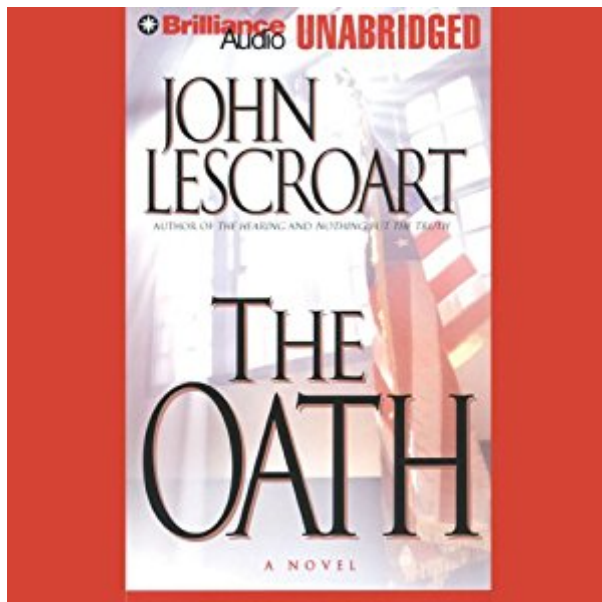


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The Oath: A Dismas Hardy Novel



Synopsis

When the head of San Francisco's largest HMO dies in his own hospital, no one doubts that it is anything but the result of massive injuries inflicted by a random hit-and-run accident. But the autopsy soon tells a different story - an overdose of potassium killed him, and the attending physician, Eric Kensing, becomes the prime suspect in a high-profile homicide. Homicide lieutenant Abe Glitsky, though hindered by the inept bunglings of two politically appointed cops assigned to the investigation, quickly sets his sights on Kensing. Desperate and in need of an attorney, Kensing turns to lawyer Dismas Hardy for his defense. But as the pressure mounts to indict Kensing, Hardy goes on the offensive, believing that the murder had little to do with his client, and everything to do with business. Hardy knows that all is not well with the HMO, and makes a terrifying discovery: too many patients have been dying, many of them victims of murder - and it looks like it is the hospital that is killing them. His own marriage tested and his family strained as he struggles to save his client, Hardy must uncover a twisting conspiracy of avarice and violence that takes the lives it is sworn to save. A timely and gripping novel that puts lives - and a long-standing friendship - at grave risk.

--This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 13 hours 5 minutes

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Version: Unabridged

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Customer Reviews

Unless you're a hardcore Lescroart fan willing to endure the author apparently writing during a "dry spell" (or trying to meet a deadline), consider skipping this one. As usual, he doesn't try to set the hook early - initially writing in italics, which I find to be an irritating conceit, but unlike most of his

other novels the hook never appears at all. Instead, the plot develops at a painfully slow pace, even though the identity of the villain is obvious almost from the get-go despite a double handful of red herrings. Others have remarked that the development of the main protagonists, Hardy and Glitsky, is nicely done, but I don't see it. Hardy is as usual torn between home/family and nonstop investigating, and Glitsky is, well, Glitsky. The feud between Hardy and Glitsky seems to be an effort to add spice, but its intensity is so profound that when it suddenly evaporates the reader is left shaking his head: "Was this trip really necessary?" As a legal thriller the novel falls far short of the standards set by such as Connelly, Turow or even Grisham. For instance, the reader's appetite is whetted for what could have been a fascinating grand jury hearing, but he's not even admitted into the room. The hearing is merely reported in broad brush strokes, second hand. During a lifetime of reading I've stopped plowing through a few novels after just a couple of chapters, but in this case I was tempted to put it back on the shelf with just 20 or so pages to go. Lescroart has the ability to drag the reader along with his writing skills, but in this case the story goes out with a whimper despite a last minute flurry of revelations.

Lescroart's writings and his recurring characters are addictive. Once the reader becomes immersed, it is as if each novel is a chapter in an epic. This novel, unlike many of his works, has no courtroom scenes, but the plot is rich in imaginative and interesting details related to the medical and pharmaceutical fields. What makes it especially good is that Lescroart keeps the reader guessing until the last page.

good

Don't publish - no one cares what I think and I have read so many of John Lescroart books that I get confused as to which is which and would do better with a review if I did it immediately after finishing book - I'm reading for my own pleasure - not to report what I thought about book. Please don't publish this and I doubt that John Lescroart cares what I think as long as I keep buying his books.

John Lescroart's Dismas Hardy novels are among the most entertaining and well written of the lawyer-cop-mystery genre. The gang's all here in this story which does a number on the HMO industry and their ability or lack thereof to take proper care of the enrollees. The head of the HMO has been hit by a hit and run driver and brought, unfortunately for him, to the hospital which his HMO manages. While in the ICU, he succumbs to his injuries...or does he? ... An obvious suspect is

being investigated, Dismas is representing him and it looks as though an arrest may be imminent. However, as the investigation proceeds, many stories within stories are discovered, not the least of which is that someone is murdering people in the ICU. This story, regrettably never gets inside a courtroom, but the resolution and Dismas Hardy's involvement in it, nevertheless still makes this a compelling and interesting read.

I don't remember how many of the Dismas Hardy series (not to be confused with the Hardy Boys!!) I have read or listened to, but I enjoyed them all, and to me, this most recent one is his best. Even if I guessed the denouement, as I did fairly early on, it made no difference to my enjoyment of this book. It's a real story that unfolds with passage of time and meaningful descriptions that involved me deeper and deeper into the tale. Certain events, that can't be disclosed here, tested my emotions. The reader is excellent as well, so important in audio versions. He 'is' Dismas Hardy - just the voice one would expect from him if he were real. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and look forward to the next one. I only regret that there are no audio versions of some of Lescroart's earlier books (not that I don't read - it's just that these are excellent listens in the car!).

As with all of his books, this was a great read. A friend recommended the Dismas Hardy series a few weeks ago and I am now on book 9.

I'm liking these characters as I read more of William Lashner's books, although I'm reading them out of order, kind of like pre-quels by accident. I enjoy the humor exchanged between the cop and the lawyer, as well as finding out how they developed their relationship and losses. The mystery is always there to be solved, but the journey is fun. Have a good time reading this.

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