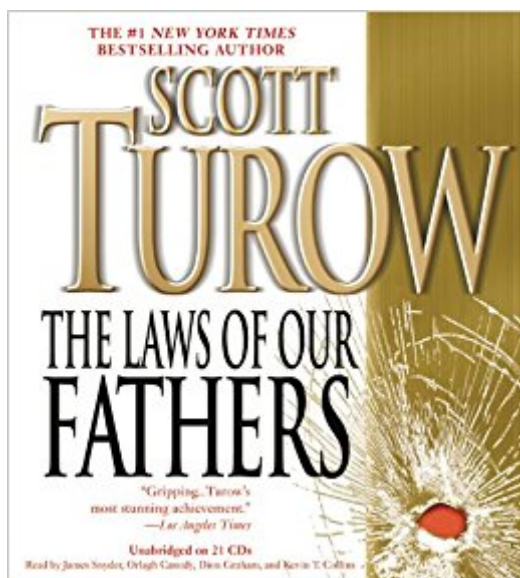


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The Laws Of Our Fathers



Synopsis

In Kindle County, a woman is killed in an apparent random drive-by shooting. The woman turns out to be the ex-wife of a prominent state senator and an old acquaintance of Judge Sonia Klonsky, on whose desk the case lands. As the pursuit of justice takes bizarre and unusual turns, Judge Klonsky is brought face-to-face with a host of extraordinary personalities and formidable enemies bent on her destruction.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

At the close of legal-thriller novelist Scott Turow's second book, *The Burden of Proof*, Sonia Klonsky was a young prosecutor in Kindle County Courthouse with a failing marriage, an infant daughter, and a single mastectomy. Now, as the narrator of Turow's latest novel, she's a Superior Court Judge presiding over the murder trial of one Nile Eddgar, accused of arranging the slaying of his ghetto-activist mother, June. Turow attempts a sort of social history of the 60s in this ambitious mystery, but the most vivid passages come when the gangbangers of the Black Saints Disciples take center stage. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Turow once again proves that there is more substance in a single page of one of his novels than in the entire works of John Grisham or any other author in the legal thriller genre. In this latest, the mother of a probation officer is shot near a gang-infested housing project, provoking charges that her son orchestrated the killing. The ensuing trial reunites a group of affluent Sixties activists who knew each other in their student days. The courtroom scenes are energetic and intelligent, and

Turow never resorts to playing good guys vs. bad guys. Nor does he subject his characters to tearful, revelatory testimony while on the stand. His dialog is snappy and believable?aside from some awkwardly rendered sections featuring the leader of an urban street gang?and his insight into his characters' petty motivations and misplaced love is dead on. All public libraries should have a copy of this fine novel.?Mark Annichiarico, "Library Journal"Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Since I loved his earlier books, I was very disappointed by the excruciatingly slow pace of this one. Despite having grown up in the late 1960s myself, I found many if the flashbacks quite boring and not that credible. I felt like I was forcing myself to finish the book and eventually gave up because I didn't really care what happened to the characters. While the writing itself was good, and quite descriptive, I didn't feel much depth to the characters, it felt like reading a book about your neighbors by someone who didn't know them very well. I don't plan to read anything else in this series and feel the book would have been greatly improved by trimming, tightening and amping up the narrative arc.

Technically, Scott Turow is a very good writer. In this story he's done a fine job of describing what it's like for hippies to grow up -- at least for those who do grow up. Unfortunately, as seems to be the usual case, he's vastly overwritten his story, and in the end the whole thing comes apart, falling into pieces like a musical theme unresolved. It's too bad. The poor man badly needs a capable editor who can help him get under control his tendency to overwrite.

Is this an abnormal psychology text? The plot is so convoluted and difficult to follow that I found myself having to refer back to find out the timeframe or who us talking. I suppose it is an attempt to give context to the characters but for me it was laborious. Frankly, knowing why the players were so conflicted and tormented by their lives and felt so frustrated and angry doesn't add that much to the story. And the whole last 1/3 of the book is a character analysis after the plot has played out. I kept reading thinking there might be one final twist. But no. A general disappointment as a mystery but at times an interesting character study.

I think that the book was longer than it needed to be. The story was interesting and i thoroughly enjoyed it but I found myself wondering how much longer it would take to tell it. He has a gift for dialog as is illustrated by the coversation's between the protagonist and his best friend and his

conversations with his lover's daughter. His descriptions could be overly long and at times confusing enough that I had to reread some of them multiple times. I would recommend this book because the issues it raises are important and thoughtfully presented.

Thought book was about a trial. After reading it, not sure what it is. I have enjoyed Turow's past books, but not this one. Not sure why I finished it. I would give it fewer than one star were that possible. Do not recommend this book.

I normally enjoy Turow's books, including the Kindle County book. This is a large departure from his previous formats and one that I did not find to be enjoyable - in fact, it was actually difficult to read. I almost put it down after a couple of chapters. It improved, but the ending was as bad as the first couple of chapters. Very disappointed.

I can't recommend this book. Too much detail. Book starts slow and stays slow. Story was not written like his previous works.

Turow is a great writer who can really develop characters, but if you are looking for a legal thriller, forget this one. It's really the life story of a female judge who is presiding over a trial with lengthy flashbacks to develop each of the characters, who happen to be from her past. The actual trial is interesting, but it's probably only about 15-20% of the book. I was thinking about giving this book only two stars, because I really didn't care about most of what was written about the characters, but that could just be me.

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