



Key Witness

J.F. Freedman

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A corporate attorney gives up his prestigious position for the life of a public defender and tackles a case he cannot possibly win: the defense of a young black man with a criminal record who has been accused of seven rape-murders. The defender's only chance is to discredit the testimony of the prosecution's key witness, but as the city seethes with racial tension, he realizes that the verdict is far more important than just one man's guilt or innocence. Is he willing to risk his hard-earned reputation and take the chance of losing the wife he loves for true justice to prevail?

Key Witness Details

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Author : J.F. Freedman

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Marianne says

I sense a theme in Freedman's stories. "Good" families, crisis, family falls apart. One daughter at the center.

Freedman writes about families, outside forces and internal subterranean issues wrecking havoc on what seemed to be loving families.

I would have liked a little more resolution at the end, but all in alla great read.

Melissa says

Book #52 read in 2006

It took me a little time and effort to get into this book. It was also entirely too long -- much of the family plot could have been left out and it would not have impacted the story in any way. All-in-all it was a great read. I was excited about the outcome.

David says

Seems like it took me forever to finish this one. 600+ pages and I can't help thinking the story could have been told in 400 or less. All the family dynamics really bogged this story down. Plus the author created the wife as such a one sided despicable person, I almost started skipping pages when she appeared.

Daniela says

A true nail biter, great book

Maddy says

PROTAGONIST: Wyatt Matthews, attorney

RATING: 4.0

WHY: Wyatt Matthews is a very successful corporate attorney finds his work has become meaningless and volunteers to serve as a public defender. The defendant is a young black man who has been accused of murdering 7 women. His confession to another inmate looks like they'll throw away the key. Although the book was 630 pages long, I found it moved really well and kept my interest throughout. I didn't care for the secondary thread involving Wyatt's wife.

Dawnetta says

This was my first J.F. Freedman book and I quickly become a fan. The main character, Wyatt, made me fall in love with him almost immediately. While, this book was ENTIRELY too long (it never takes me four days to read a book), I enjoyed the intense courtroom action. I'll definitely be picking up more of this author's books in the near future. Let's just hope they're not all as long.

Cws says

A Fre

Manugw says

ENJOYED EACH AND EVERY WORD

Freedman with his powerful storytelling skills knows very well how to keep his avid readers well fed, awake and interested every step of the way from beginning to end.

Liz says

It was a little long, but a good story.

JoAnn Ainsworth says

Loved the plot and the characters. The story moved along and kept up the drama.

Only problems: Having worked in a law firm, I knew the amount of work taken on by the attorney and his paralegal could not be done by them alone and that quickly. Knowing this, tripped me up at times. Also, there was no blood on anybody's clothing right after the murders.

Dark Star says

Great story with lots of twists and turns. Wyatt rocks in this book. A corporate lawyer who ends up doing some "time" with the public defender's office. He gets an explosive case of a young black man accused of not one...but seven brutal murders. It's Wyatt's job to defend him...and defend him he does. Nail biting, page

turning ending.

Kris says

I started reading this in May but then misplaced the book. :(Once I found it, I finished it almost non-stop. It's the story of a successful corporate attorney who feels his life is in a rut, so volunteers to work as a Public Defender. He is assigned the case of Marvin White, a poor black kid with a rap sheet, who is accused of the rape and murders of seven women. The prosecution's main evidence is Marvin's confession to a fellow inmate, who is trading his testimony for freedom.

Susan says

Wyatt Matthews is a supremely successful corporate lawyer in a mid-life crisis. This is the main reason why he takes a leave from his corporate lawyering to work in the Public Defenders office. He picks up a case of a scum bag accused of serial rapes and murders. But, his scum bag didn't do it. Freedman writes a great legal mystery and this is as good as any of his.

Mary Newcomb says

It is unusual to encounter a coming of age story with a grown person combined with a legal thriller. Wyatt Matthews is living the good life—a highly respected attorney in a lucrative practice, a loving family and all the material things which would seem necessary. Then he decides to do pro bono work at the Public Defender's office and becomes embroiled in a very complicated case. As he untangles that, his personal life becomes more tangled. The resolution was interesting although I think one element was represented twice, slightly differently each time.

Theresa says

The reason I am giving this book only three stars is that it could have used some MAJOR editing! There was so much written that could have been skipped or left out. The first few hundred pages were tough going because of this- I felt like I was waiting for the story to start while the author wrote about a trip to the blues club and talked about the atmosphere for pages. But, it hit it's stride midway and got much better. We'll see how much I enjoy his next book.
