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The Keeper: Dismas Hardy, Book 15



Synopsis

From New York Times best-selling author John Lescroart, a riveting novel featuring Dismas Hardy and Abe Glitsky on the hunt for clues about a woman who has gone missing. On the evening before Thanksgiving, Hal Chase, a guard in the San Francisco County Jail, drives to the airport to pick up his step-brother for the weekend. When they return, Hal's wife, Katie, has disappeared without a clue. By the time Dismas Hardy hears about this, Katie has been missing for five days. The case strikes close to home because Katie had been seeing Hardy's wife, a marriage counselor. By this time, the original Missing Persons case has become a suspected homicide, and Hal is the prime suspect. And the lawyer he wants for his defense is none other than Hardy himself. Hardy calls on his friend, former homicide detective Abe Glitsky, to look into the case. At first it seems like the police might have it right; the Chases' marriage was fraught with problems; Hal's alibi is suspect; the life insurance policy on Katie was huge. But Glitsky's mission is to identify other possible suspects, and there proves to be no shortage of them: Patti Orosco - rich, beautiful, dangerous, and Hal's former lover; the still-unknown person who had a recent affair with Katie; even Hal's own step-mother, Ruth, resentful of Katie's gatekeeping against her grandchildren. And as Glitsky probes further, he learns of an incident at the San Francisco jail, where Hal works - only one of many questionable inmate deaths that have taken place there. Then, when Katie's body is found not three blocks from the Chase home, Homicide arrests Hal and he finds himself an inmate in the very jail where he used to work, a place full of secrets he knows all too well. Against this backdrop of conspiracy and corruption, ambiguous motives and suspicious alibis, an obsessed Glitsky closes in on the elusive truth. As other deaths begin to pile up he realizes, perhaps too late, that the next victim might be himself.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The latest in the series (#15) is an entertaining mystery that focuses on the collaboration between attorney Hardy and his long time friend turned investigator, ex cop Abe Glitsky, as they delve into the case of a missing woman and corruption at the local jail. The body of the woman, wife of jail guard Hal Chase, is found in a wooded clearing close to the family home and Hal is arrested. But the homicide isn't going to be closed that easily -- and the team is off and running, chasing down clues and trying to find evidence. Although I knew who the murderer was almost instantly (a side effect of reading hundreds of books in this genre), the evolving story was paced well with plenty of red herrings. The partnership of Dismas and Abe has developed over the long series and the characters are well drawn and complex. Their interaction is spiked with humor but their respect for each other is evident. I enjoy the series and fans will want to devour this latest book! Thank you to NetGalley and Atria books for the e-book ARC to review.

I love John Lescroart and Dismas Hardy and Abe Glitsky. This book felt like something the author threw together just to write another book. Disappointing plot. I guessed the murderer early on. Abe was made to look like a novice investigator. No trial. Pass this one by. C'mon John, give us another great one!!

THE KEEPER is not a legal thriller. I don't believe, if memory serves, there is a single courtroom scene on any page. That is a neat trick, considering it is full to the brim of defense attorneys (the venerable Dismas Hardy) and district attorneys (Wes Farrell and an entire team of assistants), not to mention police, ex- (Abe Glitsky) and otherwise, and a defendant (Hal Chase) who is in jail and may or (more likely) may not be innocent. John Lescroart's latest offering is a pure mystery, evenly divided between police procedure and private investigation, and wonderful from beginning to end. Chase is a deputy sheriff assigned to duty at the San Francisco County Jail. When Chase's wife, Katie, goes missing from their home on the Wednesday night before Thanksgiving, leaving her very young children unattended, suspicion almost immediately falls upon Chase, and not without reason. The couple has been having financial problems; the now-missing Katie had been in counseling; and both husband and wife had huge life insurance policies that

named the surviving spouse as beneficiary. Chase, seeing which way the wind is blowing, lawyers up with Hardy. This is somewhat ironic, given that Katie had been seeing Hardy's marriage counselor wife for some time. When it is revealed that Katie and Chase had been having extramarital affairs, it appears that Chase had at least two more motives to murder his wife. Given that his usual investigator is away on an extended trip, Hardy retains Glitsky to start turning over evidentiary rocks in the hope of uncovering another suspect. Glitsky, who recently has been somewhat involuntarily retired from his job as a homicide detective, does not lack for suspects, but there is a problem: none of them are anywhere near as good as Chase. In due course, Chase is indicted and finds himself incarcerated in the very jail where he used to work. There is a problem there, though, and it starts at the top with County Sheriff and works its way down. Prisoner deaths and overdoses are occurring all too frequently, and when an investigation into the death of an inmate is connected to Chase's previous guard duties, Glitsky wonders if perhaps someone at the jail may have had a motive to kill Katie as well. Glitsky's investigation results in a rare and uneasy alliance between Hardy and Farrell. Two more deaths --- one tragic, one otherwise --- seem to put the two teams on the right track, and it appears that justice, however rough and incomplete, is done. That is, until a single and simple fact is revealed that upsets every supposition and conclusion that has been made in the case. Doubting himself and his ability to do the job he loves so much, Glitsky must bring every bit of his skill and talent to bear in order to ensure that a killer is brought to trial after avoiding charges for much too long. Lescroart brings his "game" to THE KEEPER, deftly leading the reader through a plot that begins simply but becomes more complex as things progress. Mystery aficionados may guess the identity of the doer (or doers) before story's end, but, as is true with any visit to the streets of San Francisco, the journey is as interesting and enjoyable as the destination, if not more so. This one is a delight for fans and newcomers alike. Reviewed by Joe Hartlaub.

This is the fifteenth book in the Dismas Hardy series, but most of the story is told from the point of view of former homicide detective Abe Glitsky. He has been retired for about 6 months and Hardy hires him as an investigator. He was bored reading books and watching TV, so he was quite willing to go out and do something useful, even though he felt like a turncoat, working for the defense. Hardy gives him a lot of freedom. He just wants him to find out who killed his client's wife. Glitsky is a veteran detective, so he knows what to do. Before too long the DA needs a new investigator, when one of his people is killed, so he hires Glitsky, still with the imperative to find out the truth. This book is a fairly run of the mill Police Procedural. It works well as a stand alone story, and you don't

feel like you jumped into the middle of a series. Abe Glitsky is a fairly fleshed out character, and you get a feel that he could have a future as an investigator for the DAs office. He is the only character that gets to be filled out. The rest of the players are more two-dimensional bit characters, you probably know them if you have followed this series. I enjoyed The Keeper, but wasn't glued to the page. The story plodded along without too much happening other than Glitsky's detective work and home life. There wasn't too much tension, it felt more like a Police Procedural from the UK than an American Police Procedural. I give this book 3 1/2 Stars out of 5. I liked Glitsky, but the plot could have used a few more twists and surprises. I received this Digital Review Copy for free from edelweiss.com.

I was about 1/2 way through the book and thoroughly enjoying the adventure, but a bit disappointed because it seemed like a pretty cut and dry murder mystery. Just enough clues to make the reader think they figured out the ending. Well, I was completely wrong - so well done Mr. Lescroart. This book has all the usual suspects from a Dismas Hardy novel, but that's what makes them good. There is a special emphasis is on Abe Glitsky this time, following him while he tries to solve the unsolvable. A good, solid book from a reliable storyteller.

Writers must be afraid to give up their staple characters. This novel is an example of this. Dismas, Abe & crew need to be shelved for good. Silly plot, boring secondary characters, unrealistic conclusion. If you must read, save money and go to the library.

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