

The Trial Movie Edition

By Robert Whitlow



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A lawyer ready to die takes one final case...the trial of his life.

Attorney Kent "Mac" MacClain has nothing left to live for. Nine years after the horrific accident that claimed the life of his wife and two sons, he's finally given up. His empty house is a mirror for his empty soul, it seems suicide is his only escape. And then the phone rings.

Angela Hightower, the beautiful heiress and daughter of the most powerful man in Dennison Springs, has been found dead at the bottom of a ravine. The accused killer, Peter Thomason, needs a lawyer. But Mac has come up against the Hightowers and their ruthless, high-powered lawyers before -- an encounter that left his practice and reputation reeling.

The evidence pointing to Thomason's guilt seems insurmountable. Is Mac defending an ingenious psychopath, or has Thomason been framed--possibly by a member of the victim's family? It comes down to one last trial. For Thomason, the opponent is the electric chair. For Mac, it is his own tormented past--a foe that will prove every bit as deadly.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Practicing attorney Whitlow follows up his successful debut novel, The List, with this Christian legal thriller about a small-town Georgia lawyer who lands a mysterious case. Called to defend a man accused of killing a wealthy Atlanta college student, the attorney, "Mac" MacClain, struggles to find the holes in what initially seems an airtight case for the prosecution. Whitlow intuitively understands the mandate to write about what he knows: the courtroom, the corner church, the small Southern community. Many of the book's details evoke a strong sense of place, and the courtroom scenes manage to maintain suspense without resorting to melodrama. The narrative falls a bit flat when Whitlow navigates Mac's emotional life. Like too many male characters in contemporary Christian fiction, Mac is a lonely widower (see also Frank Peretti's The Visitation, Ted Dekker's Heaven's Wager and, of course, the Left Behind series). Mac's wife and two sons perished years ago in a car accident with Mac at the wheel, and he struggles with grief and guilt. The novel opens with Mac sitting at his desk, trying to decide whether to kill himself with pills or a pistol. Whitlow does not sustain Mac's suicidal tendencies in a believable way; once Mac gets involved with the murder case, his energy drives it to its successful completion, making his automatic return to suicidal thoughts near the novel's end implausible. Despite this, Whitlow offers readers exciting courtroom drama and an authentic Southern sensibility.

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From **Booklist**

In *The Trial*, small-town attorney Kent ("Mac") MacClain, in despair over the death of his wife and two sons, is about to commit suicide. Then the phone rings, and he's handed a public defender's role in what is alleged to be the murder of a young woman from a prominent local family. The defendant is a drifter who can't remember what happened, but circumstances clearly point to his guilt. Mac is aided by a pretty out-of-town widow, a Christian psychologist with a son. She quickly goes to work both on Mac's head and on his heart in this seamless thriller from the reliable Whitlow. *John Mort Copyright* © *American Library Association. All rights reserved*

About the Author

Robert Whitlow is the bestselling author of legal novels set in the South and winner of the Christy Award for Contemporary Fiction. He received his J.D. with honors from the University of Georgia School of Law where he served on the staff of the Georgia Law Review. Website: robertwhitlow.com, Twitter: @whitlowwriter, Facebook: robertwhitlowbooks.

Users Review

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