



TRIAL - A Legal Thriller: Clifford Irving's legal novels: Book 1

By Clifford Irving

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The New York Times called this "the novel of the year."

A new standard for legal thrillers, a Literary Guild selection and USA Today best-seller, with a movie starring Beverly D'Angelo, Ned Beatty, and Jill Clayburgh.

"The courtroom scenes are breathtaking ... gripping suspense ... riveting!"
-- Publishers Weekly

Clifford Irving's powerful novel deals with murder, the perils of love, and the morality of justice, TRIAL follows Texas lawyer Warren Blackburn as he defends two accused murderers in two separate cases. Without warning, the cases merge, threatening Warren's career and life.

"Don't begin this book at bedtime or you'll be up all night ... TRIAL is like a birchbark canoe or a seven-layer cake. You can go crazy trying to figure out how it's made, and it's made by a master." -- Caroline See, Los Angeles Times

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The courtroom scenes are breathtaking in Irving's (*The Angel of Zin*) new novel. Warren Blackburn practices criminal law in Houston, in the same Harris County courthouse where his late father was a respected judge. When he executes a perjurious affidavit on behalf of a client whom he foolishly trusted, Warren is suspended from practice for a year. Upon his return, he is relegated to the detritus of criminal defense work, until he suddenly becomes counsel to two defendants in murder cases, one celebrated. Warren discovers that one of his clients was likely the actual murderer in the other case, but lawyer-client confidentiality prevents disclosure, and he is trapped in a Kafkaesque dilemma. Although the plot holds few surprises, Irving's development of the trial-related issues is masterful, providing gripping suspense. Similarly, while some of the extralegal parts of the narrative (Blackburn's marital problems, his predictable affair with a court stenographer) are rather contrived, the court proceedings, strategy and testimony are authentic and first-rate; and the cross-examination of the one pivotal "eyewitness" is riveting.

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From Library Journal

Following the stigma of an ethics probe, attorney Warren Blackburn gets another chance--to assist a famous lawyer in a scandalous murder trial. At about the same time he agrees to serve as public defender for a poor Hispanic accused of capital murder. Wife Charm is getting tired of their lifestyle and leaves. After the famous lawyer dies, Warren takes over the defense of J.F. Boudreau, the beautiful manager of a notorious topless club, accused of shooting her lover. (There are several other crimes, all related.) The author has crowded his narrative with colorful, down-and-dirty characters, including a feisty woman judge, a wino, a court reporter attracted to Warren, and, especially, Boudreau, who is steamy, resourceful, and unforgettable. The legal points are artfully presented, and the story is jet-propelled. Most readers will want to read this at one sitting. Highly recommended.

- *Robert H. Donahugh, formerly with Youngstown & Mahoning Cty. P.L., Ohio*

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From the Publisher

Young Texas attorney Warren Blackburn was watching his career go to hell in a handbasket. Falling for a client's sob story had pushed him into telling a little white lie . . . and cost him a year's suspension. Now he's back in the courtroom with not one, but two clients accused of murder. The rich, gorgeous owner of a topless bar is guilty as sin . . . and he's going to make a bundle fighting to get her off. The poor Mexican laborer is innocent and will probably get the death penalty . . . unless Blackburn risks everything--his career, his wife, and even his life--for justice. Real justice.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jack Rosa:

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