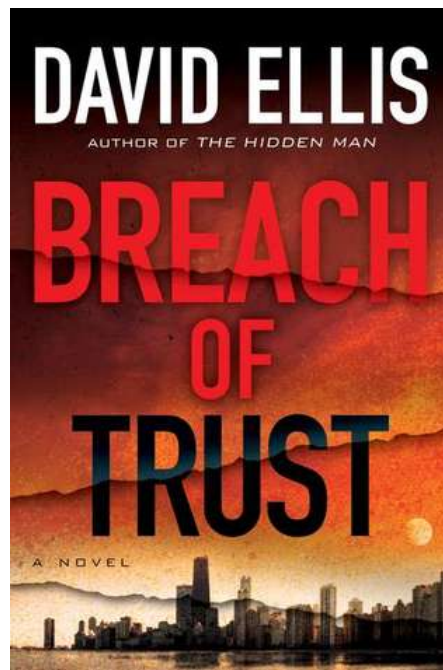




Breach of Trust

David Ellis

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Former college football star and criminal defense attorney Jason Kolarich returns in this shocking thriller from the award-winning author of *The Hidden Man*.

Jason Kolarich has spent the past year struggling to recover from the horrific deaths of his wife and baby daughter.

On the night of their deaths, Kolarich was at the office, awaiting a call from a confidential informant named Ernesto Ramirez—a call that never came. Kolarich blames himself not only for the deaths of his wife and child, but for the informant's murder as well. He can't bring back his family, but he can find out who killed Ramirez and bring the killer to justice.

Unfortunately, Kolarich's guns-blazing approach to justice lands him smack in the middle of an FBI probe of a deeply corrupt governor and his cronies. To avoid jail, Kolarich must enter a world of wiretaps, double-dealing, and kickbacks, where he soon discovers that the murder of his informant was only the tip of the iceberg.

This breach of trust runs up to the highest levels of power, and exposing it may drag Kolarich into the fight of his life.

Breach of Trust Details

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From Reader Review Breach of Trust for online ebook

Kerry says

I'd give this book 3.5 stars. I enjoyed it, but there was just a little too much detail and narrative.

Doug Bower says

Another excellent book by David Ellis. In Breach of Trust we are once again introduced to Jason Kolarich. I believe the storyline for this book actually takes place before that of The Hidden Man his previous book (which I read and absolutely loved). In this book Jason has recently joined a private firm and is working to defend a politician of questionable integrity when the investigation leads to the murder of a potential witness and on the same night an accident in which Jason's wife and baby daughter are killed. Jason leaves the firm and goes on his own with a focus to find out what happened. This leads to a discovery of political corruption where Jason becomes a confidential informant. David Ellis is uniquely qualified to write this type of novel given his experience in the corruption trial of Illinois (my home state) Gov. Rod Blagovich. This is an extremely fast paced book with an excellent plot. If you like legal and political thrillers, do not miss this book. I look forward to the next book in the Jason Kolarich series.

Roger Scherping says

At some point as I was reading this I was reminded of "The Firm," but this book is to "The Firm" what major league baseball is to a t-ball game. Written by a true subject matter expert, it tells a very deep and tangled story of political corruption. The level of corruption seemed so believable that I got discouraged, thinking that this sort of thing probably does go on without our knowledge.

The author is a great writer. I especially like how, when mentioning a character the reader might have forgotten, he'll slip in a quick reminder of who the character is (one of my biggest pet peeves is when an author expects the reader to remember a minor character who had little more than a mention earlier and was not developed at all).

I will definitely look for more of his books.

Susan Rowe says

I enjoy all of David Ellis' books, and this one was good, but not as good as some of the others. It was very involved and at times, hard to dig through all of the players in the corruption. Sadly, since Ellis is a prosecutor, this corruption is most likely more rampant than we would like to believe.

Michael says

Jason Kolarich performed well as second chair of the defense in the trial of Senator Hector Almundo. Almundo allegedly dealt the the Cannibals street gang. They were shaking down businessmen for money for the senators election and then splitting the money. When one businessman didn't want to donate. He was murdered. Almundo is charged with conspiracy.

One night, Kolarich is waiting for a call from a confidential informant, Ernesto Ramirez. The call is important so Kolarich's wife takes their infant and drives to her parents house without him. In a double tragedy, his wife and child were killed when their car crashed in a slippery road. Later, he learns that the reason Ramirez didn't call is that he was murdered.

After a period of mourning, Kolarich returns to work. He's approached by Essie Ramirez, Ernesto's widow. She wants Kolarich to find her husband's killer.

Since Kolarich feels guilty about Ernesto's death and because Kolarich feels responsible for the death of his own wife and child, he accepts. He feels that if he can find Ramirez's killer, he can somehow make up for his failure.

In this psychological novel, we experience Kolarich's pain and suffering. He jumps into the investigation of Ramirez's death and tries to ingratiate himself with the politicians and behind the scenes friends of Almundo. However, his actions are caught by the FBI who are investigating corruption from the governor's office down to the local administrators. Kolarich can't prove that he was innocently pretending to work for these officials and to escape prosecution, he agrees to work undercover for the FBI.

The novel describes an intricate story with an investigation at two levels. Kolarich's work for the FBI on the political corruption and his individual goal, to find Ramirez's killer.

Kolarich is a heroic character who is just a man, trying to do the right thing. Unlike some fictional heroes, he does make mistakes and cannot overcome a beating at the hand of corrupt enforcers.

This is a well written story that provides an entertaining portrayal as well as a fine but all to believable story.

Armin says

Deutliche Steigerung

Die gute Nachricht zuerst: endlich mal ein Krimi aus neuerer Zeitrechnung, der ohne das übliche Schreckensarsenal von Kinderschändern, Neonazis, Terroristen, Serienmördern oder Psychopathen auskommt. Auch die zuletzt ziemlich überbeschäftigten Forensiker und das zugehörige Team von hochqualifizierten mit jedem nur erdenklichen ethnischen Hintergrund versehenen Laborratten haben nicht mal ein noch so kurzes Gastspiel in diesem legal Thriller. Denn es geht um Korruption in einer Landesregierung, die ein paar tödliche Wellen schlägt. Ein Ausläufer davon beendet das Leben der Frau des aufstrebenden Anwalts David Kolarich, die mit der drei Monate alten Tochter ums Leben kommt, weil der übermotivierte Rechtsbeistand zu lange auf den Anruf eines Entlastungszeugen wartet, der längst nicht mehr zum Hörer greifen kann.

Mit dem juristisch versierten Ermittler, der sich auf eigene Faust und eigenes Risiko und mit einem gehörigen Schuss Lebensmüdigkeit an die Ermittlung eines Mordes macht, den er gewissermaßen provoziert hat, verfolgt David Ellis die historisch gewachsene Einzelkämpferschiene und liefert dabei immerhin und zwar ziemlich früh die Motivation seines Helden David Kolarich.

Der überambitionierte Anwalt hatte als Verteidiger im Mord- und Korruptionsprozess gegen den Senator Hector Almundo einen unwilligen Zeugen in seinem Viertel aufgesucht und mit einer Zwangsvorladung öffentlich unter Druck gesetzt. Sein Zeuge wurde eliminiert, während er auf dessen Anruf wartete. Und da er zu lange wartete, war seine ebenso gefrustete und übermüdete Frau alleine zum Besuch bei ihren Eltern aufgebrochen und mit der drei Monate alten Tochter tödlich verunglückt.

Grund genug für endlose Selbstvorwürfe und den zwischenzeitlichen Abbruch der Karriere und Ausstieg aus der Nobel-Kanzlei.

Dieses Thema wurde schon hinreichend im ersten Teil der Reihe behandelt, und wenn es einen Preis für den am weitesten hergeholten „McGuffin“ gäbe, dann wäre „Der Mann im Schatten“ ein ganz heißer Anwärter auf den Sieg. In Sachen Auflösung und Motivation ist der zweite Streich, bzw. das dritte Buch, in dem der Mord- und Korruptionsprozess gegen den auf dem Ethno-Ticket segelnden (Ex-)Senator eine Rolle spielt, eine klare Steigerung. Auch in Sachen Auflösung des Skandals, der immer weitere Kreise zieht, und der damit verbundenen Morde bleibt Ellis dieses mal nichts schuldig.

Insofern rechtfertigt das Buch doch noch seine vorschnelle Anschaffung, denn ich hatte schon während des starken Starts des später erbärmlich abgestürzten „Mannes im Schatten“ zugegriffen. Doch nach den letzten Seiten seines ersten Auftritts hätte Jason Kolarich, der dieses mal wenigstens von vorn bis hinten allein erzählen darf, bei mir keine zweite Chance bekommen.

Etliche bekannte Spannungsfaktoren finden sich auch beim zweiten Abenteuer des Anwalts außerhalb der Gerichtsschranken wieder: Erneut steht der Einzelkämpfer und Anwalt gleich doppelt unter Druck, denn das FBI ermittelt seinerseits in der korrupten Beschaffungsbehörde des vom Stellvertreter zum Gouverneur aufgerückten Carlton Snow, der mit allen erdenklichen Mitteln das Geld für die Bestätigung im Amt aufreiben lässt, und beschäftigt einen bislang ziemlich blinden Maulwurf.

Mit dessen Hilfe entstehen immerhin Beweise, mit denen der ehrgeizige FBI-Chefanwalt Chris Moody seinen erfolgreichen Kontrahenten im Almundo-Prozess unter Druck setzen kann. Und Moody ist ebenso ehrgeizig wie rachsüchtig und würde Kolarich am liebsten mit der ganzen Bagage in der Snow-Verwaltung, in der sein Maulwurf immer weiter aufsteigt, unter Anklage stellen.

Auf seinem Weg nach oben und auf der Suche nach dem Mörder des Entlastungszeugen, der indirekt auch Jasons eigene Familie auf dem Gewissen hat, durchläuft der FBI-Agent wider Willen und in eigener Sache sämtliche Undercover-Stationen: nächtliche Frostfolter in kalten Fabrikhallen und heiße Nummern mit dem Schurkenvamp im Nobelhotel, immerhin toppt der Ex-Footballer seine Vorläufer allerdings mit der Rettung eines geläuterten Todeskandidaten aus der Hinrichtungszelle.

So weit, so gut, David Ellis hat nichts ausgelassen, sogar eine echte Herzensangelegenheit eingebaut, aus der nichts werden kann, natürlich auch jede Menge fiese Tricks zur Steigerung des Spendenaufkommens und zur legalen Umgehung von Gesetzen.

Charaktere (Unverhofftes Loblied auf Grisham)

Aber so richtig warm geworden bin ich auch beim zweiten Fall nicht mit dem eigenwilligen Anwalt, der allzu oft einfach nur bockig erscheint. Dazu waren seine Gegner auf beiden Seiten des Gesetzes einfach zu mies oder fies. Und selbst wenn John Grisham für etliche Todsünden in Sachen political Correctness auf den elektrischen Krimistuhl gehört, so hat sein Helden- wie Schurkenpersonal einen gewissen human touch, der dem Leser einen, wenn auch gelegentlich widerwillig gezollten, Respekt abnötigt. Die Stärken des Anwalts der Gegenseite werden ebenso gewürdigt wie verloren gegangene Ideale oder Illusionen, von ihren Lastern dominierte Charaktere geraten Grisham immerhin zur dynamischen Karrikatur. In Sachen Charakterentwicklung und Gesamtmotivation liegt sicherlich das große Defizit von David Ellis gegenüber

seinem prominenteren Kollegen, der, im direkten Vergleich geradezu als Gigant erscheint. Selbst Hauptheld Jason Kolarich gerät ihm bestenfalls anderthalbdimensional, der Rest des Personals ist ohnehin Pappe. Aber vielleicht bringt David Ellis eben auch nur einen Bruchteil von dem, was er beim Schreiben vor Augen hat, zu Papier. Um so wichtiger wären ein paar lebhaftere Emotionen, auf die ich wohl vergeblich warten werde. Kolarichs dritter Fall wird wieder in erster und dritter Person erzählt. Ich kann gar nicht sagen, wie sehr ich diese strukturell spannungsfeindliche Methode hasse. Dummerweise habe ich *Den falschen Mann* schon bestellt.

Na, ja es muss auch 2015 Futter für Ein-Stern-Rezis geben.

William says

I think Ellis needs to stick with Patterson Corporate Book Writing Cabal.

Story was just unbelievable, even by someone like me who studied Democratic political corruption since the 1960 election.

Diane says

First I will say this my first time reading a book by this author and not what I would normally read.

I found that I really enjoyed this author and book. The book was an excellent and exciting read.

This is an action packed book. Centering around political corruption.

The character's are well developed and the story was really excellently written.

Now if you like a good action packed thriller this is the one to read.

I am going to check some of his other stories. I think I found a new author that I like

Tim says

Tough to write a good story about corruption and a snitch, but Ellis does a pretty good job, considering. 6 of 10 stars

Linda says

As I began this book, I was disheartened to realize that this was a prequel to the first Jason Kolarich book, and I would have to suffer through the details of his personal tragedy that we learned of in that book.

Knowing how it turns out was excruciating as I read about the details of how it happened.

But, this is part of the reason I enjoyed the book. The characters feel real to me and I'm right along with them for the ride. Politics and corruption usually don't hold my interest, but I was completely wrapped up in *Breach of Trust* all the way to the end. I look forward to the next installment.

[I was super close to giving five stars on this, 4.5 for sure]

Laurich says

Ich weiß wirklich nicht, ob das an der deutschen Übersetzung liegt, oder warum mich angebliche Bestseller in letzter Zeit selten überzeugen können. Ich mochte das Buch und hab es gerne gelesen, allerdings ist es als Thriller betitelt und ich bin im Bett teilweise beim lesen eingeschlafen, ich denke das spricht für sich. Drei Szenen sind mir im Gedächtnis geblieben, die spannend waren, allerdings hat die Handlung danach wieder abgeflacht und es ging recht beschaulich weiter. Irgendwie fehlt auch der große Knall. Ein angenehm zu lesendes Buch, aber kein atemraubender aufwühlender Thriller.

Monica says

A better than average legal/political thriller that makes great use of the author's experience as legal counsel to the Illinois House of Representatives. The echoes of the Blagojevich are everywhere and the seamy corruption described is all too familiar.

Doug says

Jason Kolarich is a defense lawyer at a prestigious firm who successfully helps the senior partner acquit a city councilman of a murder charge. The acquittal comes at a high price to Jason and he leaves the firm and is offered a job in the city as an attorney for a procurement board. The FBI quickly approaches and blackmails him to take action that he had no intentions of doing. Not as good as others by this author, but still better than most.

Elizabeth A. says

Jason Kolarich was once an up-and-coming young defense attorney at one of Chicago's highest profile private law firms. Following a case in which his strategy was the key in securing the acquittal of a State Senator from federal murder charges it seemed as if the sky was the limit for his future. Except something went terribly wrong at the end of the trial.

While he was in his office late one winter night waiting for a phone call from an informant, Jason's wife, tired of waiting for him to come home as promised, packed their infant daughter in the car and headed out for a planned visit to her parents. They never made it. Their car skidded off the icy road along the way, killing both. Not able to shake the loss – and the thought they'd still be alive if he had been driving – Jason has hit a place in his life where he simply doesn't care anymore. Not about himself, his business; only his grief matters. He hadn't taken care of his own and they were dead because of it.

But when he learns that the informant whose call he had been waiting on the night of his family's deaths was himself killed the same night, Jason is jolted back to life and into action. Believing there's no way the timing was a coincidence, Jason sets out to learn the true circumstances behind the informant's death.

Before he knows it Jason finds himself in an ever deepening web of bribery, extortion, and kickbacks, one that appears to run all the way up to the Governor's office. Caught between crooked politicians and their shady advisers and the federal government investigating the corruption, Jason has to find a way to get to the truth he so desperately needs to move on with his life, while doing whatever necessary to make sure he doesn't end up in jail...or the ground.

Author David Ellis isn't just any attorney turned novelist. Having served as the House Prosecutor in the Impeachment trial of Governor Rod Blagojevich before the Illinois State Senate, Ellis has had a unique peek behind the curtain at exactly how dirty politics can get and what is needed to take down corrupt government officials. That, combined with his finely tuned feel for dialogue and the sympathetic, well developed character of Jason Kolarich, makes *Breach of Trust* the most absorbing political thriller I've read in quite some time.

Marleen says

Political corruption plots aren't generally my cup of tea, but David Ellis' "*Breach of Trust*" has all the elements of a very compelling read. Furthermore, you can't help but like Jason Kolarich, whom we first met in "*The Hidden Man*". Here, we follow this young lawyer's struggle to uncover the truth behind the killing of a potential witness. The unveiling of this murder is of the most vital importance to Kolarich as he was waiting for a call from this witness the night his wife and baby died in a car accident. He feels that if he hadn't insisted on meeting with this witness, the latter would not have been killed for divulging what he knew, and Jason would have been in the car driving instead of his exhausted wife.

Jason's lone crusade for the truth is quickly interrupted when a DA and federal agents threaten Jason with charges if he doesn't report to them. So Jason continues to work undercover, but now for the Feds.

David Ellis' style is the perfect mix of substance (and depth), suspense and humor. There's a lot in this story that makes sense. For instance, at the end when the federal agents move in to arrest the Governor's entourage, there's no final confrontation with Jason, which is totally realistic. The whistle-blower remains anonymous.

There were many tense and suspenseful moments when Jason was "in role" trying to elicit information from the various political appointees, some of them veritable thugs. What I liked best were Jason's musings, his introspection, so to speak. Him sharing openly how he feels with everything he's dealing with.

Can't wait for the next book.
