



A Gambler's Jury

Victor Methos

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What they're doing to her client is a crime.

Attorney Dani Rollins is bullish in the courtroom—pushing judges and prosecutors to their limits in defense of the innocent. So when she meets Teddy Thorne, a mentally challenged teen accused of selling drugs, Dani knows she's got this in the bag. She can easily settle the case with a couple of court appearances. But when prosecutors move for an adult felony conviction, Dani suspects Teddy's being used as a pawn in a sinister game.

As the case moves forward, Dani is certain the judge and district attorney's office have motivations beyond the crime—a fair trial isn't in the cards. And when she takes on guardianship of Teddy, the case becomes personal as she fights her own demons and the government. Dani will stop at nothing to protect this innocent boy—there's no other option. Because if she loses, both she and Teddy could lose far more than just the case...

A Gambler's Jury Details

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From Reader Review A Gambler's Jury for online ebook

Jeanie says

They've been looking to change that law for a long time. Looking for the perfect case to do it with. So when they found a black kid with three white kids willing to testify against him, they jumped on it. Black kid with three white accusers don't stand a chance with a jury here. A gambler's jury. A nick name used by defense attorneys - a jury with a case where a any rational person would acquit, but they might convict because of race.

Defense Attorney Dani Rollins wears her emotions on her sleeves. She has a dysfunctional background that pretty much keeps her dysfunctional in her personal life. She is reeled in by her son who sees his mother as she really is. It is a sweet relationship. However, her ex is another story which shows her vulnerability and weakness. Her job as a defense attorney shows her strength in compassion.

A case against a challenged young black male that is literally dumped by his parents on to her door step. She takes the case reluctantly but as the oppression against this young man is brought on by the state and his parents, Rollins is in her prime. Mercy and justice. It is what she fights for and it is her story that should fire up mercy and justice for us readers.

A Special Thank You to Thomas & Mercer and Netgalley for the ARC and the opportunity to post an honest review.

John says

This is a fun pacey legal thriller. It's not really a 4-star book, more of a 3.5 stars, or maybe 3.6 at a push, but there are not such nuanced options in Goodreads, so I thought I'd be generous.

I didn't immediately take to the main protagonist, Danielle Rollins. She's a pottymouth-chainsmoking-harddrinking-rulebreaking disillusioned lawyer. Not only that, she's the ethical David up against the corrupt racist nasty Goliath of the American justice system. That's all OK, but it's such a big fat worn-out cliché that it becomes a distraction and leaves Dani looking like a paper-thin caricature rather than the interesting and complex character she could have been.

The story is good though, and because Methos bases his legal thrillers on real-life cases, it feels genuinely interesting and got proper tense in places, especially when they were reading out the verdict. That said, I guessed the ending and that's not like me, I am terrible at sleuthing out whodunnit - so bad, in fact, that oftentimes I can't even work it out after it's been explained.

Good things: fast-moving, funny, Dani - mainly because she's witty and ethical - becomes very likable despite the cliché thing, some fun swearing at judges (I always enjoy a bit of irreverence), and the story is pretty solid.

Bad things: Peyton is really annoying, despite only being fictional (she is supposed to be annoying, but maybe it's done a bit clumsily), the cliché thing, bit of an obvious ending, annoying trial strategy by Dani (why didn't she use Teddy's teachers and carers as witnesses? why didn't she subpoena his parents?).

I will try more by Victor Methos, he seems like a good egg.

Kathleen Gray says

Some of this is not new- Dani is an attorney with issues, there's a conspiracy etc.- but gosh this was an entertaining fast read. The basic is that when Dani takes on the case of Teddy, a teen who is mentally challenged, sh didn't expect it to become what it is. Not too complicated but it is, actually. Methos has put his personal knowledge of the courts to good use and has written a legal thriller that actually is. Dani is very sympathetic (even when you don't like her) and Teddy, well, you'd take on his case as well. No spoilers but suffice it to say this is one you will gulp down. Thanks to Netgalley for the ARC.

Tammy Mitchell says

Wow! I am pleasantly surprised. I expected to like this book. I like Victor Methos and read/listen to him often. I didn't expect to love it! I do.

On the surface, Dani is flippant, sarcastic, bold, and even a bit cynical. She's deeper, however. Dani's a fighter for the underdog. She's passionate, empathetic and very flawed.

Will is fantastic and I desperately want one of my own, please! Teddy is great and although we don't have a lot of Jack, he's a good son.

I laughed and cried throughout this book. There were many times that I just wanted to slap the crap out of some of these people for the obvious and blatant injustice. I wasn't surprised, really, at a lot of the things going on and I pretty much knew the "who" but it didn't detract from my enjoyment.

Is this a stand alone or will it be a series?

J. F. says

Book Review: A Gambler's Jury by Victor Methos

Prime members were introduced to the author's "The Neon Lawyer, Brigham Theodore 1" featured in Prime Reading's debut last year.

"Every legal novel I've written is based on a case I actually had." - V.M. His unique writing style and deep legal experience smoothly blend to cut incisively and informatively to the bone and portray realistic plots, sticky binds and a variety of colorful characters, if at times flawed.

In "A Gambler's Jury", the protagonist is an impetuous, stubborn, maudlin, love-starved Aeschylus figure and glorified closet alcoholic who drowns her sorrows every once too often in the juice. As the plot and characters develop, the reader will need to resolutely trudge through 57% of the book with one too many bar scenes before the significance of a "gambler's jury" is finally revealed.

At the 90% mark, the goose is cooked and the little guy loses once gain. Or so may one think.

You'll need an open mind as the leftist activist bend in the writer emerges with political talking points, identity politics and the moral equivalence of infidelity.

"Reality doesn't have to make sense." The author stretches the mantra to proffer a vast right wing conspiracy with the D.A., district court, legislators and the supreme court of a state colluding to black voter suppression. Creative, but definitely not in the author's legal resume. But then great authors often challenge hot button issues.

Still the fine writing adds up to a page-turning, pleasant reading experience. Four to five-star reads in all I've thus far read, along with "Neon Lawyer, and book 2, "Mercy", and Noah Byron in "An Invisible Client".

This review is based on an ARC (Advance Reading Copy), with many thanks to NetGalley, Thomas & Mercer and Victor Methos for the privilege.

Jackie Cain says

Amazon gave me £1 of this book, in their Avid April Reader promotion. Thank you, Amazon.

It is very well written, hitting the ground running at great pace with intriguing characters and locations (who know there were so many drugs and alcohol in Salt Lake City?). I wasn't sure I liked the protagonist to start, because she seemed a bit too rebellious and there was a cliché of a damage from the past. However, as the book went on, I got to like her and she was rounded out and complex as she interacted with her family and with other people that she met.

Then I started to get a sense of déjà vu from being trapped in a terrible situation that I could do nothing about surrounded by people who carried on as they were. At that point, I felt very stressed and depressed by this book because it was probably very true to life - the powerful managing affairs according to their own ends. I don't really want realistic fiction - or non-fiction. Maybe that is the problem with the society - we don't want to see how it is because we don't see how we can make it better. It's easier just to retreat from it instead.

There was a bit of a wake-up call in this book. In real life people don't try and fix the whole problem. They restrict themselves to the role they have been given at the time. So a defense attorney looks first for things to use in the trial. Questions or ideas that might find the true culprit are more things you can use in appeal. Many of the books I read have heroic investigators/attorneys and they always dig and dig and dig until they understand the full why and wherefore of the situation. In real life there really isn't time for that.

Overall verdict: it was a well written book with a good mystery at its heart and some interesting characters. The questions that lead to the solution are posed throughout the book but the reader doesn't find the answers because no-one is actually finding out the answers until the end. That's not as frustrating as it might sound because the narrative sweeps you along, encompassed in its concerns. It also provided food for thought in the way some other books don't.

Amy Wolf says

Thank you to netgalley and the author/publisher for a free copy of A GAMBLER'S JURY in exchange for an honest review.

What a heart-wrenching, difficult read this one was for me. Honestly, I was not hooked in the first 15% or so of the book, but once the story started picking up, I was completely absorbed in every page. This book follows a court case of a mentally handicapped teen who gets himself mixed up in a drug bust. Dani, his attorney is on a mission to find out how he is being held responsible for an intricately planned drug exchange, when he is unable to care for himself independently.

Over the course of the case, Dani develops a friendship with Teddy and, even though I found myself not caring for Dani in the beginning of the book, her abrasive and direct behavior grew on me and I found her a bit enduring by the end. I really enjoyed this courtroom drama. It had unforeseen twists, a bit of humor, roller coaster emotions and likeable characters, especially sweet Teddy. I would love to read more about Dani and her quirky excursions through the questionable court system. I can only hope she may pop up in another book in the future.

Karl says

I am never disappointed by a book written by Victor Methos, and A Gambler's Jury is no exception. Dani Rollins is an interesting and flawed character who the reader can root for because her driving force is to get justice for her mentally-challenged client, Teddy Thorne. What seems to be initially a simple case turns into a nightmare for Dani, and she must use her cunning to navigate the system that has been rigged against her client. The situation posed in the novel will strike anger and frustration in the reader at a system manipulated by those in power that are charged with dispensing justice fairly and blindly. A satisfying ending will leave the reader satiated and eager for the next Methos legal adventure.

Nancy Silk says

"Awesome!"

Attorney Dani Rollins really pushes back hard at judges and prosecutors as she seeks defense of the innocent. She takes on the job of defending teenager Teddy Thorne who is mentally challenged and charged with drug selling. She thinks she'll win this case, but then the charges are moved to an adult felony conviction. The character, Dani Rollins, is very saucy in many ways, but she's a fighter for justice. There's nothing fair about this trial ... she believes the judge and district attorney are in cahoots. Since she's taken on guardianship of Teddy, she'll fight tooth and nail for his freedom. Victor Methos writes this amazing defense legal thriller with much humor along the way. As always, he divulges information which educates or gives thought for readers. He's a fantastic author of many, many enthralling novels. Very strongly recommend his novels.

Rohit Enghakat says

As usual Victor Methos never lets you down. This is the second book that I have read and I loved it. Initially I was a bit skeptical after reading the blurb about a mentally challenged boy wrongly accused of drug dealing and a lawyer who is forced to adopt him under strange circumstances, fighting to keep him out of jail. But as the story unfolds, it becomes a larger conspiracy involving the State and turns into a David v/s Goliath kind-of-a-fight, it becomes interesting and you don't want to put the book down.

I loved the character of Danni Rollins the almost drunk lawyer, who has a I-don't-give-a-damn attitude and Will, the rich private investigator who helps Danni in her investigations.

The author's note says that the story is drawn from the author's personal experience as a lawyer. For all ye legal thriller fans, one more author to watch out for.

Lacee says

The main character: When we first meet her, she is hungover and racing to get to her court appearance, wearing the same clothes from the night before. From that, I immediately thought she was not professional and didn't take her job seriously. Boy was I wrong. Danielle Rollins tells all of her clients to call her Dani. This turns her from a high and mighty lawyer to a personable lawyer that is caring for each and every one of her clients. She is really looking out for their best interest and not trying to get money from them. Her humor combined with her compassion made my view of her do a 360.

This compassion and her son's opinion is what makes her accept a case she has an immediate bad feeling about. The case involves a black mentally challenged teenager that somehow was caught in a drug selling scenario. Although the boy seems like he would not be mentally capable of pulling off something as planned as this, the white witnesses' testimonies were stacked against him. Dani felt the odds were stacked against her when she found out the reasoning for why the case was pushed through the system so quickly that not a month after the arrest, his court was scheduled. Race played a major issue in this case and Dani tried to convince everyone to see her client for what he was (mentally disabled) not for the color of his skin.

On top of all this going on, she was dealing with her own personal issues of an ex husband, who she still believed she loved but cheated on, was moving on with his life and had a new fiance.

The case was detailed out like a criminal case would play out in a courtroom. The author is also a criminal lawyer and stated in his author's note that his books always uses real cases with names and details changed. It's hard to believe that something like this situation would occur in the world today but when you think of the issues with race in this country, it is possible.

At the end of the trial, when the jurors were about to announce their verdict, I was laying in bed knowing I needed to go to bed but wanting to know the outcome. Surely this book had a happy ending. Surely the jury would not be swayed by the prosecution. Even though I knew the client's side, I couldn't see how the jury could believe the prosecution. You could just tell how the witnesses were using the same exact story down to the details and yet when Dani came at them with hard questions, their answers differed because none of them were prepared for that question. You could tell from the client's time on the stand that he wasn't mentally

there. Yet, I was wrong, and the jury took the side of the prosecution. I am an emotional person so there I was as tired as I could be, bawling my eyes out over a character in a book that I did not know but had grown to love from the two days I read about him.

A plot-twist at the end ended my crying and made me glad for the happy ending I was wanting.

All in all, I didn't expect this book to have the correct information when it came to court cases. But, being a criminal justice major and having a love to read court cases for fun, this book was correct in it's representation of a criminal court case. This book is the first book I have read this year and I cannot wait to recommend it to my mystery fiction loving friends. This is a book that has topped my charts. Now, I want to read other books from this author.

Roy Murry says

A GAMBLER'S JURY

VICTOR METOS

Reviewed by Roy Murry, Author

Dani Rollins has a client whom she believes is innocent because of his mental impairment. He cannot be a purveyor of drugs and pull off a deal.

The police arrest him in the act. How could this be? It had to be one of the other boys with him. Moreover, why does the District Attorney want and is trying her client as an adult when he is seventeen?

All the right questions to get answers to in this character-driven novel. Dani is a smart defense lawyer who pushes the envelope when it comes to judges and the prosecution.

They cannot see what she can. This kid does not have the where all to have committed this crime. In court, she will prove it. However, can she?

All leads point to her client except the one no other person is seeing including Dani's private detective, who cares for her. Dani's family life is in the background of this quick read.

A Gambler's Jury is laid out in a way the reader may pick up the clues Dani, and her detective missed up until the jury is in, which leads to an exciting ending. A good lead-in novel to a series.

Tulay says

Excellent novel.

Over the years read many books written by this author, everyone of them was outstanding. Like this one, you'll think about it for a long time. African-American seventeen years old and mental challenged boy is

accused of selling drugs. Police, district attorney and even the judge is ready to convict him. Renegade, hot tempered lawyer isn't even given enough time to prepare for the trial. She lives at the edge, her hard drinking and smoking doesn't help her either. This is a must read book.

Linda says

I've read several books by this author and liked them all. This one grabs your heart. A mentally disabled teenager is accused of selling cocaine. His neighborhood friends all tell the story that he had the bag and he handed it to the known drug dealer. His attorney believes there is a conspiracy and that he is being targeted because he is black. As the story unfolds, it becomes clear that there is a much more sinister reason for his being tried. The attorney lashes out at the judge, who is awful and does things his way; at the prosecution because they don't seem to care about putting a mentally disabled now 18 year old in jail where horrible things will be done to him. The story reveals the flaws in our justice system and tells the story of how difficult it is to be a defense attorney who cares about her client. She didn't want the case but couldn't not take it because she knew the defendant needed her. The author is a practicing attorney and his stories are gritty and based on real cases he has been on. Pulls at your heart strings but in the end you hope all will be well. I read on Kindle and listened on Audible. The narrator, Terry Schnaubelt, was terrific.

Michelle says

*****Release: February 28, 2018*****

I would like to thank NetGalley, the publisher Thomas & Mercer and author Victor Methos for a free advanced reader's copy in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Gambler's jury (def) - a jury with a case where any rational person would acquit, but they might convict because of race

Dani Rollins' life is in shambles. And surely at the beginning of A Gambler's Jury one does not have much confidence in her abilities. An alcoholic lawyer who often begins her days "biting the dog that bit her", she shows up to court hungover and disheveled. She purposely takes cases where she knows the client is guilty because nine times out of ten they'll take the plea. When she does appear in court she is a nothing less than a smart ass. A sharp tongue with no filter she takes on judges in open court.

Dani is certainly flawed but when she takes on the case of young Teddy Thorne, a mentally challenged boy accused of drug running, her compassion shows. What she believes at first to be a simple open and shut case soon becomes one dictated by political aspirations. Fearing that her innocent client's life hangs in the balance Dani risks everything in this David vs. Goliath legal thriller.

Victor Methos is a former trial lawyer and prosecutor with over 50 novels under his belt. His appreciation for

the plight of the little guy stands front and center in his work. As with all of his novels A Gambler's Jury is based off of real life cases. Fast paced gritty noir, this novel deals with racially motivated convictions and juvenile incarceration.

For more info: <https://www.theatlantic.com/education...>
