



Fatal Flaw

William Lashner

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Some victims deserve nothing less than the truth . . . Ethically adventurous Philadelphia lawyer Victor Carl usually does the right thing, but often for the wrong reasons. When old law school classmate Guy Forrest is accused of murdering his beautiful lover, Hailey Prouix, in their Main Line love nest, Carl agrees to represent him -- while keeping silent about his own prior romantic involvement with the victim, and his present determination to see that his client is punished for the brutal crime. But once Carl sets the machinery of retribution in motion, it may be impossible to stop it, even after his certainty begins to crack. Now Victor Carl must race across the country to uncover shocking truths: Who, really, was Hailey Prouix? And why is a killer still waiting in her shadow?

Fatal Flaw Details

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From Reader Review Fatal Flaw for online ebook

Jai Rahim says

Enjoyed, as I have the previous two books in the series; but it seemed a bit long-winded. I would have welcomed the denouement at around three quarters in. Oh well... on to book #4!

Derk says

It was long, semi-reasonable plot, but nothing special. This was the first book in the series I've read (I think, but the author's name seems familiar, so maybe I read another one long ago).. I'll probably try another one, but not with much anticipation.

Dwight Hurst says

Really good whodunnit Legal thriller lawyer-as-detective story.

Fairly by the numbers for the genre, but with well developed characters and a few well thought out twists. The biggest surprise is revealed within the first chapter or two, which is genius because we get to see the author deal with its ramifications in some clever ways.

I feel like Lashner should be assigned reading for any wannabe mystery writers, but is also interesting enough to keep you engaged and guessing throughout.

Jerry King says

2003

Dave Cohen says

Another great read from William Lashner. This time his protagonist, Victor Carl, schemes to hang a murder charge on old classmate, while seemingly providing his defense. The reason is that Carl had a romantic relationship with the victim, and he wants to see the obvious culprit punished for the brutal crime. However, Carl discovers things that shake his certainty, and he switches gears, desperate to uncover the truth.

Awesome dialogue and story plot.

Christina Jennings hurst says

First half sucked

2.5 stars! Way too long and drawn out. This one could have been a winner. I struggled through and was pleasantly surprised by the second half.

JBradford says

Because I would rather read books than write Goodread reviews, I have a stack of books on the floor beside my table--books I have read but not yet commented on. Despite that, I picked up a new (actually old, with half the pages stained a light crimson from some long ago liquid) book yesterday to look at during breakfast and now I have to comment on it before the wonder leaves. Lashner has written two previous books about the same main character, a Jewish lawyer in Philadelphia who has some rigid ideas about lawyering but is quite willing to bend the rules when he can. If that seems contradictory, it is because Atty. Victor Carl is a very contradictory character.

BSIL has complained repeatedly that my reviews tell the whole story; I do not agree with that, as I think I am very careful not to spoil any plot, but I find in this case that the plot is so complex and convoluted (which I love) that I can hardly say anything about it without saying too much. Basically, the book begins when Atty. Carl gets a late-night call from an old college friend, also an attorney, and then dashes over to find his friend sitting on the front stoop of the house in the rain, naked, with a gun lying on the ground in front of him, and his mistress dead on a mattress on the second floor. One thing leads to another, as they say ... and in this case leads to Los Vegas and West Virginia as Victor searches for the truth with an unlikely companion.

Lashner's style is so excellent (in accordance with my tastes) that I hated to get to the end of these 563 pages, and now I have to go find the two preceding books. I am intrigued by his violation of punctuation rules, such as a series of independent clauses separated by commas to show the rapidity of his characters' thoughts, together with such things as having various chapters told entirely as first-person accounts from the point of view of another character so as to get the facts presented to the reader directly and immediately, without getting into a lot of conversational dialog. The thing that really appeals to me, however, is the convoluted twisting of the plot, revealing more and more about the characters involved as time goes on.

Kay Roseberry says

Genius

This was a really good read. It was hard to put it down and turn off the kindle. What one might expect didn't happen. The unexpected plot thickened with intensity that keeps you reading. I loved the humor, the philosophical thoughts, the reference to other authors and the analogies. Read it! You might enjoy this as much as I did.

Anna says

I just could not. get into. this book. *hangs head* I gave up at page 109 and read "The Last Templar" by Michael Jecks instead.

What was wrong with it? Well, none of the characters are likeable, the plot was slow and clunky, and the dialogue is stilted.

Characters can *be* coldly inhuman, moody, mean, or sarcastic; heaven only knows, great novels sometimes *require* that in their characters, but there has to be *some* sort of rationale that makes the reader sympathetic towards them. I tried, but I just couldn't find that here.

I will say, though, that "Fatal Flaw" had a *great* book jacket. It's what hooked me into starting the book in the first place. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to convince me to finish it.

Note: I'd actually given "Fatal Flaw" to my mom first to read. She reads as much, if not more, than I do, and it's not unusual for her to read 5-8 books a week. So I had someone to advise me on whether or not the book massively changes after page 110. Yeah, er, apparently it doesn't.

Warren Olson says

Another good solid Victor Carl story, where the main character a battling lawyer come investigator meets and ultimately teams up with the dubious 'Skink' - who will come to handle the more covert sides to Victor's future investigations. This time it's the murder of a beautiful girl (they are always beautiful/alluring - aren't they ?) who apart from being in an unrequited love/relationship with one of Carl's best friends - is also making out with the good ?? lawyer himself ! - until her sudden demise that is. Her murder seems to be clearly the work of her infatuated lover, who strangely has called on Carl to defend him. Of course, as in all of Lashner's books, things are never quite as they seem

Sandi says

While not the most admirable guy sometimes, Philadelphia lawyer Victor Carl is always interesting and I found this legal suspense story compulsively readable even though it was a bit too long. The plotting was solid if convoluted, the characters fascinating, and I really enjoyed Victor's voice throughout the narrative.

Gail Williams says

All I can say again is WOW!

This book #3 is better than book #2 and book #2 got a WOW review from me. Mr. Lashner's characters in this story are so deep and interesting you don't want the novel to end. The protagonist Victor Carl is as flawed as they come, but you can't help but admire him. I hope there is book #4 in this series. William

Lashner is my new favorite author. Give this series a try. You won't be disappointed.

Debra says

Pretty good - some twist. Listened to an audio so was able to clean while listening?. Kept me entertained.

Ann says

Excellent

He is one of the best mystery and suspense writers of all time. He weaves an intricate story with details, characters, settings and surprises. Laugh out loud irony and circumstances. Very involved puzzles that keep your interest every page. I highly recommend this book and Veritas, which has been retitled Bitter Truth. Both are exceptional in every aspect.

Mark says

I was intrigued by the 1st in the Victor Carl, "Philadelphia Lawyer" series...enjoyed the characters & interesting plot twists...here, in the 3rd of the series we have Victor defending a friend accused of killing his fiancé, a woman whom Carl has been cheating with...ranging from Vegas to W. Virginia, Victor's defense & entanglement is extremely tested!

LJ says

FATAL FLAW (Legal Thriller) – Okay-

William Lashner – 3rd in series

When old law school classmate Guy Forrest is accused of murdering his lover in their Main Line love nest, Philadelphia lawyer Victor Carl agrees to represent him while keeping silent about his own prior romantic involvement with the victim.

***Let me start by saying I read books for character; if I don't like the characters, it's a good bet I won't like the book. For me, this book didn't have a single character about whom I could care. There's the lawyer who is cheating on his wife and family, there is the protagonist lawyer who is having an affair with his "best friend's" mistress. That alone was enough to make me stop reading. If that bothers you, the plot was decent enough, although slow and, at points very repetitive. The only reason I ranked this higher than NR was because, to be fair, others in our Mystery Group rated this book Good to Very Good. While they agreed they didn't like any of the characters and found some things improbable, they felt the characters and plot were well done. But for me, I kept thinking how many other, better books with more interesting characters I had waiting to be read.

Sanjac says

Story about young lawyer Victor Carl and his case defending friend Guy Forrest. Guy is accused of murdering his lover Hailey Prouix. Life of Haileys is nothing like ordinary. She is ultimative "femme fatale", getting what she wants, from whom she wants and no matter what is at stake.

Really exciting thriller with murder elements. Only difference between thrillers nowadays is that investigation is held by lawyer/Haileys lover and not usual detective. Every person in the novel is conected to Hailey and has motive for murder. That conection comes natural, not overwhelmed and overrated. Liked it a lot. Have many quotes that you as a reader can identify with.

Joyce Lagow says

3rd in the Victor Carl, Philadelphia defense lawyer, series.

Another outstanding entry in this series. Carl has become obsessed with his lover, Hailey, a beautiful sad, seductive woman who is also a lawyer. Called one night to the home of his friend Gary, another lawyer--who coincidentally just happens also to be Hailey's lover with whom Gary is living--Carl finds Gary naked out on the front stoop and Hailey murdered inside. Carl swears to find out the truth of the murder and bring the murderer to justice--and is convinced that Gary is the murderer. Accepting Gary's request to be his lawyer, Carl cold-bloodedly sets up to sabotage the defense and see Gary get at least life if not the death penalty for the murder.

But things are not always what they seem.

A fast-paced thriller that follows Carl to Las Vegas, West Virginia, and the inside of a courtroom as the plot takes any number of twists and turns. A new characters shows up, the inimitable Phil Skink, somewhat disreputable private investigator. If nothing else, Lashner has a knack for inventing engaging and unusual private detectives!

The writing is above average, the characters believable and well-depicted, and the plot is extremely well-done. Highly recommended.

Beverly Caudill says

First time reading this author, but definitely not the last. Kept me interested to the very end. Great plot and storyline.

Ben says

A very enjoyable legal thriller that goes beyond the courtroom.

"Fatal Flaw" by William Lashner begins when his protagonist , Victor Catl, answers a late-night phone call from an old friend and fellow lawyer. The man, Guy Forrest, has just found the bloody body of his fiancée Hailey Prioux in bed in her home. When Carl arrives at the house, he finds Guy sitting naked on the porch

step in the pouring rain. Guy's story is hardly credible even to his friend. Forrest claims that he fell asleep while in the hot tub located only a few feet from the bedroom where Hailey lay. He heard no intruder, he says, nor did he hear the shot that killed her because he had earphones on, listening to music at high volume while he soaked. Guy says when he awoke and went looking for her, he found the body, grabbed a pink cell phone, Hailey's, and called Carl.

The first shock is a lightning strike: Victor was having an affair with Hailey. His number was on her speed dial. Luckily, Forrest was too shocked by the sight of her blood-soaked body to make the connection. He believes his client guilty.

But that is only the first shock. "Fatal Flaw" has many.

Carl feels compelled to defend Forrest, if only to keep his name out of the investigation. In fact, he snatches and hides her cell. He also decides to subvert his defense so Guy pays for murdering the woman both he and Victor Carl loved, passionately. Unlike some legal thrillers where the defense attorney becomes convinced of his client's guilt, in this book (and this is not a spoiler as it is in the blurb) Victor Carl comes to the belief that Guy is, indeed, innocent. Finding evidence of another's guilt is the substance of the book.

The author delves deeply into Hailey's life and character and we come to know a lot about his client, the victim, her background and personality. As we do of defense attorney Victor Carl. This takes more than a bit of exposition and introspection, which is not a criticism. All of it is necessary to understand their motivations. Hailey is dead, of course, but the author makes come back to life on these pages. Guy seems a man who was in love was love. Vincent Carl is not always admirable in his actions and motivations, but he is honorable in his fashion and a great main character. As is Mr. Skink- trust me, not him, though. Of course, a crime novel is only as good-or as a bad-as its villain and "Fatal Flaw" has one that creeps you out.

I missed this novel when it came out a few years ago, but I am certainly glad I read it. I recommend it to everyone without reservation.
