



A Certain Justice

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When the angry white mob poured out of the bar on San Francisco's Geary Street and surrounded an innocent black man, Kevin Shea was the only one who tried to stop them. He failed, and now, thanks to a deceptive news photo taken during the melee, he is wanted for the murder himself-and the real culprits have threatened his life if he says a word.

As riots rage and politicians posture, Lieutenant Abe Glitsky finds himself under pressure to bring Shea in at all costs. And as respect for the law crumbles-even among those sworn to uphold it-true justice is the only thing that can prevent the death of another innocent man.

A Certain Justice Details

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From Reader Review A Certain Justice for online ebook

Blood Rose Books says

John Lescroart looks what happens when a mob mentality takes over San Francisco and everyone is willing to condemn a man for being in the wrong place at the wrong time

Kevin Shae really just wanted a night of drinking by himself, but when the pub he is sitting in starts to get rowdy and making racial remarks, Kevin knows it is time for him to leave. He never imagined that the men drinking in the bar would spill out to the street and start a frenzy of events that will change Kevin's life forever. The mob has decided to attack the lone black man and string him up like they used to in the 1960s. The few men from the pub has attracted more people and they all seem to be saying the same thing, Hang Him. Kevin seems to be the only individual who has some sense, he attempts to save him. But Kevin's photograph is taken and this image is immediately misinterpreted by everyone. Kevin has just become San Francisco's enemy number one. And while some are willing to search for the truth and others are willing to condemn Kevin, one thing is sure everyone is looking for Kevin, but not everyone cares whether he gets turned over alive.

This is the first book that I have read by John Lescroart and I thought it was good, it started off great the first chapter of the mob scene were fantastic, but it was unable to completely hold this fast paced start. This novel was well written and you could tell when Lescroart was in his element of knowledge and the premise of the plot was very interesting and it had everything to make a great thriller novel but I felt that it lacked the suspense that is key in any thriller. I never felt that I was on the edge of my seat as I was reading this book. There points where it should have been suspenseful but the events were never able to get there.

I also found it interesting that the character that is supposed to be the book smart, not street smart character turned out to be the individual that Kevin came to rely on and it was Melonie who had better ideas of how to keep Kevin safe. This did not seem very realistic as Kevin was in the military and you think would know a thing or two about staying hidden. I also could not believe that they decide part way through the book, when everyone in the book is looking for them (and there is a price on Kevin's head) they go out for pizza and the only thing that Kevin uses to disguise himself is a cap. When an individual's picture is plaster all over the news and he is the person who everyone is talking about I think more than one person would recognize them espically with police lining the street. Not very realistic at all.

The political aspect of this book was awesome, very interesting how there were many individuals willing to condemn one man just to further their own political careers. You can tell that Lescroart is in his element when he is talking about law and politics. These were the high points of the book, the interchange between the police department, the D.A.'s office and the elected officials. This is where the decisions in this book are made, whether they are good or bad and it really highlighted the flaws in the justice system especially the one about being presumed innocent until proven guilty.

I liked that Lescroart highlighted that there still an ever present idea of racism within people and that one event can cause a mob mentality where people do loose their own morals and since of right and wrong and that this mob mentality. Also I liked that Lescroart showed how easily people will condemn an individual based upon very little information

I really liked Abe Glinsky as a character, he was everything you want a Homicide Lieutenant to be, he is always after the truth and when events and the evidence do not add up, he has no problem going against the

grain of the higher ups and elected official's beliefs in order to make sure that justice is served. I would read another novel with Abe as the main character. I just really enjoyed his detective style.

This book is not an easy read, but not for the wrong reasons. The dialogue and the plot can make an individual think way beyond what an easy read would. If you are looking for something more in a thriller novel than just sitting on the edge of your seat, then you will enjoy this book. For me I just wanted a little bit more suspense in the novel, but I would read another novel by Lescroart.

Enjoy!!!

Carolyn (in SC) C234D says

A long but very good novel about a man who tried to prevent a lynching of a black man, and how he became the hunted. San Francisco setting. (An Abe Glitsky story)

Perri says

Even though the publication of this book is 1996, it feels very apropos for today's political climate. Reacting to what they see as judicial injustice, a mob targets a black man. A white man is mistakenly identified as the ring leader, and is targeted to represent racial injustice in general. Politicians feed the frenzy and use every angle for ways to consolidate power and strengthen their own agenda. In the midst is Det. Gitsky struggling to follow correct police procedure to ensure a righteous arrest. That he is reeling from the recent death of his wife and make errors in judgment adds to his humanity.

Asghar Abbas says

This is his best work in my opinion and still so relevant. It is soo soooo good. The kinda of book that makes you believe in the innocence of people, displaced by their humanity. Plus, his books make you want to move to California. Despite the fact he writes crime fiction, and his work deals with crime, criminals, justice or lack thereof. And sometimes people getting their due comeuppances.

This is perfect.

Bev Taylor says

a race to save a hated man - and a city from itself

a white man is gunned down by a black man just for his car but is let off as there is not enough evidence

at a drinking session at the man's pub his friends see a black man who they think is trying to steal a bmw - it is actually his own car. in a drunken frenzy they sweep out into the streets and lynch him

kevin just happens to be in the bar at the same time and cannot stand by. he does his utmost to save the man to no avail but his efforts are captured on camera and it looks as though he is aiding the lynching

the city erupts with racial violence and a curfew is announced to try and defuse the situation. abe is assigned the case but then the d.a. is shot to death

politics rears its ugly head not to mention his personal life and ideals. who can be trusted - if anyone? and how can justice be reached

to be honest i found this one rather hard work. there was no original story line and it was very drawn out and repetitive - 500 pages

this is no mystery/thriller as the outcome is obvious from the start

plus the senator was an unbelievable character from the beginning - who would stay in the same clothes after a man was murdered sitting next to her

speaking of which - why did forensics not pick up the powder burns? also there should have been written pages about the interview with the witness

3.5 stars

bev

Linda Munro says

In San Francisco, people come to a bar to pay their last respects to a former patron who was murdered in a car jacking. As the alcohol flows the talk turns from the memorial to the black man who was released due to lack of evidence; by the time the successful black man leaves his keys in the car when he parks it near the bar, the mentality of the crowd had turned to that of a mob. As the mob begins to lynch the black man, a single bar patron attempts to help him but a nearby photographer snaps a picture of the helper and he is instantly turned into the bigot murderer.

Lieutenant Abe Glisky, homicide, finds himself blocked during the entire fourth of July weekend as the mobs riot and the city burns. Despite being placed on leave, Glisky figures out what is happening and helps bring a lynch mob to its knees, and a city to tolerance. How it happens makes this book a must read.

5 stars to Lescroat, he is definitely a master of suspense. I found a Lescroat book at the book exchange located within our local post office and have been reading his books ever since!

Manugw says

AN ORIGINAL POLITICAL THRILLER

This book, a political thriller has an original plot and is interesting enough to keep the reader riveted as never slackens its pace. Had the author added more twist and turns throughout all the story, it would have been more attractive and enjoyable and had also the author recreated more action packed suspense i.e.(the FBI tracking down Shea- the Pizzaiola shop episode) it would have been a hell of a blockbuster--could-not -put-it- down. From my experience as a reader, in this book all the situations involved are solved in a short time and then the story goes back on. Overall, this novel has some twist and turns at the beginning, the run in a straight line and repeats the same scheme at the end with a lot of surprises. It is a fairly entertaining book and I would recommend it.

Deb Jones says

This first in the series of Lescroart's novels featuring Abe Glitsky was a refreshing closer look into what makes Dismas Hardy's friend and former police partner tick. It could be read as a stand-alone.

I found the crime itself very disturbing. Had I not already had an appreciation for Lescroart's writing and the protagonist, I might not have gotten past those first chapters.

"A Certain Justice" is compelling reading from cover to cover.

Kim says

I actually did not finish reading this book. It was so incredibly slow. I knew what was going to happen at the end at around page 300. Then I realized there were 200 pages left. Yikes! So I read the last 20 pages and got it over with.

I usually like Lescroart's books. But this was NOT his best work. The editing was horrible as well. There were many misspelled words and grammar mistakes. Sometimes it was very distracting. But most of all, the book was slow and boring. I don't recommend A Certain Justice, but I do recommend all of his other's.

Mary JL says

This is well written, suspenseful and disturbing.

Kevin Shea is present at a modern day lynching. He pushes his way through the crowd and attempts to grab the victim's legs to prevent his death, but he is too late. The arrival of the police causes everyone to scatter, including Kevin--it is too late to help the victim now.

Kevin wakes up the next day to find a free-lance photographer has snapped a shot of the scene--and his picture is all over the paper as the leader of the lynching!

Kevin is going to turn himself in, but soon becomes afraid--with good reason. The city has exploded with racial tensions and Kevin fears he will be shot on sight--or killed in jail by another prisoner.

To me, one disturbing thing is how things can get out of hand. The media digs up everything they can about

Kevin--and prints a lot of negative things--with little basis in fact. A politician wants to use this case to win votes on a "law and order" platform. A female FBI agent wants to prove she can do as well as the male agents, so she's all ready with a sniper team to take Kevin down. The leader of a seperatist movement posts a cash reward--dead or alive.

Kevin becomes a symbol--no one seems to care if he is guilty or not. Abe Glitsky, researcing the case, finds some inconsistencies with the media's theories--but few people want to hear them.

Really disturbing--"we've made up our minds--don't cloud the issue with facts". One wonders occasionally how many people "everybody knows" were guilty really WERE guilty.

One of the best in the Glitsky-Hardy series by Lescroart. Highly recommended.

Ruby says

Mmmmm, nope, don't recommend it. It's very slow to start even though there is lots of action-you don't care about anybody, it's very unbelievable, and it just seems to drag. Even by the end, the people have pretty much stayed as caricatures... Life s too short, read something else :-}

I see I am in a minority with this review, but I guess I'll stick with it. There are just so many BETTER books to read!

Susan says

Kevin Shea was just hanging out at a bar having a beer. The next thing he knew he was in the middle of a mob trying to help the victim of a modern-day lynching. And then the whole city of San Francisco was after him for killing the victim and starting the riot. John Lescroart tells this story with a credibility that makes your spine tingle. False accusations scare all of us and they should.

Byron Washington says

A very compelling story that may have been A hundred pages too long. Still, I might have given five stars if it weren't for a MAJOR BOMBSHELL that was revealed yet allowed to languish and wither on the vine with no further acknowledgement or resolution of said huge reveal!!!

I'd really really really like to know what John Lescroart was thinking when he chose this ending for his novel. This ending was almost as bad as the last episode of the Sopranos!!! A very good book ruined by an unfulfilling conclusion.

Lynn Pribus says

Lescroart writes a LONG mystery. He spends a long time fully developing the many characters related to the

plot and the narrator of the audio book performed the many parts very well.

This book is a great example of let-no-good-deed-go-unpunished. A man who tries to prevent a lynching becomes the chief suspect. The SFPD, DA's office and FBI become involved and territorial.

A complex, yet straightforward plot.

6-15-17 Read again 5 years later, this time in paperback from gym swap table. I think when I read it previously, I didn't know many of the characters who appear repeatedly in many of his later books. Early introduction to Wes Farrell, Elaine Wager, Dismas Hardy, and, of course, Abe Glitsky. All this and not a serial killer in sight which has become (more and more) a recommendation for me!

Marty Fried says

Much of this book was depressing because it shows how easily a potential hero can be turned into someone many people want dead by our wonderful trial by media. Innocent until proven guilty is a nice concept, but when everyone assumes you are guilty, it doesn't take much to convict you.

Things were getting so bad that it seemed that nothing would be able to make this story end well - it was truly hopeless. It would have been a miracle to even think the hero would live to get a fair trial.

Fortunately, this was only a book, not the real world, so of course, the miracle comes through in a most unexpected way.
