



Wild Justice

Phillip Margolin

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Seven years ago, Phillip Margolin seized the imagination of thriller readers everywhere with his chilling breakout bestseller, *Gone, but Not Forgotten*. After five subsequent *New York Times* bestsellers, Margolin now returns to the haunting terrain of *Gone, but Not Forgotten* with a mesmerizing tour de force of psychological suspense, an electrifying tale of revenge and retribution that shows a master storyteller at the very peak of his craft.

Thursday: Subject is still combative after four days of applied pain, sleep deprivation and minimal food.

Vice squad detective Bobby Vasquez, for months on the trail of a slippery underworld figure, receives an anonymous tip that directs him to a mountain cabin. He races through the idyllic Oregon woods, expecting to close the book on a long-standing vendetta. What he finds instead opens a Pandora's box of horror that will haunt him to his dying day.

8:10: Subject bound and gaffed and placed in upstairs closet at end of hall. Turned out lights in house, drove off, then parked and doubled back. Watched from woods.

Within hours, Vincent Cardoni -- a brilliant surgeon with a history of violence and drug abuse -- is arrested for a heinous crime. Facing a seemingly insurmountable wall of evidence, he turns to Portland's top criminal defense attorney, Frank Jaffe-who, along with his ambitious daughter, Amanda, must put on an inspired defense. Amanda's first taste of criminal defense work is as intoxicating as it is chilling, but it raises moral questions she's loath to address. Is she defending an innocent man? Or is she using her considerable skills to set a monster free? Then Cardoni disappears under bizarre circumstances. Four years later, a second set of murders has begun

8:55: Subject exits house, naked and barefoot, armed with kitchen knife. Remarkable strength of character. Breaking her will be a challenge.

Has Cardoni resurfaced to ply his deadly trade anew? Is there a copycat killer? Or has the real killer been someone else all along? The police will do everything they can to stop Cardoni -- but they have to find him first.

Following a twisting trail of clues, including a harrowing diary that clinically records the killer's horrible deeds, Amanda Jaffe and Bobby Vasquez join the hunt-and themselves become targets of the twenty-first century's first genuinely monstrous psychopath.

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Wild Justice Details

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Author : Phillip Margolin

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From Reader Review Wild Justice for online ebook

Anne Marie says

Wow! Definitely a wild ride and a great mystery. This book focused on Amanda Jaffe, a criminal defense attorney, who works for her father, Frank. We are brought into the world of criminal defense attorneys...never a dull moment defending people who you hope are innocent, but bring you into a world of danger. The book starts with the black market of selling organs, specifically a heart. This deal, though, has gone wrong when police raid the drop off. Dr. Clifford Grant speeds away with the heart still in the trunk, but when he gets home to his "partner doctor" in this whole thing, he is killed.

We are then "introduced" to the doctors and staff at the hospital. Dr. Vincent Cardoni is obviously on drugs, and is yelling at a nurse, Mary, for a mistake caused by him. Dr. Justine Castle is separated from Cardoni and is seeing another resident, Dr. Tony Fiori. Dr. Carleton Swindell is the hospital administrator who has to handle all the paperwork from his staff either being killed or arrested.

So the first arrest made is Cardoni. The nurse who he was yelling at in the hospital is found not only dead, but tortured in a secluded house. More bodies are also found. Cardoni thinks he is being set up by his wife, Justine. She testifies against him in court. Bobby Vasquez, a vice cop, also testified against him, but Frank Jaffe, defending Cardoni, finds out Vasquez lied in court to cover up his illegal entry into the house where the nurse was found. So the case is thrown out and Cardoni is set free.

In the meantime, Amanda finds a severed hand that belongs to Cardoni, but a body is never found. She is interested in Tony Fiori but when she goes to his house seeking comfort after finding the hand he's with Justine Castle.

Four years later, a hospital custodian, Andrew Volkov, steals a mug from an office (Justine Castle's) and soon an anonymous 911 call to the police leads them to Justine escaping from another abandoned house. She had come to the home because of an emergency call saying someone needed help, but it was too late, a body was found, dead. But Justine's mug and surgical cap are found at the crime scene so she is arrested. Amanda defends her with help from her dad. For a while, it also seems Justine has been set up.

Amanda also rekindles her budding romance with Tony Fiori, who says Justine was just a fling.

Vasquez is hired by Amanda to help her with the case and try to catch Cardoni, who everyone thinks is the murderer.

Eventually Justine is considered free to leave prison. Cardoni was actually Andrew Volkov, the custodian, having had plastic surgery to get a new hand and appearance. There is no evidence out there that can convict Cardoni, and he still swears he is being set up.

Vasquez ends up in the hospital, being shot while following Cardoni to a public rest stop. Cardoni is also found, saying he had been tranquilized. And he was, after his blood was checked...but who did that?

Amanda, staying with Tony, gets a phone call from Justine saying to come to her right away because she's in trouble. She goes with Tony since she doesn't feel safe going alone. When they get to Justine's house, Tony tells her to wait in the car, but she follows him, hearing two gunshots. She finds Tony shot Cardoni. Justine, tied to a chair, looks like she's been tortured, and killed.

After talking to her father about his fellow law partner who happened to be Tony's father who was killed, Amanda realizes who the killer has been...none other than Tony! Amanda talks to Mike Greene, district attorney, and they plan along with other law enforcement, to take Tony down. Amanda goes to Tony's house supposedly for dinner, but talks to him hypothetically about how he could have been the killer. Tony catches on and tries to escape with her and eventually torture her too, but thankfully, the SWAT team and Cardoni, who followed her to Tony's house, stop him. Actually, Amanda gets taken to a hospital to get checked out and Cardoni is the one to find Tony. He does the best revenge to the guy and lets Martin Breach, big time drug dealer, have his fun torturing him. And it looks like Amanda won't be sitting home alone...Mike Greene has had a crush on her for a long time.

Li'l Owl says

Really a great thriller! This had me questioning myself over and over again. At the last 10 pages, I had an inkling as to who the killer was, but I hadn't guessed it all! What a twisted ending!! Will be reading the entire series, I'm thinking!

Jill Miller says

Love his books, and this one is no exception.

Tara Hall says

I LOVED this book. It held my interest from the first few pages, and I was riveted to the end. I identified with all the characters. I rooted for the tender-footed attorney, Amanda, and liked her transition over the years into a strong willed woman and capable attorney. I enjoyed the various other doctors implicated in the brutal crimes (I am not going into detail so I won't spoil the plot), and each one was a complete character that was well fleshed out. I even liked the various bit players, like Amada's father, or the policemen investigating the crimes, including Vasquez, because even they were complete characters easily identified and kept distinct from one another.

The plot was fantastic, and it kept me guessing until about 3/4 way through the book. Everything fit together wonderfully, and the obvious conclusions (given subsequent clues/facts) were spoken of/addressed by the characters, ALL of which were smart. They consequently made smart decisions, and then acted on those decisions, which kept me riveted to this book. There was no spot in the book where I didn't wholeheartedly agree with something a character did (i.e., no characters went into dark rooms where they heard a noise, no character didn't see a frame job for what it was, none went to meet suspicious characters unarmed, or without telling someone first, etc.).

There was nothing I didn't like. My only irritation was this wasn't a series, because I wanted MORE as soon as I was done. But I'll have to settle for the author's next unrelated work.

Pr Latta says

[eAudio] First in the Amanda Jaffe series and first Phillip Margolin that I've read. Reminded me of a faster paced, less pedantic, more grisly, less depressed Barbara Holloway (Kate Wilhelm) tale but that probably was influenced by the fact that Anna Fields was the narrator and the lawyer father is also called "Frank." I enjoyed listening to the book but the rating was brought down by the lack of credibility in "procedure" -- too many professionals going to dangerous places by themselves, fantastical medical procedures (cutting off ones own hand? There are easier ways to "verify" that you've died. A hand transplant? If only.), and the flatness of the actual murderer as though Margolin thought he could keep it secret by not revealing his/her

personality. My next Margolin title won't be #2 in this series but his highly regarded *Gone But Not Forgotten*.

Terence M says

2.5^ stars out of 5.0

I shouldn't try to write a review on my iPhone! I did write a few succinct lines which have disappeared into the iPhone ether! It is after 2:00 am down here so I will try to recover my comment later in the day! My recovery attempt was unsuccessful, so here are a few not so succinct comments:

I listened to the audiobook, a relatively short 8:25 hours, which was well narrated by Anna Fields whose variety of vocal characterisations of the male voice are probably the best I have heard by a female narrator. The storyline required high a level of suspension of belief and even with multiple gruesome murders and a handful of pretty gruesome suspects, the identity of the really bad baddie was never in doubt - well that's what I thought anyway.

I found it difficult to stay engaged with this novel and there were quite a few "wtf" exclamations along the way. Normally I would breeze through an eight+ hours audiobook in a day or so, but I must admit I was tempted to fling this one onto the "DNF" shelf about two thirds of the way through. This would have been too easy, but as I have another three Amanda Jaffe audiobooks in my collection, I persevered to give at least #2 "Ties That Bind" a chance. I am not holding my breath.

Charlie Lewis says

Personal response

I thought that *Wild Justice* was the best book I've ever read. I enjoyed the suspense throughout the book. I also enjoyed all the surprises and twists in the book. I loved the ending of the book most.

Plot

Grant was selling a heart to Breach but the airfield they were at was raided, and Grant drove off with the money before Breach's henchman got the heart. Grant drove back to his partner's place to hideout. The surgeon let Grant in and gave him a drink. The surgeon asked about the deal, and Grant explained what happened. As soon as Grant finished explaining, the surgeon killed him. Amanda was trying to help LaTricia with her prostitution charge but she wasn't a good lawyer. LaTricia was called to the witness stand and she gave a speech about falling in love with her arresting officer. Amanda talked with Frank about winning LaTricia's case. Cadoni yelled at Mary for switching the cups and making him mess up on his patient. Castle made Cardoni leave and talked with Mary in private. Breach talked with Art about figuring out who Grant's partner was and where they went. Cardoni bought an eight ball of coke. Mary had woken up in a pitch black room bound by her wrists, ankles, and head. The surgeon gave her something to heighten her pain. Amanda ran into Tony and Castle at the Y. Bobby got an anonymous call and was told that Cardoni bought two kilos of coke and was storing it in a mountain cabin and was going to sell it to two men within the week and told him where the cabin was. Bobby talked with Art about the coke but Art didn't say anything. Bobby went to

the cabin in the mountains and broke in. Bobby looked for the coke but didn't find it. Bobby went to the basement and found an operating table and a fridge. In the fridge, Bobby found two severed heads and a little cocaine. Bobby called in the local police and they found a mass grave containing seven other bodies including Grants. Amanda and Frank ate out for breakfast, and when they came back Cardoni was in their driveway. Cardoni told Frank about how there was police at his house going through it. Frank, Amanda, and Cardoni went to his house to talk with the police. The police showed them a tape they found that showed the surgeon cut off Mary's nipple and a closeup of her screaming and passing out. Frank talked with Cardoni alone and told him just to go with the police and not to fight them. The next morning, Frank talked with Cardoni about the evidence against him before the bail hearing. Castle testified against Cardoni and said he had raped her when they were married and that Cardoni would flee if given parole. Bobby tried to find who owned the house but found nothing. Amanda and Cross interviewed Castle. Amanda had coffee with Tony and he told her about where he'd gone after he quit medical school and where he became a doctor. Cross learned that Castle had shot her first husband and the second died in an accident. Bobby testified that he had received an anonymous call and then verified it with an informant. Frank called Art to the stand and Art had an audio recording of his conversation with Bobby that proved he didn't tell him anything. Cardoni was set free because all the evidence was collected illegally. Scofield tried to convinced Brody to reopen the case against Cardoni. Two of Breach's hitmen followed Cardoni into the woods. Cardoni beat both of them up and made them tell him who sent them. Breach sent Art after Cardoni. Amanda was woken up by the phone ringing. Cardoni asked for her father, but she told him he was out of town. Cardoni then asked her to come to the cabin because he knew who the real murderer was. Amanda got her father's snubnose .38 and went to the cabin. On the way there, she saw Art. When she got to the cabin she found Cardoni's hand on the operating table. It was four years after Cardoni's hand was found and Amanda was trying to keep a client off of death row. Amanda lost the case but kept her client off of death row. Volkov stole a doctor's coffee mug. Two cops went to a farmhouse and found Castle running out the door. Inside they found a dead man, operating room, and a journal containing what had been done to the body. Amanda was woken up by the phone ringing. Castle was asking for Frank but Amanda told her that he was in California for a week. Amanda then asked Castle why she needed her father and castle explained. Amanda went to the justice center where Castle was being held and talked with her and Greene. The next day, Amanda went to the courthouse for Castle's arraignment. Amanda went to the farmhouse and found Vasquez. They talked and Amanda found out that Vasquez had become a private detective. Vasquez wanted to be the investigator for Amanda's case and Amanda told him she'd think about it. The next morning, Amanda found Frank had come home early from vacation to help with the case. Amanda talked with him about Vasquez and convinced him to let him help. Amanda went through her missed calls and found a call from Tony. Amanda called Tony back and they set up a date. At the date, they talked about Amanda's case and how Tony had become a plastic surgeon. Tony said he was going to look for Cardoni because there investigator wouldn't be able to spot someone who had plastic surgery. Bobby talked with Ann the lawyer who bought the house and found out that the transactions to purchase the farmhouse were the same as the ones used to purchase the cabin. Greene and McCarthy talked about the similarities in the two cases and how almost nothing connected to Castle. McCarthy told Greene about the two previous husbands Castle had, and how she shot one and the other died in an accident. Amanda talked with Castle about what Greene was doing. Amanda was at her office when Tony called. Tony told her that he already had a list and had eliminated a few by following them. Frank came in after Amanda finished her call to tell her Art was willing to talk. Frank and Amanda went to Art's strip club to talk to him. They talked about the case similarities and how it could mean Cardoni's back and how they know that's something Breach would want to know. Art told them Breach sent him up to the cabin the night Cardoni disappeared for a truce. Art called Breach to tell him Cardoni might be back. Volkov was cleaning when he found Tony was following him. Volkov asked Tony why he was following him when Tony tries to stab him with a scalpel. Volkov beats Tony and runs off. Amanda told Bobby about how Tony was looking for Cardoni since he could recognize plastic surgery. Amanda and Bobby talked about similar killing grounds Amanda had found over the world. Amanda got a call telling her about Volkov and Tony's fight. Amanda

had McCarthy arrest Volkov and take his prints. Roy called Greene to set up a meeting so Cardoni could talk with them without the threat of being arrested again. Cardoni talked with Greene and McCarthy about how he thought Castle was the murderer and that she framed him. Amanda talked with Castle and told her later that afternoon she was gonna have another bail hearing. Castle asked about Cardoni because she was scared he would try to hurt her, so Amanda told her that Bobby could be her bodyguard. Bobby and Amanda talked and Bobby agreed to be Castle's bodyguard. Cardoni was in the courtroom waiting for Castle's case. Castle was set free. Cardoni was angry that Castle was set free. Bobby took Castle home and they talked the whole way about Cardoni. Cardoni was in his hotel room and got an envelope that had a map to a rest area and a journal entry from the murder book. Cardoni got a handgun and a knife left for him by Roy. Greene got a call from McCarthy about how he had proof that Cardoni was the one who called 9-1-1 the night Castle was arrested. McCarthy told him to meet him at Judge Campbell's to try and get a warrant. Bobby had paid a hotel employee to tell him when Cardoni leaves and what car was his. Bobby followed him to a rest area where he went into the restroom and didn't come out. When he went in he was knocked out. Amanda got a call from Ann and she told her that it was Cardoni who was asking about the farmhouse. Amanda talked to Frank about how it didn't make sense for Cardoni to ask about a property that was supposedly his. She said she thought Castle was the murderer. Frank pointed out that the coffee mug wasn't made public and that is what appeared at the farmhouse. There conversation was interrupted because McCarthy had arrived and need to talk to Amanda. He told her that Bobby was found at a rest area with a severe head injury. Amanda went to Tony's for dinner and to spend the night. Amanda went back the next night for dinner. After dinner when Tony was cleaning Amanda got a call from Castle asking for her help but she wouldn't respond to anything Amanda said. Amanda and Tony went to Castle's house. Tony went inside and Amanda staid in the car. There was two gunshots so Amanda went to check if Tony was ok. Amanda found Cardoni had been shot, there was a bullet hole next to Tony in the wall, and Castle cut and stabbed to death with a hunting knife beside her. Amanda and Greene talked about Cardoni's case. Cardoni called and asked for Frank, but he was out of town so Amanda took the call. Cardoni told her to come down to the hospital because he needed to tell her something. Amanda made Cardoni sign a form that stated that her firm no longer represents him so anything he says can be used against him. Cardoni says that Tony is the murderer and that he kidnapped him, tranquilized him, and shot him when he was still asleep. Amanda got angry and left. Amanda thought about the murders at ghost lake so she looked them up. Amanda looked up one of the deputies who worked on the case and talked with him. He said that they found two bodies buried in the woods and the cabin that burnt down with two people inside of it. The deputy said that the owner was dom and then she knew who committed the murders. Amanda talked to Frank about Dom and how he died. She found out that Tony was supposed to be in mexico but didn't respond to Franks call about his father being dead for two days. Two of Breach's assassin's went to the hospital and threatened the orderly with silenced pistols. The two killed all the orderlies to and the cop in front of Cardoni's room. One went inside to kill Cardoni while the other stood guard. When he got close enough Cardoni stabbed him in the brain through the ear with a straitened bed spring. Cardoni took the pistol and shot the other assassin as he walked in. Cardoni took the one of the assassins close and escaped. McCarthy called Greene down to the hospital when it was found out that Cardoni escaped. McCarthy and Greene had a conference with Amanda where she tells them to test the blood they took from Cardoni for tranquilizers and that she thinks the murderer is Tony. She told them about how Tony had left the room right before Castle called and how she didn't respond to anything she said. Amanda was wired and having dinner with Tony. Tony started talking about the case and said something that onthey the police, attorneys, and murderer would know. Amanda said that it makes a compelling case that Cardoni was framed and that he was the murderer since wherever he was there was a murder spree at the time he was there. Tony laughed and held out a bite of food for Amanda and punched her in the face when she went to bite it. Tony tied her up, blindfolded her and taped her mouth shut. He talked to her and looked for a wire but didn't find one. The cops became suspicious after ten minutes of only Tony talking. Tony went downstairs with Amanda and went into a secret tunnel just as the police broke into his house. The police didn't find where they went for a bit. Tony brought Amanda out of the tunnel and started walking her to a car. Amanda took

off and ran into a tree. She sat there crying until the police found her. Cardoni was sitting in a warehouse with Tony talking to him about how it was luck he saw him trying to escape. Cardoni called Breach to inform him he had Grant's partner and wanted to be left alone. Breach agreed and so Cardoni told him where he was. Cardoni told Tony that one of Breach's crooked cops gave him copies of his pain journals and he was looking forward to trying out the techniques he found most effective and left. Two weeks later Greene checked in on Amanda and asked her out on a date. Art, Marty and another one of Breach's employees were playing cards in the warehouse with Tony. Breach came in and asked if they had gotten any more info from Tony. Art said no and that it had been a month of torture so they got everything they could. Breach told them to send the cops something so they know he was dead. Art recommended one of Tony's hands to make it poetic, but Breach said he wanted them to know he was dead. Breach wanted them to know because Frank had always done him right, and he didn't want Amanda to worry. After a little bit they decided to send the cops his head.

Characterization

Amanda is Frank's daughter and the Lead counsel for Castle's case. She is also Tony's "girlfriend" toward the middle of the book and hostage at the end.

Frank is Amanda's father and lead counsel for Cardoni's case and the second layer for Castle's case.

Tony is the murderer and Amanda's and Castle's "boyfriend." He is also a surgeon at St. Francis, Grants partner, and the one who finds Cardoni.

Cardoni is a cokehead surgeon from St. Francis. Cardoni is also Castle's ex-husband and the suspected murderer.

Castle is a surgeon at St. Francis and Cardoni's ex-wife. Castle was also Tony's "Girlfriend" during the investigation of Cardoni and his last victim.

Greene is a criminal investigator who works for the police. He looked into murders at the cabin, and what happened to Cardoni when he disappeared. He is also Amanda's date at the end.

Bobby is a cop who wanted to bring down Breach and took an anonymous call about Cardoni selling coke from Breach. He found the bodies at the cabin when he was looking for Cardoni. He becomes a private investigator after he's fired for going into the cabin illegally and becomes Castle's bodyguard.

Setting

This book is set in modern-day Portland, Oregon. The setting is not particularly important other than its America. The time is only important because there has to be planes, organ transplants, and video technology.

Recommendation

I would recommend this book to high school boys and girls that like suspenseful and mystery books. I recommend this book to high school boys because it's about finding a murderer. I recommend this to high school girls because, it's also kind of about a girl finding love and stepping out of her father's shadow. I recommend this to people who like mystery and suspense full books because this book has plenty of twists to throw them off.

Dwayne Wojtowicz says

No matter what you do, but before you have surgery please make sure that the surgeon knows what arm or leg needs to be operated on and clearly mark the limb or appendage with a marker.

Dr. Vincent Cardoni, a brilliant surgeon with a history of violence and drug abuse, becomes known as the heinous criminal in a series of murders in the Portland area. While vowing his innocence, he hires the top attorney, Frank Jaffe, to defend him. Jaffe does his job and gets Cardoni off on a major technicality. Frank Jaffe's daughter, Amanda, gets her first taste of criminal defense while helping her dad on Cardoni's murder indictment. The good doctor disappears under bizarre circumstances and only to reappear several years later.

The slaughter resumes as Cardoni resurfaces, but now the doctor's soon-to-be ex-wife, Justine Castle, is the primary person of interest, and with the help of former police officer, Bobby Vasquez, Amanda tries to save Dr. Castle from the death penalty.

Phillip Margolin's "Wild Justice" is a slice of murder intrigue, wrapped up in suspense, and warmed over with excellent dialogue and descriptive scenes.

Anytime when I read a new author, I look for certain criteria in the following areas: character development, plot development, dialogue and descriptive scenery. Margolin hits every area on the head, like a hammer. Though I do have to take exception with one of the scenes involving the removal of an appendage, I'm not going to say anymore. I don't want to give the scene away.

Highly recommended.

Miriam Smith says

I enjoyed this book and found it interesting, a quick read, possibly a little too far fetched but a good read all the same.

Kristen says

In Philip Margolin's Wild Justice, the first installment in the Amanda Jaffe legal thriller series, this thriller will give you chills and make you shudder. When Amanda Jaffe joined her father's law firm as an associate, he helped him take the case against Vincent Cardoni. A prominent doctor who's been arrested for series crimes, who had run into some trouble with the law and with the mafia. He claims he's innocent and that Justine Castle, his soon-to-be ex-wife had framed him. During his trial, they hit a snafu with Detective Vasquez's testimony who had a hard-on for Castle and to nail him for the crimes. From there, they motioned to suppress the evidence against him. That's when he disappeared and his hand is missing. Fast-forward to four years later, Amanda's moved up in his father's law firm, and a new farmhouse became the killing ground for another set of serial murders. And Justine Castle calls Amanda and asks her for her help, when she believes she didn't do it and she was framed from Cardoni. During this case, she began to have a heated relationship with Toni Fiori, someone she used to date back in high school. While the suspicion was on Castle, she hired

Vasquez as a PI to protect her and with help with the case. Cardoni's discovered in a new guise to watch Justine; but when Vasquez's attacked and then Justine's later found dead, she discovered who's the culprit, someone who's real close to her with newfound truth, she fights for her life when the danger came near her in a shocking ending.

Matt Garcia says

Wild Justice has a quick pace to it with short, engaging chapters.

A deeply engrossing read. I was so engaged that I didn't want to put it down. Fans of mystery films/books and courtroom dramas will most likely have a good time with this one. I sure did.

I really enjoy a good courtroom drama where the lawyers are sharp, witty and charismatic. Where they display their cases in interesting and clever ways. Two of my favorite films of all time are "A Few Good Men" and "My Cousin Vinny" which both do this brilliantly. Margolin is able to capture this dramatic essence and it gripped me almost immediately.

The writing is damn good. Margolin's style is so accessible and engaging. This is definitely the type of book that you can pick up and read without having to worry that you may not understand the technical legal jargon that's being tossed around. Margolin is able to relay this information in a way that makes it so anyone could understand it and I think that's the mark of a good author and storyteller.

The mystery is solid and intriguing. I guessed the killer's identity almost immediately. Due to prior experience with the genre and its conventions but I still really liked it. The plot was rock solid and Margolin was able incorporate some side plots to keep you interested and throw you off the trail.

The characters are likable. Amanda Jaffe is a strong female protagonist and I thought she was written well. Margolin actually has another strong female character besides Amanda whom I thought was also well written. The antagonist is decent, nothing special but not bad. My favorite character was Amanda's father, Frank. He was the well seasoned defense attorney who knows all the tricks of the trade but he was admirable and not slick or untrustworthy.

The Oregon setting is a welcome change from New York or the other major metropolitan areas that are so often used in these types of stories. Margolin painted a vivid picture of the Pacific Northwest and did a good job at describing its many features throughout the novel.

The ending was very satisfying, a bit different than what I've seen before.

This was damn good and I'm definitely going to check out some more of Margolin's work in the future.

Robbie says

How can you combine doctors, lawyers, local mafia, serial killers, abusive spouses, and harvested organs on the black market, into a psychological thriller set in the beautiful pacific northwest, and not succeed? I'll tell you how! Read Wild Justice.

Phillip Margolin lazily wrote Wild Justice, both in character development and from a plot standpoint. For example, we learn on page 160 that local mafia hitman Ed Gordon is an ex-marine who had been dishonorably discharged for assaulting an officer. An entire page later, in a chase scene in the woods, Margolin writes: "Gordon had hiked and camped in the army..." This sloppiness disproportionately bothered me and I wonder how it gets by both the author and the editor that the marines and the army are not the same.

The protagonist is a young hotty who graduated at the top of her law school class, completed a prestigious clerkship, has now gone on to work for Daddy doing criminal defense work in the private sector, and is of course eminently single. Her unbelievable character, who has set her love life aside to succeed as a professional, immediately is smitten with an old friend from childhood who is tall, dark and handsome (and a doctor, God love it!). When the impending relationship is consummated, of course, the protagonist is all a quiver. It is perhaps the worst gratuitous sex scene in fiction, ever.

The plot revolves around a serial killer and there are only 3 possible suspects: the coked-out doctor, his ex-wife he abused and who has a trail of dead husbands from whom she has collected life insurance proceeds, and the tall, dark and handsome love interest (did I mention he's a doctor?!). You'll never guess which one it is. Or, more likely, you'll guess who it is within the first hundred pages.

Setting aside that we are not concerned with the characters and the psychology is not interesting, the narrative does not have a credible inner logic. In three of the primary professions in this book, law enforcement, law practice, and medicine, we see unethical and unbelievable conduct throughout.

I debated giving this book 2 stars because it was interesting. But then I thought that train wrecks are interesting too, but that doesn't make them good.

On the plus side, this is a fast read and if you are given the book, like I was, then it is free!

Matthew says

Mr. Margolin became an "author to watch" novelist for me after I finished reading *Gone But Not Forgotten* a decade ago. This is the third novel I've read by him since and, I'll tell ya, Margolin is strictly a formula writer. Now that I know the standard structure this author uses for his plots, it'd be nice if he had created some interesting characters for this book but, unfortunately, he didn't. This is the first novel in the "Amanda Jaffe Series" and, in truth, I found her to be quite bland. Bland to the point where I'm not sure what intrigued Mr. Margolin so much about that her that he has written 4 (I believe) more books featuring her. I may try one more book in this series sometime to see if Jaffe becomes more fleshed out but I suspect I will be disappointed. So, why 3 stars? The story was JUST interesting enough to keep me going and the dialogue was clever enough that the book moved along quickly. Just would've been nice for the novel to have a bit more meat on its bones.

Ceren Ünlü says

Phillip Margolin / Vah?i Adalet

Vah?i Adalet kitab? okundu bitti. Bitmese olacakt?, biraz daha okusayd?m ke?ke. :) Ama i?te kitap güzel olunca an?nda, soluksuz okunuyor.

Kitab? çok be?endim ! Tam benim tarz?md? ve çok zekice kurgulanm??t?. Cinayetler tüylerimi ürpertir, a?z?m aç?k okurken vay be dedim ne canavarlar var. Bir de okurken etraf karanl?k falan i?te tek gece lambas? aç?k, gaipten sesler duymaya da ba?lad?m. Sonra aman sen kenidini öldürülenlerin yerine de?il öldürünün yerine koy dedim. :) Ne ? Evet caniyim tamam m?, ne var ? :)):

?aka maka süper kitapt? he ! ?yiki okumu?um diyorum. Yaln?z en ba?ta beni kitaba çeken konusu de?il kapa?? olmu?tu. Kapak mükemmel !

Kitab?n konusu ise k?saca; orman?n derinliklerinde bir evde berbat bir halde ki cesetler bulunuyor. Ve bu cinayetleri bir doktor i?lemi? gibi görünüyor. Fakat ortaya mafya da ç?k?yor. Bu noktadan sonra i?in asl? organ ticareti gibi görünse de kimi cinayetler s?rf katilin e?lencesi olmu?. Hatta onlar? bir nevi denek olarak kullanm??.

Bana göre kitab?n as?l çarp?c? k?sm?; katil i?te o derken, asl?nda o olmayabilir de diyorsun. Katil olarak tutuklanan doktorun mahkemeye ç?kar?l???n?, beraat edi?ini, ortadan kaybolu?unu okuyorsun.

Tam art?k her?ey bitti, cinayetler kesildi derken aradan geçen dört y?l sonra her?ey tekrardan ba?l?yor. olaylar ayn?. Karakterler ayn?. Sadece oynad?klar? rol farkl?.

Asl?nda kitapta tek bir gerçek var; katliamlar?n deh?et verici olmas?...

Adaletin vah?i olmas?...

Herkesin bir geçmi?inin olmas?...

Vah?i Adalet tüyler ürpertici bir öyküdü. Yazar? çok ba?ar?l? buldum.

K?TABİ HERKESE TAVS?YE EDER?M.

Patrice Hoffman says

Finished this book in one day. It was an entertaining read. The first half was pretty boring but I stuck with it to get to the real heart of the story. It was pretty obvious who the real killer was the whole time but it was still fun getting to the end.
