



# Guilt

*John Lescroart*

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## **Guilt** John Lescroart

Mark Dooher is the last person anyone would suspect of a savage, bloody murder--the most hate-filled crime one veteran detective had ever come across. But Dooher, a prosperous attorney and prominent Catholic, is the first man San Francisco detective Abe Glitsky suspects. Soon Dooher is standing in the sights of the great, flawed machine called the criminal justice system. And Mark Dooher, a paragon of success and a master of all he touches, is about to be indicted for murder.

As the Dooher trial begins, dozens of lives are drawn into the drama, from the men and women who knew Mark Dooher best to those whose fates are now entwined with his. For Wes Farrell, an attorney struggling with his own sense of failure, the defense of Mark Dooher will mean a chance at self-respect. For beautiful, aspiring attorney Christina Carrera, the case leads to a dangerous liaison with Dooher, who has wanted more than anything to have this woman by his side and in his bed. And for Abe Glitsky, whose wife is dying of cancer, the trial is a nightmare of DNA evidence, shaky witnesses, and long odds: Dooher, the unofficial consigliere of the Archbishop of San Francisco, has the Catholic Church on his side.

As the trial builds to a crescendo, as evidence is sifted and witnesses discredited, as Farrell rises to heights he never knew he could reach and Abe Glitsky grieves, a woman emerges from Mark Dooher's past. Her story will change the role of nearly every player in this trial, and ignite a chain reaction of truth and violence that will alter lives forever.

A novel that surprises from its first page to its last, *Guilt* is more than a story about crime and punishment. It is a riveting drama of moral responsibility and uncertain justice, of families bound by loyalty and divided by tragedy and betrayal. Building to one of the most nerve-shattering endings in recent fiction, *Guilt* is a true masterpiece of hard-hitting, contemporary suspense.

## **Guilt Details**

Date : Published August 10th 1998 by Island Books (first published May 12th 1997)

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Author : John Lescroart

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## **From Reader Review Guilt for online ebook**

### **Greg says**

I read this some time ago, it was my first read of a book by this author. I enjoyed it.

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### **Mark says**

A Wes Farrell & Abe Glitsky focused storyline...excellent early character development for both as they begin as opponents & emerge as allies against a psychopathic head of a major law firm...wonderful procedural & story twists...I love the use of San Francisco as if it too was a character...much like Paretsky & Fairstein use their great cities!

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### **Jennifer Morefield says**

I thought this was an interesting story. I enjoyed it, for the most part. The story seemed possible and there were some twists and turns. I enjoy a good legal story. My one criticism would be that the story could have been told w/less words and pages. It felt lengthy. Outside of that, the book worked for me. A worthy read...

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### **Caroline says**

This was a really good book. I've never read John Lescroart's work before, but I'd like to read more. Guilt is centred around a murder trial, when a prominent attorney is accused of killing his wife of over twenty years' standing. A fellow attorney defends the accused as the evidence is brought against him. After the trial, life moves on, not unchanged, for the attorneys. New relationships begin, old ones are rekindled and families are brought together through adversity. This is a totally absorbing story. One I will not forget in a long time.

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### **Peter Flom says**

To all appearances, John Doohar is a paragon. A successful lawyer, a prominent Catholic, a devoted husband. But appearances can be deceiving. Guilt, the 2nd novel in the Abe Glitsky series, keeps you turning the pages to find out who did what to whom and who can prove what. And Lescroart saves some surprises for the final pages, too.

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### **Jeni VW says**

Although I hadn't read #1 in the Abe Glitsky series, I had no difficulties following Lescroart's complex

network of characters. While Glitsky figures prominently throughout the novel, the key character is Mark Dooher, a lawyer accused of a brutal murder. Lescroart devotes a substantial part of the novel to an in-depth character portrait of Dooher and his family and associates while giving rich insights into Abe Glitsky's professional and personal life. The suspense builds evenly throughout the first half as the story's premise is thoroughly established, then Lescroart's cat-and-mouse game of intricate details drives the action to its climax and resolution. In a word, the book is gripping, interlacing suspicions with doubts and revelations, stringing the reader along until the very last page.

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### **Barbara says**

I've always been a fan of JL and his Dismas Hardy series. I enjoy all the characters and this one put me on the other side of a case, from his regular character, Abe Glitzky's, perspective. Add to that the backdrop from many of my old stomping grounds in SF, and it adds up to a great read.

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### **Asghar Abbas says**

Guilty pleasure does not get any guiltier than this. The flow is pretty smooth here. Lescroart sure knows how to write believable characters with clear motivations. Plus, his books are just so much fun to read. A right amount of everything in them; equal part cynicism and hope.

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### **Nolan says**

Enter Mark Dooher; he's the guy with the golden touch. Good things just come to him—that whole law of attraction thing perhaps? People are drawn to him. He looks younger than his 46 years, and he has a highly successful law practice whose clients include the San Francisco archdiocese.

Christina Carrera is a beautiful 20-something woman who is almost engaged to one of Mark's associates, but as soon as Mark spots her at a party, he can think of nothing else. His current marriage is troubled at best, and the young woman who volunteers at a rape crisis center while studying for the bar exam appeals to him. The solution is easy enough; transfer the almost-fiancé to a new Los Angeles office to ensure a breakup in that relationship, and somehow get his current wife out of the picture.

When Dooher's wife is found stabbed to death ostensibly a casualty of a burglary, the city's homicide head, Abe Glitsky just doesn't buy the burglary.

This is a legal thriller with plenty of creep factor. Like a food-driven dog scrambling to get kibble out of a Cong toy, you'll read your way through this with the single-minded purpose of trying to understand whether Dooher is guilty of multiple murders. There's so much I've not written about here; is there a brutal rape in Mark's past? And who killed the Vietnamese-born lawyer attempting to sue the archdiocese? It's all revealed as you drill into this, and you'll want to.

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### **Jim says**

Excellent read ! Abe Glitsky and Wes Farrell battle each other then team up. Too bad I can't give it SIX stars ! 640 some pages that never lets up on the intrigue or suspense.

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### **Deborah Robb says**

This was a great read with interesting characters. Mark Dooher is a prominent attorney with a thriving practice. He's married, but after a chance meeting with a beautiful young woman, is consumed with thoughts of her. Mark Dooher is a man who is very driven and not used to things not going his way. He manipulates every situation he can. First, a lawyer he is negotiating with ends up dead. The cops suspect he may have something to do with it, but can't prove anything. Then, Dooher's wife ends up dead and he is charged with her murder. His best friend, also a lawyer, steps up to represent him. As the trial moves forward, several lives are forever changed. An explosive ending with a very satisfying conclusion to the book.

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### **Linda Munro says**

I have read many of the books in the Abe Glitsky series, but this was an early book that I had somehow missed. This brings Wes Ferrel not only into the picture, but sets up the friendly alliance between Criminal Attorney and Police Officer.

Can a murder committed during the Vietnam War (or conflict whichever you prefer) and a lost platoon actually reach out of the past seducing a wealthy, self-made man? Can it corrupt a man so powerful, he even has the Arch-Bishop of the San Francisco diocese in his pocket? While the action twists and turns, Abe Glitsky looks straight ahead, following the past into the present. A must read, especially for those who feel entitled!

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### **Susan says**

Having recently found and enjoyed Lescroart, I was delighted to find this very fat one of his that I had not read. If you're interested in trying him, start with GUILT. It is an excellent example of my favorite kind of novel. In an organized, well paced plot, he fully develops more than a handful of really interesting characters. A powerful, well respected San Franciso attorney is arrested for a particularly grizzly murder and is suspected by the homicide detective and his team of being responsible for other equally horrible murders. But, there is a camp of also credible people who know that it is impossible for him to have done anything even remotely like this. This one is going to have to go on my best of the year list.

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## **Terri Floccare says**

This book tied up some of the loose ends from previous books. It's in the Abe Glitsky series, but I like that Lescroart also gave a shout out to his other characters as they passed through this story. Definitely not a bad read, but I appreciate when Hardy and Glitsky are working together. They bring out the best in each other.

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## **Keri says**

I must say that JL is such a talented writer. Now as the reader we have expectations of our hero from the first. Mark Dooher is introduced to us from the first, he is the primary character and to be very frank, I hated him. On the surface he was a handsome, talented he's -got-it-all-kind-of guy. Oh and he is a good Catholic boy to boot.

But when the camera, lights and action hasn't been called yet, Mark is a whole nother breed of slime. His wife thinks that he might be suicidal, his best friend, another lawyer, thinks that he may be having an affair. But Abe Glitzky, one of San Francisco finest, thinks he has committed the murder of a fellow lawyer.

Abe has has been overruled and with no smoking gun or hot bayonet at the case may be, he is forced to let it go. Heck is barely getting by with suffering his own hell on earth tragedy.

He gets the call though that galvanizes his life. Goldenboy Mark's wife has been murdered. Now he has him right where he wants him. But as he sits in court and watches his case fall apart and the devil looking at him from the defense table, what can he do?

You will have to read for yourself to see how it ends up. :-)

The only small niggling thing was I think this was about 100 pages too long. Other than that it was a very good taunt thriller. I heart Glitzky.

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