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The Fall: A Novel: Dismas Hardy, Book 16



Synopsis

From New York Times bestselling author John Lescroart, a riveting new novel of legal suspense featuring Dismas Hardy and his daughter, Rebecca, now grown up and an associate in Hardy's law firm. Late one night, a teenage African American foster child named Tanya Morgan plummets to her death from the overpass above San Francisco's Stockton tunnel. But did she fall...or was she pushed? Rushing to produce a convictable suspect in the glare of the media spotlight, homicide inspectors focus their attention on a naïve young man named Greg Treadway. Greg is a middle school teacher and he volunteers as a Special Advocate for foster children. At first, the only thing connecting him to Tanya's death is the fact that they shared a meal earlier that night. But soon enough, elements of that story seem to fall apart...and Hardy's daughter, Rebecca, finds herself drawn into the young man's defense. By the time Greg's murder trial gets underway, Dismas and Rebecca have unearthed several other theories about the crime: a missing stepfather who'd sexually assaulted her; a roommate who ran a call girl service; a psychologically unstable birth mother; and a mysterious homeless man who may have had dealings with Tanya. Or Greg Treadway himself, who is perhaps not all that he first appeared. But how will they get these theories in front of a jury? And if they can, what price will they have to pay? With signature suspense and intricate plotting, *The Fall* puts Dismas Hardy and his only daughter in the middle of one of John Lescroart's most complex and thrilling cases yet.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

John Lescroart has extended his fictional San Francisco family for another generation. His central

character, Dismas Hardy, is, like all of us, aging. His children are grown. The oldest, Rebecca (aka The Beck to readers of the series) is now an associate in Hardy's Law Firm. "The Fall" is the story of her first murder case. All of the usual suspects are here. Wes Farrell, Hardy's ex law partner and now the San Francisco D.A. has come under fire for not prosecuting the deaths of African Americans as vigorously as he does the death of whites. When an African American girl is murdered under very public circumstances. Farrell wants justice done publicly and swiftly. Inspector Devon Juhle (a series regular) is assigned to the case. He focuses on one particular suspect very quickly, and sets out to prove the case against him. By a series of nicely interwoven happenings, Rebecca ends up defending the man accused of the murder. Dismas Hardy's best friend, retired homicide detective Abe Glitsky is used by Farrell as an investigator on the case. He has known Rebecca her whole life. Glitsky works the case, in parallel with the Inspector Juhle and his team. Abe, as we all know, is a very independent investigator and is looking for the truth- not just a conviction. The crossing of the generations is at the heart of the story. Lescroart has done well in passing the torch from Dismas Hardy to Rebecca Hardy. Dismas will certainly be around- as he has a prominent role in the book. But Rebecca is the star of the show, as she struggles to put together a defense, and then learns the ropes of presenting that defense in Court. There is a somewhat contrived post-trial ending, which slightly detracts from the book. Lescroart likes action- so there is the required action sequence to finish. This is the weakest part of the book. It feels tacked on. Having said that, I still recommend "The Fall" to the readers of the Hardy-Glitsky-Wyatt Hunt series. It is a good story and it marks the beginning of the next generation of these novels.

Predictably unpredictable story line that is the author's modus operandi. This is another great read and expands the family of characters delightfully. As always, the dialogue is superb. His ending may be a bit predictable but getting there is still fascinating and holds the interest anyway. Gets five stars from me. I like to read John Lescroart!

This is the 16th volume in Lescroart's Dismas Hardy series. Dismas is a prominent lawyer in San Francisco - and marks a critical transition from what has gone before. The book is centered on a new protagonist, Dismas's daughter Rebecca, "The Beck", whom we have watched grow up in the other volumes. She now has her own law degree and is newly employed in Dismas's firm. To a newcomer to the series, this is something of a disadvantage, because Lescroart has brought nearly all of his earlier characters together to welcome her, and the stage is a little crowded. There is also

a certain clubbiness among the lawyers and the police which I consider unrealistic, though book-wise they have known each other for years. Nevertheless, the plot is a good one, and the twist at the end, while not totally unexpected, is rewarding. Buy it; you'll like it. But I think the vein the rest of us have mined all this time is about played out; bare rock is beginning to show through. If you are a new reader, start somewhere in the middle of the series and work up.

Very good Lescroart story. I enjoyed the novel having been focused on Dismas Hardy's daughter who grew up while I was reading other authors. It made me want to read more books by Lescroart to see what I have been missing. The "Beck" was a pleasurable character. She was both humbled by her lack of defense attorney experience and found the confidence when it was needed. This made her a very real character to me and much more believable than her dipsy roommate who was annoying. The protagonist/antagonist was agreeably suspect. Lescroart through father Dismas gave us just enough hints that Greg might be guilty that it wasn't a plot twist really. Identifying him as a potential sociopath worked for me and I was satisfied with the ending.

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