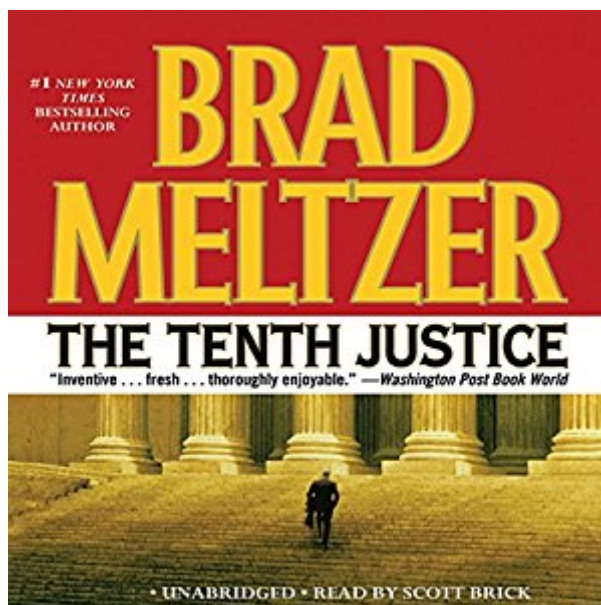


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The Tenth Justice



Synopsis

Ben Addison, fresh from Yale Law, is a new clerk for one of the Supreme Court's most respected justices. But when he accidentally reveals the secret outcome of an upcoming decision, a blackmailer makes millions and Ben starts to sweat. Big time. He turns to his co-clerk, Lisa, and his housemates, Nathan, Eric, and Ober, for help. Washington's best and brightest, they offer coveted insider access to the State Department, a major Washington newspaper, and the Senate. But before they know it, their careers-and their lives-are on the line. Where does loyalty end? Where does greed begin? And how much can you really trust your friends? --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am a big Meltzer fan - as both an author and a person. Have really enjoyed interviews I have seen with him (seems like a great guy) and have really loved his books. This one just didn't work for me. Every character was so unlikable I didn't really care what happened to them. The plot was somewhat awkward and didn't lead in any good direction. And the dialogue between the main characters honestly felt like what a high school student would write. Better to skip this one and read something fun like the book of fate or book of lies.

(Kindle Edition) As a fan of Brad Meltzer's History Channel series "Decoded," I decided it was time I read one of his novels. I picked at random, not realizing until after I ordered that "The Tenth Justice"

was the author's first book, written in the late 1990's. First novels are an iffy thing -- some are absolutely brilliant and others...well, let's just say that "The Tenth Justice" is one of the others. The premise of the novel immediately drew me in -- new Supreme Court law clerk, Ben Addison, violates his oath by telling a virtual stranger the outcome of a controversial case involving major corporations a few days prior to the announcement by the justices. The stranger, "Rick Fagan," has befriended Ben by telling him he is a former clerk of the same justice Ben is working for -- Fagan knows many details that make his story plausible and he plays on Ben's natural insecurities in his new environment. Ofcourse, Rick Fagan is not whom he pretends to be, and Ben's reveal results in the principals in the case buying huge numbers of shares of the stocks of both companies prior to the announcement the following Monday. A leak inside the court is immediately suspected. Ben is desperate to keep his job, and knowing that he would be fired immediately if he went to the judge for whom he clerks, he hopes to ride out the situation. Ben, his three childhood friends who now share a house in D.C., and Lisa Marie Schulman, his fellow law clerk, then go on the proverbial rollercoaster ride of action and suspense, which is generally entertaining with some reservations. The problem is...well, there is just so much darned talking, and talking, and talking, particularly among the roomies, that the action frequently stalls. There are long passages where little happens to move the plot forward, as Meltzer seemingly was attempting to make each of Ben's friends into unique individuals: Ober, the group clown, was the only real success in my opinion. There was also endless banter, mainly of a sexual nature, between Ben and Lisa, both within and outside the office. Also problematic are the ethical violations that Ben has his friends commit in an effort to protect his behind and uncover the identity of Fagan -- Ober's writing a death threat against the senator for whom he works, under "Fagan's" name, is the most extreme. In addition, Meltzer's Ben never shouts or hisses his frustration -- he screams, even in public places. When we finally reach the surprise ending, it is scared in my opinion by an "endless" Epilogue that consists of a conversation between Ben and Lisa where they attempt to set the boundaries of their romantic relationship. It is my experience that Epilogues are generally short and to the point, unless something pertinent to the plot is going to be revealed as a shocker at the last moment. I am interested in finding out if Meltzer's writing improves in his later works. If I discover that it does, I may be tempted to read further, but if more recent books contain the same issues that bog down "The Tenth Justice," I will probably stick to "Decoded." I found no major errors in the Kindle edition and appreciate that the cover of the book was included, not just the title page.

I have read several of Meltzer's books and have loved them, I bought this one because it was his

first and the 20th anniversary of its publication. The general story was actually very good and the ending was excellent but the characters were rather obnoxious and the temper tantrums made me want to beat the crap out of them, their were constant references to how great and caring the liberal judges were and how mean and draconian the conservative judges were, give me a break. Based on his other books I'd have to say Mr. Meltzer has grown a lot as a writer.

Ben Addison graduates from law school and become a clerk for the Supreme Court's most respected justices. He and Lisa are paired together to help the Judge
Hollis. One day a phone call comes into their office and a man said he was a previous clerk for Hollis. So being a new Clerk, Ben started talking about his current case. It is against legal policy and ethics to talk about any case to outsiders. So, when he inadvertently reveals the confidential outcome of an upcoming Court decision, and one of the parties to the case makes millions, Ben starts to sweat. Panic stricken Ben confides in Lisa and turns to his D.C. roommates for help. They offer their coveted insiders' access. Nathan works at the State Department, Eric reports for a Washington daily, and Ober is an assistant to a leading senator. To help outsmart the blackmailer who holds Ben's once-golden future hostage. But it's not long before these inseparable pals discover how dangerous their misuse of power can be, even when accompanied by the very best of intentions. And when a suspicious leak develops from within their own circle, Ben and his friends find themselves pitted against each other in a battle of shifting alliances and fierce deceptions that strikes to the weaknesses in their friendships, threatens to ruin their careers. Someone does die and all of the roommates including Lisa have a hard time with the death. In the end Ben, does lose his job and wished he never spoke a word to the man who called him in the first place. A fast-paced legal thriller with many twists and turns. I enjoyed it very much as I understand all of the legal knowledge since I am a paralegal.

This was an interesting story of friends who are sharing a house and working their first big after college jobs. One is clerking for a Supreme Court Justice. it was interesting to see behind the scenes goings on. Nice set up of the main character and how he gets sucked into trouble and then tries to get himself out of it. It keeps you guessing who the bad guys were and wondering who the main character should trust (including his friends).

The book was a predictable once you got past the big plot twist which was disappointing. The story line was a bit difficult to believe, even for someone who doesn't work in law, politics or government.

It was still relatively well written and easy to read and follow the characters. This was the first time I have read this author and I will give another one of his books a try.

More twists and turns than Lombard Street in San Francisco. Edge of your seat suspense. I was fighting to put it down to go sleep, then staying awake trying to figure out what would happen next. To me, this is Brad Meltzer's best one ever! You don't want to pass this one by.

I've read other books by Brad Meltzer, but this one I could not finish. Quit at 33% Unbelievably dumb characters and very preachy Would not recommended it to anyone.

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