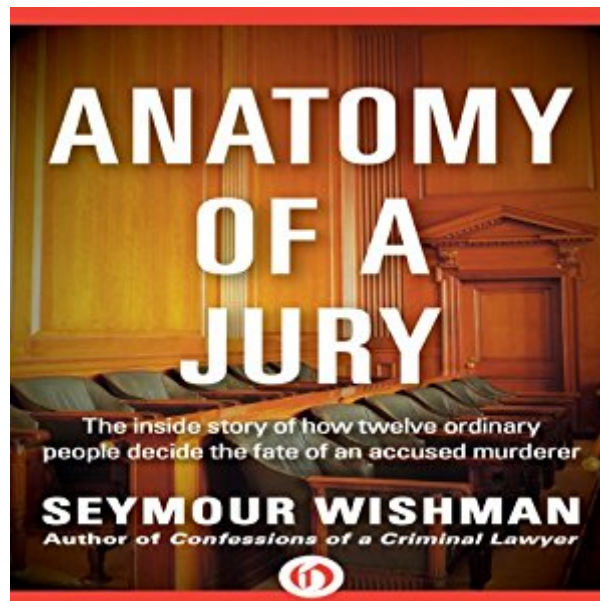


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Anatomy Of A Jury: The Inside Story Of How 12 Ordinary People Decide The Fate Of An Accused Murderer



Synopsis

Acclaimed author and respected attorney Seymour Wishman takes listeners behind closed jury room doors for an eye-opening exploration of American justice. In autumn 1982, in the affluent New Jersey community of Glen Ridge, a woman is found brutally murdered in her home. The victim's distraught husband points police to a likely perpetrator: an African American handyman with a criminal record. A search of the suspect's home reveals nothing, but still the man is indicted for the crime. His ultimate fate is to be determined by "a jury of his peers" - twelve strangers with no special legal skills or training and a fervent desire to do what is right. Based on an actual criminal investigation and trial, Seymour Wishman's *Anatomy of a Jury* carries us from the crime scene to the courthouse to the jury room, providing a fascinating, in depth look into the nation's criminal justice system. Riveting, detailed, and intensely dramatic, Wishman's remarkable book offers provocative insights into how we administer justice, how we judge others, and how others may judge us.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Anatomy of a Jury, Seymour Wishman
Seymour Wishman practiced criminal law for both the prosecution and the defense, and wrote other books and articles. This book tells how Justice is administered, how we judge others, and how others judge us. A jury is composed of twelve citizens who apply their experience (or common sense) to decide between opposing claims. The jury system replaced "trial by ordeal" many centuries ago. Some claim a jury is composed of "prejudiced, gullible dolts incapable of understanding the evidence or law involved in a case" (Preface). This book is

not a dissertation on the law or taken from past experiences. It uses a real trial as a case study. A criminal trial is inherently dramatic, a series of acts leading to an important decision. The basic legal principles and procedures are the same. A murder case is a typical case with complex questions for a jury. This book has a composite case to illustrate the workings of the jury system. It has eleven chapters, an Appendix, Notes, and Index in its 336 pages. Chapter 1 begins on the quiet streets of wealthy Glen Ridge NJ in Sept 1982. A police car received a call, a married woman was found butchered in her kitchen. Her husband named a suspect, a handyman who was convicted of armed robbery. He was arrested and asked for a lawyer. The suspect's room had been searched (without a warrant) but no murder weapon was found. Citizens are being polled for jury service. A Public Defender meets his client and hears his story. "I didn't do it." He was indicted. The jury selection begins in Chapter 3. Scientific jury selection can help a lawyer, but it is not exact (p.110). "Legal ethics obligate an attorney to represent his client zealously within the bounds of the law" (p.115). Part III tells about the trial.

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