement from his brother Derrick. Wade and his brother inherited their parent's home but Derrick lives there even though the house should have been sold and the proceeds divided between the two brothers. When Wade receives a letter from the man who had been convicted of the murders, old wounds are once again brought to the surface.

Hector Vargas was a man who was doing odd jobs for Wade's parents. Due to an anonymous tip, Vargas was picked up and eventually confessed to the murder of Clark and Evelyn Jackson. Vargas writes that he has cancer and wants to set the record straight before he dies. Wade decides to make the trip to Oregon State Penitentiary even though he feels that Vargas is just trying to make a last minute attempt to clear his conscience.

When Wade hears the story Vargas has to tell he is convinced that Vargas is telling the truth. Vargas did steal from Wade's parents but swears he did nothing to hurt the couple. Vargas describes his interrogation and the brutality of the two police officers who are still in the department.

Jackson receives permission from his supervisor to spend some time trying to find out more information about the case involving the murder of his parents. He also requests that an investigation begin regarding the allegations made by Vargas regarding police brutality.

Meanwhile Detective Lara Evans, who normally works with Detective Jackson is assigned the case of Gina Stahl. Gina is in a nursing home where she has been for the past two years. Gina was found in her home suffering from what was believed to be an overdose. Gina's parents could not let go of their daughter and when the time came to make a decision about Gina's future, her parents moved her to the nursing home where she received therapy and where her parents visited daily. When Gina woke up from her long sleep, she asked that the police be called. Gina contends that she did not attempt suicide but was attacked by someone wearing a ski mask. Gina thinks that person was her ex-husband, Gary Bekker who is a police officer.

Gina contends that Bekker was a sexual predator who took advantage of women. Before Gina was attacked, she had been investigating Bekker in hopes of getting enough information to turn over to the police in order for a case to be filed against him. Eventually Wade is assigned to work with Detective Evans on the Gina Stahl case.

The two cases begin to overlap and the charges against Bekker begin to pile up. Even though the two cases would be termed as cold cases, the pace of the book is fast. The author has a number of clues throughout the book but none of them revealed the very exciting conclusion.

This is the fifth in the Detective Wade Jackson series. Dying for Justice can be read as a stand-alone.

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### **David Highton says**

Two more cases for Wade Jackson and Lara Evans, one of them very personal for Jackson, with a big twist at the end

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### **Rick says**

LJ Sellers writes consistently reliable--and gripping thrillers--set in Eugene, OR. This one is no exception and may perhaps be better than some of the others. I totally enjoyed it.

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### **Elizabeth A. says**

Though Wade Jackson has by far the best clearance rate of any detective in the Eugene, Oregon Police Department, he's never worked a cold case before, which is what he's up against in Dying for Justice, the fifth book in author L.J. Sellers's series featuring the detective.

A handyman who confessed to a double-murder eleven years prior retracts his statement, telling Jackson he was isolated, starved, and tortured for three days by detectives before finally breaking down and confessing just to make it all stop. The handyman is dying of cancer and has nothing to gain by lying, and even shows Jackson the scars from where he was burned with cigarettes.

Investigating an eleven-year-old cold case is hard. Investigating one that apparently resulted in the conviction of the wrong man based on police misconduct is a minefield. Oh, and the victims? They were Jackson's parents. This is going to get bumpy.

Meanwhile, Jackson's partner/protégé, Detective Lara Evans, has a cold case of her own. Gina Stahl has been in a coma for two years, one everyone thought was the result of an intentional overdose. When Gina suddenly awakens, however, she declares that she was in fact attacked in her apartment and that the overdose must have been administered by her attacker. Further, though he was wearing a mask Gina is confident her attacker was her ex-husband, who just happens to be a cop... a cop Gina was on the verge of exposing for abusing his authority, actually. Did I mention things were going to get bumpy?

Yesterday in her guest post, L.J. explored the use of the term "thriller" in labeling fiction, wondering where

the line was which separates thrillers from mysteries. The truth is the line is a slippery one, but if ever there was a book that firmly had one foot each planted in both the thriller and mystery categories it's Dying for Justice. Though the cases Jackson and Evans are investigating are long since cold and the perpetrators unknown, things heat up when Jackson and Evans begin experiencing blowback and even physical attacks in efforts to warn them off their investigations. And when a new body gets added to the mix, things become as high stakes as they get.

Told in chapters which alternate point of view between Jackson and Evans, Dying for Justice unfolds in investigative lines which crisscross and interweave like the strands of a spiderweb, which is fitting, as the plot Sellers has constructed is complex and beautiful, sticky and deadly. You don't have to have read the previous entries in the series to enjoy Dying for Justice, which is actually something of a coming-out party for Evans, who until now had been a more minor character, but I'm confident once you get a taste of what Sellers is serving up you'll want to go back for more.

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### **April Taylor says**

This is the fifth and latest in the Detective Jackson series by L J Sellers. Wade Jackson an Oregon detective made his first appearance in 'The Sex Club'. I enjoyed the book and with the ease of the Kindle downloading system and also the incredibly reasonable price of just over £2 per book, I've read all of them in the space of a week. After the third, I began to sense a pattern, but Sellers must also have sensed it, because Nos 4 and 5 were much more complex.

In 'Dying for Justice', Gina wakes up from a two-year coma, realizing someone tried to kill her and make it look like suicide. Detective-in-training Lara Evans is assigned the case, but when she discovers who the main suspect is, she fears she's in way over her head.

Meanwhile Detective Jackson learns the man in prison for murdering his parents is innocent of the crime and another officer coerced the detainee into a confession. As the two investigators work the cold files, members of their own department come under suspicion and their cases begin to overlap. Can they find the killers before the crimes of the past explode in the present?

Sellers is building a believable family of characters in this series and keeps the tension in Jackson's private life going with torn loyalties. Very enjoyable.

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### **Rachelle Roy says**

**Good read.**

Jackson and Evans are so good together. I loved the ending and look forward to LJ Sellers next book. Thank you LJ

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### **Veidt Family says**

**Ok**

Just ok... I was hoping for a better ending.... There was closer to the story line, but I already figured it out before reading it.

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## **Stephanie J Subocz says**

**Wow**

This was an awesome book!!!

This is the first book I've read by this author but I'll look for more now. Great plot and characters! I couldn't put it down!

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## **Lizzie Hayes says**

'Dying For Justice' by L.J. Sellers

Published by Spellbinder Press, 2011. ISBN 9780983213833

Gina Stahl, opens her eyes but has no idea where she is, all that comes instantly into her mind is 'someone tried to kill me'.

When she comes to full consciousness she discovers that she is in a long-term care facility and has been in a coma for two years, following her suicide attempt. Although her brain is fuzzy Gina tells the police that she had not tried to commit suicide but that she had been attacked by a man wearing a ski mask, and that she believes the man to be her ex-husband. But, her ex-husband is a police officer, so who will believe her.

The case is assigned to Detective Wade Jackson, who works with the violent crimes unit of the Eugene, Oregon Police Department. DI Wade has an excellent record of closing cases, but DI Wade is distracted by a letter received from Hector Vargas, the man accused, convicted and jailed for the murder of his parents, eleven years ago. Hector Vargas tells Jackson that he is innocent, and now that he is terminally ill with cancer he wants to set the record straight. Despite Jackson's skepticism he knows that he has to follow it up.

Jackson works both cases, but only manages it with the help of his 32-year-old trainee detective- Lara Evans. Soon Jackson finds himself in the unenviable position of suspecting other police officers. His re-opening and examining the circumstances surrounding his parents death brings him into contact with his brother with whom he has not seen for a number of years.

The story of both cases grips the reader, with the narrative alternating between Jackson and Lara Evans. I could not put this book down - a fine piece of plotting that had me hooked, and turning the pages eager to know if, and how justice would be done for these two cold cases.

Highly recommended.

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Lizzie Hayes

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## **Peggy S Lynn says**

### **Great book!!**

This book was a great read! Loved it!!! Highly recommend this book and this author. Very captivating, and there's more books in this small series.

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## **Ellen White says**

DYING FOR JUSTICE. by L.J. Sellers. Book 5 in Detective Jackson Mystery

I enjoy her books, you get involved from the first, the characters are good. The details of the case, as well as who they are as a person, and what's going on in their personal lives. This was a cold case, that was connected to another murder. Readers will once again enjoy another story by Sellers.

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## **Kitty Austin says**

Love those murder mysteries! L.J. Sellers is a great writer and this book was no exception. Gina is in a coma for two years after being hurt and when she wakes up she realizes that someone tried to murder her and make it look as though she tried to commit suicide. The entire story is a whirlwind as she joins up with Lara Evans to find out who the person is and why they did it! Pick up this book! It's a good read and one you won't be able to put down.

Kitty Bullard / Great Minds Think Aloud / <http://www.greatmindsliterarycommunit...>

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## **Jeff Bottrell says**

Another good mystery novel from L.J. Sellers. In this installment of the Detective Jackson series, the simmering chemistry between Jackson and Evans begins to heat up. We get a lot more of Evans in this story, and the energetic detective with the type A personality wins the reader over with her spunkiness. I'm always impressed with the way Sellers lays out her plots, generally with one or two surprises at the end. The pacing is really impressive and there are no dull moments. Sellers is one of the mystery genre's best kept secrets.

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