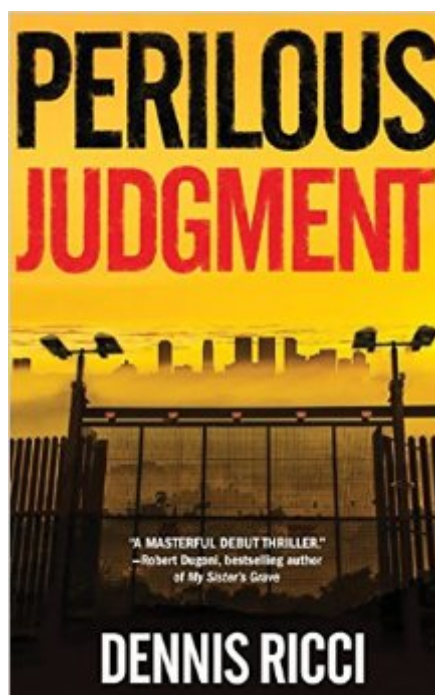


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Perilous Judgment: A Real Justice Thriller



Synopsis

Federal judge Edward Lamport is no stranger to controversy and danger. Nine months into his tenure, heâ™s received two death threats and is under the protection of US Marshals. But when he receives a plea for help from a woman with whom he had a brief romance twenty-five years earlier, he must face a peril of a different sort, one that involves his long-lost son, Carlos. While working for a bank in his native Mexico, Carlos discovers an international money-laundering scheme. Now heâ™s on the run from those who want him dead. To get the young man asylum in the United States, Lamport appeals to his highest connections in Washington, only to find puzzling dead ends at every turn. Caught between law and love, heâ™s forced to take the matter into his own hands. With only his faith in God to guide him, how far is he willing to venture into the dark recesses of political corruption to save his son?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dennis Ricciâ™s debut is a complex mix of fiction genres -- legal-thriller, high-finance suspense, contemporary-political, Christian-inspirational and military-action -- all rolled into one heart-wrenching novel about a man's love for the son he never knew. It's the story of a Los Angeles federal judge, Edward Lamport, who, on the eve of a controversial immigration ruling, is suddenly confronted by a mistake from his youth, one he'd long suppressed and forgotten, with the potential to undue his career, his marriage and his life. The unexpected interruption is a call from a former lover, an old Mexican girlfriend who'd bore him a son out of wedlock. Lamport had signed away his rights to the child and moved on, so he thought, but his long abandoned, now adult son, Carlos, is in

a bind. He's on the run after absconding from his Mexican bank job with a database of crooked international account transfers with the potential to topple powerful people on both sides of the US-Mexico border. Lamport, under federal protection due to death threats related to the immigration ruling, feels compelled to help. He embarks on a seemingly quixotic odyssey to rescue Carlos from a Mexican drug cartel and bring him to the US. And to rescue his ex-lover and the American private detective Lamport sends to protect her. It's an odyssey that takes him from the highest office in the US to the lowest depths of a sleazy narco-terrorist hideout where Lamport and his wife, Jacqui, are nearly killed. This well-written novel is full of mind-bending and unexpected twists and turns.

I received an advanced reviewer copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review. What separates Christian fiction from secular fiction is often hard to ignore. In many cases, there's an overload of wholesomeness and goodie-two-shoes — here's my favorite Scripture — writing. Dennis Ricci avoids that like the plague, but hews to the guidelines of not using excessive violence, sexual imagery, or foul language. Because of that, *Perilous Judgment* is a safe read for anyone with an aversion to rough language and sex. Not that there isn't plenty of action, violence, and drama in the book, but it's done for a purpose and doesn't break the rules. In other words, it's a good yarn without the offensive items that a lot of secular authors would have gratuitously thrown in. No salacious bits! The writing jumps back and forth between a few major characters, and if you lose track of who's up to bat, it can set you back for just a moment. I read the book during a very distracting period of my life, so I have to figure normal people (not squirrels with shiny objects like me) will have no problem. Lots of good sub-plot devices, clever ruses, and some image painting that leave you feeling the dust of Mexico on your brow as you look for a cool drink and some frijoles. I think about frijoles often, and that makes this a good thing. Lunch Tuesday was frijoles. So if you can put me in mind of a thing that strongly you are doing it right. One of the main focuses in the book is the immigration issue. Dennis rightly points out the inequities in the current situation in his story, and that was the only thing that gave me a single moment's pause. I'm not sure if that's because of my personal convictions on the issue, or the conundrums the characters faced.

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