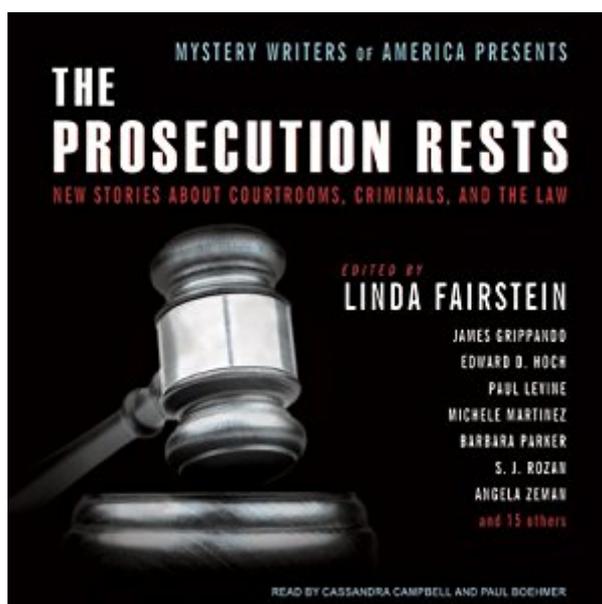


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# Mystery Writers Of America Presents The Prosecution Rests: New Stories About Courtrooms, Criminals, And The Law



## Synopsis

Best-selling author Linda Fairstein, who "makes legal issues more exciting than any high-speed chase" (The New York Times), presents these thrilling stories of lawyers under pressure, criminals facing the needle, and heartbroken families who hope for justice and who sometimes take it into their own hands. In James Grippando's "Death, Cheated", a lawyer defends his ex-girlfriend against the investors who bet \$1.5 million on her death. In Barbara Parker's "A Clerk's Life", a disillusioned clerk at a corporate law firm suspects the worst of his colleagues when one of the firm's employees is murdered. In Phyllis Cohen's "Designer Justice", an accused murderer thinks he's lucked out when he lands a high-priced lawyer, only to learn that there are worse fates than being found guilty. This collection - filled with shocking twists, double-crosses, and edge-of-your-seat suspense - includes "The Secret Session", by Edward D. Hoch; "Designer Justice", by Phyllis Cohen; "Follow Up", by Jo Dereske; "By Hook or by Crook", by Charlie Drees; "The Letter", by Eileen Dunbaugh; "Spectral Evidence", by Kate Gallison; "Knife Fight", by Joel Goldman; "Death, Cheated", by James Grippando; "My Brother's Keeper", by Daniel J. Hale; "The Flashlight Game", by Diana Hansen-Young; "Mom Is My Co-Counsel", by Paul Levine; "Quality of Mercy", by Leigh Lundin; "The Mother", by Michele Martinez; "Red Dog", by Anita Page; "A Clerk's Life", by Barbara Parker; "Time Will Tell", by Twist Phelan; "The Evil We Do", by John Walter Putre; "Night Court", by S. J. Rozan; "Hard Blows", by Morley Swingle; "Custom Sets", by Joseph Wallace; "Bang", by Angela Zeman; and "Going Under", by Linda Fairstein.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Linda Fairstein, herself a prosecutor in Manhattan for 25 years, has compiled an anthology of legal shorts written by some of the most well known and most exciting members of the Mystery Writers of America. If you like legal thrillers, police procedurals, courtroom drama, judicial hanky-panky, the ethics of criminal aggressive defense and prosecution and the twists in our modern system of jurisprudence, then it's a sure bet that THE PROSECUTION RESTS will thrill you to your toes. One of my favourites in the collection, for example, DESIGNER JUSTICE, tells the chilling tale of a top-flight defense lawyer whose cross examination is so perfectly focused and constructed that the jury has no alternative but to acquit the defendant. However, it turns out that the person footing the bills for the defense has their own agenda that probably isn't quite on the same page as that of the newly released "innocent" murderer. QUALITY OF MERCY, a topical story about whether human euthenasia constitutes homicide, ends with a thoroughly entertaining and utterly blindsided twist. NIGHT COURT, one of the shortest entries in the collection, tells a fine story about, shall we call it, "alternative" justice systems. The collection closes with GOING UNDER, an amusing ironic tale of a sting designed to apprehend a dentist whose practice is definitely not on the up and up! Of course, this is just the tip of the iceberg. When you open THE PROSECUTION RESTS, you can put your feet up and look forward to several evenings of entertainment over 22 different stories. Great drama, great story-telling, great twists, great characters and great dialogue ... all in all, an anthology that is enjoyable from first page to last. I hope that Ms Fairstein will consider putting together a second collection to follow up this winner. Highly recommended. Paul Weiss

I like to purchase short story collections for my Kindle, because I often eat lunch in a restaurant, alone. My Kindle is friendly company, easy to turn pages with one hand while eating, and a short story is just the right length for lunch on the go! This collection is one of the best! Every story is sharp and exciting. Of course, being collected by Linda Fairstein, how could they NOT be? Loved it!

I have several mystery writers of America books and love them. I get a sample of several authors writings. I can weed out which authors I like and don't without committing to a novel. Most of the stories remind me of the old Alfred Hitchcock series. A nice twist at the end.

The stories in The Prosecution Rests have a common theme; all revolve around courtrooms, trials and justice meted out to criminals, sometimes formally and sometimes informally. Edited by Linda Fairstein, herself a prosecutor for 25 years in Manhattan, the book pulls together some of the most interesting crime novelists in the genre. It is a book by the Mystery Writers of America, an

organization for both beginning and established mystery writers. The focus of the organization is promoting both the crime writing genre and those novelists who choose it as their focus. This anthology meets both goals. The twenty-one stories in the book are varied and interesting. They cover murders, insurance fraud, robbery, adultery and other crimes. The protagonists are prosecutors, defense attorneys, police investigators and judges. Some of the stories are fairly straightforward while others incorporate a twist that surprises the reader. The list of authors reads like a Who's Who of mystery writing. It includes Linda Fairstein, James Grippando, Phyllis Cohen, Jo Dereske, Charlie Drees, Eileen Dunbaugh, Kate Gallison, Joel Goldman, Diana Hansen-Young, Edward Hoch, Paul Levine, Leigh Lundin, Michele Martinez, Anita Page, Barbara Parker, Twist Phelan, John Putre, S.J. Rozan, Morley Swingle, Joseph Wallace and Angela Zeman. The authors chosen include in their ranks Edgar winners, past Presidents of the Mystery Writers association and Sisters In Crime writing awards. They also include writers who are new to the genre. This book is recommended both to those readers who enjoy crime and mystery writing, and to short story fans. Each will find stories that intrigue, amaze and surprise them. With a variety of writing styles, the reader is assured of finding stories that match their taste. The reader has an opportunity to revisit established authors' work and the chance to discover new authors in the field whose work they may want to follow in the future. The Prosecution Rests gives the reader a chance to sample quality crime writing at its best.

Just as a thriller movie is to a lengthy book, so were these story snippets akin to the crime shows we see on TV. Ideal for shorter attention spans! I was surprised at how enthusiastic I felt about this book. I don't tend to read mystery stories, although after this book, I have no idea why. This was my first foray into the world of crime dramas written in the short story format. What a success. Not only were the crimes and their subsequent court scenes intriguing, but the short stories themselves were well-developed and did not feel as fragmented or stilted as I had expected. I particularly enjoyed "By Hook or By Crook"--it twisted, then twisted, then twisted again, and shocked me every single time. To throw a story upside-down more than three times within the span of 20 pages and still managing to bring the reader along was impressive. "Hard Blows" also had me on the edge of my seat the whole time and left me wondering where the story would go after the author concluded it. "Designer Justice" and "A Clerk's Life" were also intriguing glimpses into psycho minds. Great compilation, satisfying read. Perfect for vacation or for a short, single-story reading session before bed--if you can put it down to fall asleep!

The writing in these short stories was very uneven: some stories were very good, having enough intrigue to keep you attentive while others were lacking.

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