



The Last Justice

Anthony Franze

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Chaos erupts at the U.S. Supreme Court when an assassin guns down six justices as they are hearing a case. Solicitor General Jefferson McKenna, the government's top lawyer in the Supreme Court, is appointed to the multiagency commission investigating the murders. As Congress draws battle lines over who will replace the slain justices, the commission follows clue after clue, each one pointing to an unlikely suspect in the conspiracy: McKenna himself.

From its explosive first page to its haunting conclusion, *The Last Justice* explores the politics of law, the bounds of friendship and love, and the frightening price of unbridled ambition.

The Last Justice Details

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Author : Anthony Franze

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From Reader Review The Last Justice for online ebook

Diane says

The Last Justice is Anthony J. Franze's first book describing a vicious shooting spree where six Supreme Court Justices were murdered during arguments on a case. Suspicions are quickly cast on the current Solicitor General Jefferson McKenna. This book was pretty fast paced as there were a lot of suspects to choose from and you need a score card to tell the good guys from the bad guys! But I have enjoyed all of Franze's books and I would definitely recommend this one.

Rick F. says

SUPERB- FAST MOVING DEBUT- MAKINGS OF A REAL WINNER!!! my initial reactions to THE LAST JUSTICE...and I am happy to say- INDEED -HAVING COMPLETED IT.. THIS BOOK IS A WINNER!!

"CHAOS ERUPTS at the U.S. Supreme Court when an assassin guns down six justices as they are hearing a case.

Solicitor General Jefferson McKenna, the government's top lawyer in the Supreme Court, is appointed to the multiagency commission investigating the murders. As Congress draws battle lines over who will replace the slain justices, the commission follows clue after clue, each one pointing to an unlikely suspect: McKenna himself."

When reading any debut novel, I am always a bit on guard for "rookie" mistakes like cliches and too obvious coincidences to "make" the plot work. I am happy to report that in THE LAST JUSTICE, debut writer Anthony J. Franze has produced a thrilling, edge of your seat, and most important original thriller. Mr. Franze has burst onto the thriller scene in a most magnificent way with this addicting tale.

What I loved, (among many things) about THE LAST JUSTICE, is it's pacing. This is a very fast paced story. Chapters are divided into exact times and locations and the reader feels as if they are in on the ride- and what a ride it is!! Jefferson McKenna, the protagonist is an extremely well fleshed out character, one the reader quickly bonds with, a testament to Mr. Franze's superb skills at fine tuning characters. We are treated to a lead character who is both moral and human- one we truly can root for. This goes for all the characters in the book (including the ones we definately do not want to root for!)- each is so finely word-sketched by Anthony J. Franze that the mind-pictures formed allow the reader to not only picture the character but know them as well. Evil comes in many forms, the most scary to me is the evil that appears most benign to the eye- it's true intent well hidden. In THE LAST JUSTICE, Anthony J. Franze is able to perfect the characterization of evil without resorting to obvious cliches. He has a style all his own, one in which this reader was immediately taken in by- happily!

Anthony J. Franze might have just one book published so far, but if the truly stunning prose of THE LAST JUSTICE is any indication, this reader hopes that there are many,many more to come. He is that good of a writer!

AN OFFICIAL JAMES MASON COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB MUST READ

RICK FRIEDMAN

FOUNDER

THE JAMES MASON COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB

Chuck says

Very authentic and believable even if the basic premise is a bit far-fetched. The protagonist is not all pearly white but he's definitely human (although you'll see him doing some out-and-out superheroics as well). In fact, I found almost all of the characters plausible, with lots of focus on the serpentine maneuverings of politics/law/crime and (extremely) personal lives, especially the secrets we all have and hope never surface. It truly shows how some can move away from their past and other allow it to drive them ever downward. The read is quick, engaging, and thoroughly enjoyable.

Valentina says

"It's unbelievable," Assad said. "All this so he could be nominated to the Supreme Court?" Pacini shrugged, "Welcome to Washington."

This was the first book I won through Goodreads First Reads so therefore, I was super excited to start reading it! Because of the failures of other mystery/thriller novels that included main aspects of government, I was a bit skeptical of whether or not I would actually enjoy the book but now after completing it, I can easily say that this book was fantastic (and it was the author's first novel, too!).

There were many things that I liked about this novel so I'm going to read off the sticky notes I used. First of all, I really enjoyed how descriptive the author's writing style was. I found that when starting a new book, it's hard to picture the scenes and dialogues between the characters but with this book, I was able to grasp it easily within the first few pages. Second, I absolutely loved McKenna. I thought he was a strong character that applied the perfect amount of humor and professionalism at just the right time. I also enjoyed his backstory and appreciated how easy it was to see how he grew as a person from his son and wife's death. Third, relating to my last point, the side plots in this novel were superb. They didn't impact the story in great measures but they made their appearances here and there, just like they're supposed to. Speaking of side plots, Javier was one of my favorite characters even though he wasn't featured in the story as much as the other characters. The story between him and Kate was wonderful. Lastly, the plot, character development, AND ENDING were all fantastic, I am so impressed.

In conclusion, this was a fantastic first novel and I am so glad I got a chance to read it :)

(I also loved the note left by the author in the book. It made a 17-year-old-future-lawyer feel happy.)

Margaret says

There is so much going on in this book, even for a legal-type thriller, that I have the sense that Mr. Franze

was saving up Every Single Plot Point that had ever crossed his mind for his first book, at which point he threw them all into the mix. Still, a fun, quick vacation read, and having grown up in the area, I enjoyed seeing references to many of my old haunts (White Flint, Mazza Galleria...). I'm continuing to find DC-based legal mysteries to be a great diversion from what is otherwise going on (or not) in DC.

Anand says

This is not exactly a legal thriller, but more of a murder mystery with the politics of the US judicial system as its backdrop.

The story revolves around the assassination of 6 Supreme Court judges, and the investigations that follow. In the process of finding the truth, the Solicitor General of US (I didn't even know one existed, but then, what do I know of the US judicial system in any case), the protagonist of this novel, gets implicated as the suspect behind not just these assassinations but a few other killings as well. Somehow, all these killings appear to be connected with the judges' killings. It is now up to McKenna (the solicitor general), and his office colleague turn girlfriend to race against time and prove his innocence.

At about 250 pages, and a racy plot, it is a fast read. However, the high octane adventure eclipses a much lacking depth in characterisation. Also, the plot is too far-fetched and not entirely believable. Additionally, there are too many things happening all the same time with multiple characters, and all of which makes it a complicated and a confusing plot.

It is a good first attempt by the author while managing his profession and family; perhaps his next novel will be more nuanced.

David Caldwell says

I won a copy on Goodreads Firstreads.

The author has definitely done his research before writing this novel. It is very authentic and believable in all of its details. The basic premise of the story is a little hard to believe though.

At times it is hard to believe some of the luck of the characters with split second escapes and catching the perfect lead. The characters are very realistic, not just cardboard cutouts of people. You get to learn about their lives beyond just the necessary elements for the story. Quite often these elements are secrets that most people will hope never comes out into the light. No one is perfect or all bad which makes them seem more believable.

The book is a fast and enjoyable read. There are tons of red herrings, some of which are fairly interesting but are unfortunately left hanging. The actual solution is very cleverly hidden.

Tami says

I haven't received my copy yet, just got notification that I had won. 3/1/12

I received my copy yesterday and hope to start it soon. I have 6 plus my current read in front. 3/9/12

Just started this morning. 4/12/12

Finished yesterday 4/15/12

A gunman opens fire on the supreme court. He hits several justices and is taken by surprise when the Chief Justice shoots back. The court officers end up shooting and killing the Chief Justice mistakenly thinking he was the gunman responsible for the others deaths. SG McKenna is the lead lawyer that is trying to figure out who killed they justices and for what reason. McKenna soon finds himself the suspect and ends up on the run while still trying to solve the case.

This book was fast moving and believable. Some murder/mystery type books seem a bit far fetched in spots but not this one. I loved how the author helps McKenna with some colorful characters. I also liked that the "love story" wasn't a main part of the book, just sort of a side line.

Carlee says

Premise: a gunman opens fire in the courtroom of the US Supreme Court and kills five justices. A sixth justice (Chief Justice Kincaid) is accidentally killed by police when he pulls out his gun to shoot the gunman.

Plot: Solicitor General Jefferson McKenna testifies before the Black Wednesday commission - he believes those responsible must have been trying to delay the Supreme Court from ruling on a case and identifies two cases most likely to be involved.

A bunch of people with connections to McKenna start getting killed and rumors abound that McKenna accepted a bribe in exchange for being appointed to the Ohio bench. Now on the run, McKenna has to find out who orchestrated Black Wednesday in order to clear his own name.

Thoughts: the book moved pretty quickly. I read it in a couple of hours. Although there are many characters, it wasn't difficult to distinguish them. I don't think the ending was that much of a surprise, but the narrative was loose enough that I wasn't quite sure how all the pieces fit together so that kept me invested in the book.

Now that I think about it, the details of those two cases did not stick in my mind, even though I just read the book last night. There were several red herrings tossed in there that, if I was really trying to figure out who the killer was, would have likely driven me crazy.

Victor Gentile says

Anthony J. Franze in his new book, "The Last Justice" published by Sterling & Ross Publishers takes us into the life of Solicitor General Jefferson McKenna.

From the inside jacket flap: CHAOS ERUPTS at the U.S. Supreme Court when an assassin guns down six justices as they are hearing a case.

Solicitor General Jefferson McKenna, the government's top lawyer in the Supreme Court, is appointed to the multiagency commission investigating the murders. As Congress draws battle lines over who will replace the slain justices, the commission follows clue after clue, each one pointing to an unlikely suspect: McKenna

himself.

In a desperate bid to prove his innocence, McKenna, on the run with his deputy, Kate Porter, must track down a disgraced law clerk with ties to hidden Saudi assets. But their search leads to unexpected alliances, unearthing dark secrets and corruption at the highest levels — and the people with clues to the riddle keep turning up dead. From the marble halls of the high court to the inner corridors of the West Wing, from the D.C. housing projects to the desolate back roads of a New York Indian reservation, McKenna and Porter are on a collision course with a shadowy enemy who will stop at nothing to keep the truth buried.

From its explosive first page to its haunting conclusion, *THE LAST JUSTICE* explores the politics of law, the bounds of friendship and love, and the frightening price of unbridled ambition.

For me there is something about a legal thriller set in Washington, D.C. that seems to scream this is going to be exciting. And who better to write such a book than a legal expert? Anthony J. Franze is a lawyer in the Appellate and Supreme Court practice at a large Washington, D.C. law firm so he knows whereof he speaks. Get ready “The Last Justice” has an action-packed explosive beginning and rockets along from there. McKenna is accused by the Senate and is now on the run as he desperately tries to clear his name and find out who really is behind the conspiracy. Action, adventure, twists and turns as you read as fast as you can to find out what will happen next. Mr. Franze has given us a great legal thriller that will keep you up late so I recommend that you start reading early because you will not want to put it down until you finish, no matter what time it is. I look forward to more stories from this very talented author.

If you would like to listen to interviews with other authors and professionals please go to www.kingdomhighlights.org where they are available On Demand.

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Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from the author. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission’s 16 CFR, Part 255 : “Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.”

Richelle Renae says

January 2013 Club read

Overall our book group ratings hovered around a 4 or 5 with a few people who liked it more for its pure entertainment value. I personally did not enjoy reading the story. I found the characters lacking in development, and often felt as if I were bouncing from scene to scene in a frantic manner. That being said, I did find the descriptions of how the US judicial system works interesting, as I had little understanding of that prior to reading the book. I also found the idea of the story appealing in regards to the 3-3 split and how would our judicial system handle that if such a thing were to occur. While I did not care for reading this story, I think it will make a fabulous, fast-paced, on-the-edge-of-your-seat movie. I'm picturing Harrison Ford and Judi Dench in it. ;)

Una Tiers says

3 3-1/2 stars. The plot was interesting, characters not developed. Flipping from one crisis to another solved in seconds was distracting. The formatting errors were annoying. Nice debut novel.

Boots S says

A fast moving action thriller.

CHAOS ERUPTS at the U.S. Supreme Court when an assassin guns down six justices as they are hearing a case. Solicitor General Jefferson McKenna, the government's top lawyer in the Supreme Court, is appointed to the multiagency commission investigating the murders. As Congress draws battle lines over who will replace the slain justices, the commission follows clue after clue, each one pointing to an unlikely suspect: McKenna himself. In a desperate bid to prove his innocence, McKenna, on the run with his deputy, Kate Porter, must track down a disgraced law clerk with ties to hidden Saudi assets

Colin says

The Last Justice is a page-turner mystery. It also provides information about the inner workings of the Supreme Court of the United States and the Solicitor General, and how the Court might be attacked.

Without giving away too much, I found three things I wish the author had explained better (see spoilers section below). Despite these quibbles, the book is a good read, and I've recommended it to some of my friends who told me they also enjoyed reading *The Last Justice*.

Possible spoilers ahead!

First, why did the protagonist run away from a stabbing on a sidewalk with perhaps hundreds of pedestrians as witnesses? If he'd confronted the killer and accused him it would have been more plausible. Second, why did he decide to investigate this case himself before becoming a suspect? Third, at the end how did the killer know where the protagonist would go?

Matt says

A decent thriller/mystery all about the US Supreme court has a reader who enjoys this genre of book intrigued from the beginning. Franze uses his first novel to examine the mystery behind the murder of 6 Justices in one of the bloodiest events in US history (his words in the narration). He does a decent job laying out the story, advancing the characters, and keeping things moving on many planes, though sometimes I felt as though we had too many things going on to really keep the story moving effectively. Too many threads to follow made it a little harder for me to feel the forward movement of the story and its characters.

Franze has certainly done some research on the topic and makes excellent connections with what actually happens and how it all plays itself out in his book. The mystery portion was, for the most part, exciting and interesting; though there were times it became highly hokey and even a little sappy. The end comes at you like a cliff dropping, and the book ends abruptly and without much anticipation. "Here is your murderer, goodnight!"

Kudos Mr. Franze for some entertaining work. I look forward to your next book!!
