



The Insanity Plea

Larry D. Thompson

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A young nurse is savagely killed during a pre-dawn run on Galveston's seawall. The murderer slices her running shorts from her body as his trophy and tosses the body over the wall to the rocks below. As dawn breaks, a bedraggled street person, wearing four layers of old, tattered clothes, emerges from the end of the jetty, waving his arms and talking to people only he hears. He trips over the body, checks for a pulse and, instead, finds a diamond bracelet which he puts in his pocket. He hurries across the street, heading for breakfast at the Salvation Army two blocks away, leaving his footprints in blood as he goes.

Wayne Little, former Galveston prosecutor and now Houston trial lawyer, learns that his older brother has been charged with capital murder for the killing. At first he refuses to be dragged back into his brother's life. Once a brilliant lawyer, Dan's paranoid schizophrenia had captured his mind, estranging everyone including Wayne. Finally giving in to pleas from his mother, Wayne enlists the help of his best friend, Duke Romack, former NBA star turned criminal lawyer. When Wayne and Duke review the evidence, they conclude that Dan's chances are slim. They either find the killer or win a plea of insanity since the prosecution's case is air tight. The former may be a mission impossible since the killer is the most brilliant, devious and cruel fictional murderer since Hannibal Lecter. The chances of winning an insanity plea are equally grim.

It will take the combined skills of the two lawyers along with those of Duke's girlfriend, Claudia, a brilliant appellate lawyer, and Rita Contreras, Wayne's next door neighbor and computer hacker extraordinaire, to attempt to unravel the mystery of the serial killer before the clock clicks down to a guilty verdict for Dan.

The Insanity Plea Details

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From Reader Review The Insanity Plea for online ebook

Christoph Fischer says

“The Insanity Plea” by Larry D. Thompson is a fascinating detective story about the hunt for a serial killer who savagely killed several people, while Dan, a paranoid schizophrenic is being charged with the crimes. Wayne, the brother of the accused is a Houston trial lawyer and together with a small team of friends he tries to find the real killer himself.

The book is a nail biting thriller as we fear for Dan who once was a successful lawyer himself and who is now trapped in his disease and unable to defend himself. This well written legal thriller also has some insightful information on mental health patients and their care, while giving us some real and engaging characters to carry the story forward.

Very recommendable and very enjoyable.

Wanda says

Insanely Thrilling!

I really wish I could give this book more than five stars. Larry D. Thompson captured my attention from the very first page!

Dan suffers from a mental disorder and is accused of murder. His brother Wayne decides to represent him, and he pulls his team together.

I don't want to give away too much, but I will tell you that Larry dangles a carrot right in front of you and leads you through this thriller. I promise you you will not be disappointed when you read this book!

Gayle Padfield says

Superb read!

I had no idea what to expect ...but wow! The story is well developed, clear and concise explanations and understanding of law, and the sad state of affairs for the citizens suffering the vagaries of mental illness. I would surely go to this movie!!

Mj says

I enjoyed the way it was a mystery that was different, mental illness. Growing up in Texas, I love reading of places I knew.

Looking forward to reading more of Larry Thompson's books. It was a fast read.

Lisa says

I really enjoyed this psychological court room drama. It shows how hard it is to plead an insanity case in the US and how so many psychotic people fall through our legal cracks. Add in a doctor with his own agenda who is paid to throw the trial and don't forget about the serial killer who is on a rampage. The author could have used the word "sweetie" a little less often as it started to get to me. Other than that it was excellent and I will read more by this author.

Dawn says

Good premise, but

The story has a good plot and I did enjoy it. It flowed fairly well and the characters were fleshed out, more or less. I thought the concept was fairly unique; however there were some problems

For example, Dan, who is paranoid schizophrenic, didn't have some delusions, he had every delusion! The courtroom drama was somewhat unrealistic though not the worst I've read. Rita's medical emergency went quite believable. Basically, the story was fairly formulaic, so predictable. There wasn't a good build up, though the potential is definitely there.

Overall, there's much to like about this story, but the delivery needs some work. I was definitely engaged and would read more by this author; he just needs to work on build-up and more research imho.

Mj says

After the book got started it was a good read. It did make me think about mentally ill and how they are treated. I want to read more of So now I have a gray one and a pink one.this author.

Mrl says

Really enjoyed this book and all its characters. Most interesting approach of our legal system's approach with mental illness. So much of what we see in today's courts and penal system. This was the first book of Larry Thompson I have read. Definitely right up there with the good psych legal mysteries. Makes one wonder about persons who take advantage of persons unable to defend themselves. Thanks for a great read.

Pamela Kelley says

Excellent Take on Crime and the Mentally Ill

Very good take on criminals and the mentally ill in the justice system. First book I have read by this author but not the last. Good characters and understanding of the judicial system.

Yvonne M Wilt says

What a page turner.

4 good friends save one brothers life. Throw in a psychopath and you end up with one awesome story. I would read this again.

Elaine Plourde says

This was an excellent book. It kept me on the edge of my seat until the last two pages. I was also amazed at the way the judicial system can be so up in the air on mental health issues. Dan was a perfect example of some one who needed the law and the doctors on his side. I know the insanity plea is abused in alt of cases but there are people who really do need the mental health care and their just not getting it.

jennifer willing says

Good read

Highlights the mad system they have in the USA with people who suffer with mental illnesses. They need to sort out one law for all

Denise says

'The Insanity Plea' pulled me in from the beginning and didn't let go. I had such a hard time putting this book down. The story line was well written and well thought out. Full of impressive characters, great scenarios and it gave me an insightful look into how we, as a nation, need to look into rewriting the guidelines and care management for the mentally ill. Wayne is a great lead. He seems to have it all, but then again, so did his brother Dan. They were impressive men, along with Duke. They fought for what they believed in and had a heck of a time doing it. Rita and Claudia were equally impressive. They were instrumental in the overall case. I love their dynamic as the posse worked and solved problems. A must add to your tbr list. Recommended read.

Paul Fussner says

Insanity Plea says it all in mesmerising white knuckle ride through the legal jargon of the law.

I've read a lot of legal system thrillers most of which leave felling bored into submission struggling to keep on reading, not the case with this novel! This the best researched book on Schizophrenia I've ever had the opportunity of reading. Rather you have first hand experience with a person suffering from Schizophrenia or bipolar disease you'll find this story heart wrenching. This author specialises in seat of the pants research that

will leave you with a new outlook on this illness the our government has failed to acknowledge. You'll be up all night reading the author's insight into failed system for treatment of Schizophrenia

Uma says

One of the best legal thrillers I have ever read!

This is the first book I read of this author. Did not know what to expect. But, from the first line, this book holds the reader in its enthralling grip. The premise of a brilliant lawyer caught in the grip of paranoid schizophrenia and being held for a brutal murder is one that the reader rarely comes across.

The narrative is taut, engrossing and easy flowing. The characters are endearing, the descriptions of the court proceedings keep the reader on the edge of the seat throughout till the last page.

The almost perfect preparations of the defense team, the organization of the various details needed for the defense, the roles each member plays have to be read for one to enjoy the book thoroughly. One is so absorbed with everything that is going on with the defense team that one feels an integral part of the defense team!

Thanks for the immense pleasure of reading a fascinating book, Mr. Thompson. Looking forward to reading your other books!
