

# Praise for the Book

“The title of Peter Meyers’s engrossing novel is doubly-intended. First it means the courtroom life of fictional lawyer Jill Hansen as she strategizes her way through trials emblematic of her long urban career representing criminal defendants. But it means also her personal trials, the private ordeals that are the cost exacted by a life zealously committed to clients society generally disfavors. In both respects, Meyers tells a story drawn creatively from his own vast experience as a criminal defense lawyer and teacher. A bravura performance!”

-- Judge Michael W. Farrell, retired D.C. Court of Appeals judge

“Following the arc of a lawyer's personal and professional life from her formative law school experiences through her mid-career law firm labors, this is an insightful cross-generational tale of trials, both criminal and psychological. On a path that moves from a law school clinic toward a law firm partnership, Jill, a dedicated criminal defense lawyer, forges hard-won wisdom about relationships of many kinds, among them attorneys and clients, parents and children, teachers and students, husbands and wives. The multi-layered story, set to a jazz soundtrack, illuminates important issues of trust and betrayal, service and sacrifice, blame and forgiveness. In homes and offices, streets and jails, courtrooms and classrooms, Meyers brings people and worlds together to help us appreciate that life's complexities can be a source of both painful difficulty and profound beauty.”

-- Phyllis Goldfarb, Co-Editor-in-Chief, Clinical Law Review

“This outstanding novel is an ode to the joys of clinical legal education and how it can help mold law students into excellent lawyers. Jill Hansen is a student-attorney in the Criminal Justice Clinic at the fictional Hamilton University Law School and Mark Freeman is her professor. Jill takes on the challenges thrown her way by a flawed urban criminal justice system, privilege, assumptions, and ultimately, her own inexperience. Under Professor Freeman's steady guidance, she begins her journey to becoming

a lawyer by applying the traditional lawyering tools that consumers of lawyer movies and TV shows are familiar with; however, thanks to her experiences as a student-attorney, she learns that becoming a great lawyer requires that she know herself first.”

-- Alberto Benitez, law professor

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