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# The 13th Juror: A Dismas Hardy Novel



## Synopsis

He is obsessed with her innocence. He will be destroyed by her guilt. The walls were champagne. The house was immaculate. A prosperous doctor lived there with his son and his beautiful wife. But the elegant walls hid a family's secret, a wife's shame. And one day shots rang out in the doctor's house. Suddenly Jennifer Witt was in jail, facing the death penalty. Jennifer insisted that she had not killed her abusive husband -- and she could never have killed her own son. Dismas Hardy believed her. But Hardy was only part of the defense team, and the only lawyer who continued to believe her...even as her story was torn to pieces, even as her lies came out, even as she was found guilty of murder. Now there's only one thing Jennifer can do to save her life...and she refuses to do it. So Hardy must do it for her. And in a shocking case of violence, betrayal, and lies, his only weapon is the truth...The 13th Juror...When innocence is not enough. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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#931 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Legal

## Customer Reviews

I always knew John Lescroart "existed" and I don't know why I had never read his books. Then, I read a review of his newest book, "The Fall" and I read it and found out what I have been missing. "The 13th Juror" is an outstanding courtroom drama. You may get a little confused with all the characters but hang in and keep reading. The ending will really surprise you. I am now ordering this author's books 5 at a time.

In this day and age of unedited, cheap kindle "novels", it's nice to be able to go back a couple of

decades to books that had to pass the critical eyes and minds of publishers. Mr Lescroart is deft with words and has the intelligence and skill to make the reader aware of his characters' thoughts and feelings without bludgeoning the reader senseless with over-explanations. SPOILER BELOW!! would have given the book 5 stars, but it felt like the eventual revelation of the true murderer was unfairly hidden from the reader until the last moment. Lescroart slyly set up the reader (and his protagonist, Hardy) to doggedly pursue a few plausible red herrings, meanwhile the real culprit was relegated to a secondary (almost tertiary) plot thread until needed in the end. Even so, the climax was still satisfying, especially since the means, motive, and opportunity were clearly revealed and the reader was even allowed a peek into the mind of the culprit to see how things really happened.

Trigger warnings for domestic violence. Riveting. John Lescroart is a must buy, must read author. Stand-alone that is easy to follow and difficult to put down. Compelling storyline with plenty of twists throughout. Believable characters with distinct personalities. Informative, thought-provoking and occasionally snarky dialogue. We would give her more consideration, when we judge a woman, if we knew how difficult it is to be a woman. P. GERALDY The fickleness of the women I love is only equaled by the infernal constancy of the women who love me. GEORGE BERNARD SHAW "Secret police code, which I am not allowed to reveal under penalty of death." He leaned forward, whispering. "Out f'ing off." He went back to the report. Abe Glitsky told him he had this tragic flaw of a fundamental need to continually restore order to a chaotic cosmos. If you couldn't affect anything, if you couldn't act, then by Freeman's definition there was nothing to be done. I may re-read this story and always look forward to works by this author.

This is an earlier novel in the Dismas Hardy series (copyright 1994). Set in San Francisco, it is Hardy's second murder case since returning to the practice of law. A woman has been accused of murdering her husband. The evidence is circumstantial, but the prosecuting attorney (wanting a conviction to bolster his campaign for state attorney general) is making a strong case. Hardy has been brought in as an associate by David Freeman. Freeman makes the point that it is not their job to determine whether the woman is guilty or innocent - it is their job to defend her on the charges. Their fee is high, but the woman has money, and will have even more money if she is not convicted. David Freeman is not taking the case pro bono. It is a complex case, and a courtroom drama. You will learn a lot about legal procedures, conduct of trials, etc. You can hope you never end up being

run through the system. You can be innocent, and it will still take a year of your life and a lot of your money. The circumstances - it's a question of could she have done it and whether she had a motive, and how much to believe "witnesses" and what they claim that they heard or saw. And people have secrets. Some aspects of the case seemed a little unfinished. One has to wonder, for example, if a woman has money and has made the right connections, what would she do about someone who has abused her?

If you like courtroom drama and legal thrillers, this series by John Lescroart never disappoints. The plot stays a couple of steps ahead of you and the action moves right along. If there's a negative for this reader, there's a little more time spent on family life than I would like, but this is a minor nitpick. Start reading a Dismas Hardy novel and see if you can stop with just one.

Over the years I have read several of Lescroart's Dismas Hardy series. As were the others, this one is superb. Dismas Hardy is a character to whom we can all relate, family man, down to earth, realistic, and a good attorney. The story line is riveting and extremely well developed and compelling. Loved the ending. Quite a surprise. Glad I found this one.

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