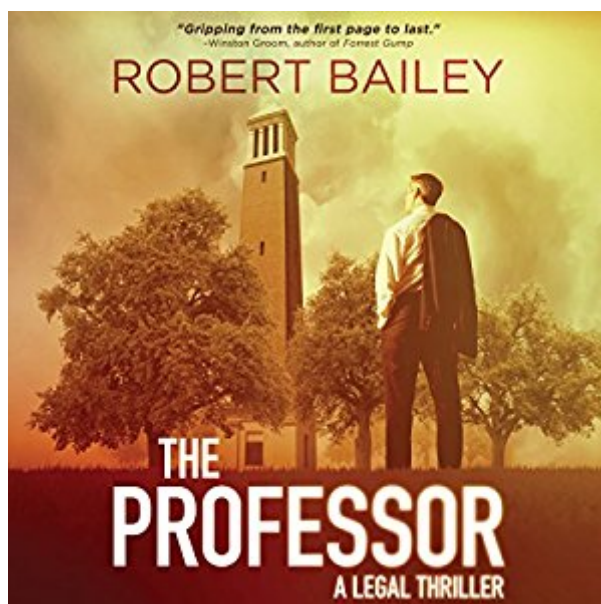


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The Professor: McMurtrie And Drake Legal, Book 1



Synopsis

Law professor Thomas Jackson McMurtrie literally wrote the book on evidence in the state of Alabama. But when a power-hungry colleague uses a recent run-in between McMurtrie and headstrong student Rick Drake to end his career, he is left unsure what to do next. Meanwhile, a devastating trucking accident in Henshaw, Alabama, leaves a young family dead. Drake, now a fledgling lawyer, takes the case against the freight carrier and soon begins to uncover the truth behind the tragedy that is buried in a tangled web of arson, bribery, and greed. On the eve of the trial and with his case unraveling in the midst of a dangerous cover-up that threatens to silence his star witnesses, Drake realizes that only his estranged mentor, Professor McMurtrie, can help him now. With everything to lose and only justice to gain, will McMurtrie and Drake overcome bad blood to defeat a ruthless adversary? Can the Professor turn back the clock and recover all that he's lost?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I love a good, juicy legal thriller, particularly one set in the American south. It goes back to *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD*, I imagine. Few reading experiences can compare with getting knee-deep into a case with a lawyer and his staff, following along with them to the inevitably dramatic conclusion. Is it a formula? Sure. I fail to see anything wrong with that (I do, however, see everything wrong with people who glare down their prissy noses at any story they deem formulaic). Just as a recipe for, say, chocolate cake can result in something delicious or inedible, a legal thriller can be well executed or not. In *THE PROFESSOR*, Robert Bailey takes a classic, yes, formula, and uses it to

create one of the most compelling legal thrillers I've read in a long time. What makes it work so well? The details. The ambiance. The richly drawn (without being overwrought) characters. Good guys who are virtuous without being perfect and bad guys who are the kind of bastards we all encounter far too often. I read THE PROFESSOR without reading the jacket copy, and I'm awfully glad I did, because the story is absorbing, and it doesn't need an adjective-filled paragraph to prop it up. That said, you probably want to know what it's about...so here's my spoiler-free attempt at explaining it: The titular Professor is one Tom McMurtrie, who teaches law (evidence, specifically) at the University of Alabama. When the family of a dear friend of Tom's is killed in a horrific car crash, he refers the case to a former student. It all sounds pretty simple, but there are numerous sub-plots and side stories that give THE PROFESSOR the kind of richness one finds all too rarely. Side note: one of these side stories involves football coach "Bear" Bryant.

Book Info: Genre: Legal suspense/thrillers Reading Level: Adult Recommended for: Fans of legal suspense/thrillers Trigger Warnings: murder, rape, violence, blackmail My Thoughts: Let me state right off that this is not a mystery. In a mystery, neither the reader nor the characters know who the murderer is, and the book is a journey to discover who that is. This is a suspense/thriller book in the legal field, which means the reader, at least, knows who is involved and how, but we watch as the characters try to legally prove what they are learning. This book is described as the first McMurtrie and Drake Investigation, so although I don't know when or how many, there will be more books in this series. I think the idea has merit, but there are things I'd like to see in future books, such as: how the lawyers and their staff go about gathering information; acknowledgment that lawyers never work on just a single case at any given time; the distressing tendency of lawyers to put everything off until the last minute and the effect that has on their staff. In essence, I'd like a bit more realism. All that said, this was an entertaining read, and fans of legal thrillers/suspense should enjoy it. While it didn't blow me away, I did enjoy it well enough and will likely watch for future books in this series to see where the author plans to go with this. If this sounds like something you'd like, check it out. Disclosure: I received a copy of this book from JKS Communications (this author's publicist) in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own. Synopsis: Thomas Jackson McMurtrie is a living legend scorned.

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