



## Full Disclosure: A Novel

*Beverley McLachlin*

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From the former Chief Justice of Canada comes a riveting thriller starring Jilly Truitt, a rising, young defense attorney faced with a case that hits close to home. A searing look at what justice means in the courts and on the streets, *Full Disclosure* is perfect for fans of Kathy Reichs, Louise Penny, and Lisa Scottoline.

When everyone has something to hide, the truth is the only defense.

There's nothing Jilly Truitt likes more than winning a case, especially against her former mentor, prosecutor Cy Kenge. Jilly has baggage, the residue of a dark time in a series of foster homes, but that's in the past. Now she's building her own criminal defense firm and making a name for herself as a tough-as-nails lawyer willing to take risks in the courtroom.

When the affluent and enigmatic Vincent Trussardi is accused of his wife Laura's murder, Jilly agrees to defend him, despite predictions that the case is a sure loser and warnings from those close to her to stay away from the Trussardi family. Determined to prove everyone wrong, Jilly investigates Laura's death, hoping to discover a shred of evidence that might give the jury a reasonable doubt. Instead, she is confronted by damning evidence and uncooperative witnesses at every turn. Someone isn't telling the truth, but who?

With her reputation and Vincent's life on the line, Jilly tries to unravel the web of secrets surrounding Laura's murder. As she digs deeper, she uncovers a startling revelation that will change not only the case, but her life forever.

From the gritty streets of Vancouver to the fateful halls of justice, *Full Disclosure* is a razor-sharp thriller that pulses with authenticity and intrigue.

## Full Disclosure: A Novel Details

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Author : Beverley McLachlin

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# From Reader Review Full Disclosure: A Novel for online ebook

## Janice Richardson says

This read kept me up past my bedtime, an unfolding mystery that draws one in page by page. The attention to detail added the necessary drama to the mystery. The characters become real, climbing off the page to 'sit' with you as you follow the story and unfold their mystery. A true Canadian legal drama, rich and satisfying. No spoiler alerts from this reviewer, just a recommendation to pick it up and set aside a day to escape into this brilliant book.

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## Erin says

3.5 stars

My one and only expectation heading into this courtroom drama penned by Canada's longest running Chief Justice(the 17th and first female to hold that position) on the Supreme Court of Canada was that I wanted to read it! My verdict: **A strong debut that already has me hoping for a sequel.** Vancouver defense lawyer, Jilly Truitt, is tough as nails in the courtroom with the type of dogged determination that had me flipping the pages. Sure there were some weak parts where I felt the aspects of Jilly's personal life were fairly transparent BUT I cannot deny that there's definitely enough of what actually goes on in a Canadian courtroom that had me intrigued.

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## M.K. says

From law professor to Chief Justice of Canada's Supreme Court and now the author of a highly entertaining legal thriller - quite the progression. A number of years ago, I played charades with Beverley McLachlin who at that time was teaching commercial transactions at UBC law school (that's University of British Columbia for readers outside Canada). She was one of my husband's professors and an accomplished charades player. Get to the point, Mary, you're probably saying.

Full Disclosure features a youngish female lawyer with a difficult upbringing involving several foster homes and, not surprisingly, she's tough and determined to win her cases. Beverley McLachlin adds an experienced but flawed public defender, a drug addict who is trying to rehabilitate himself, a successful businessman and his disabled sister, a jilted lover, and, of course, a murder. I stayed up late several nights reading Full Disclosure and truly enjoyed the twists and turns, the characters, the suspense, and the surprise ending. I'm adding this to my highly recommended list - and if Beverley McLachlin writes another novel, I'll be sure to read it. Thanks to NetGalley for an early release version.

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## Carolyn says

This is a gripping court room drama with much intrigue outside the courts related to the case. I found the character development to be compelling and the plot suspenseful. There were twists and turns with several

unexpected surprises.

I thought the beginning was rather slow, but it quickly picked up its pace, making it an enthralling read which I couldn't put down. Towards the end I thought the case had ended, and wasn't pleased with what I thought was its conclusion, but with the few final chapters loved the way the story ended.

Jilly Truitt has risen from a rebellious and troubled childhood. She was in and out of a series of foster homes until finally she was placed with a loving and supportive foster family. She is now making a name for herself, on her way to becoming a successful defense attorney..She is defending a wealthy man, Vincent Trussardi, who is accused of shooting his beautiful wife, Laura, with his gun he kept locked in his safe. Laura was an unfaithful wife, but beloved by many due to her empathy and her involvement in charitable causes. Jilly is wondering why people are warning her not to get involved in the case.

I thought the book jacket was eye -catching. A quick search showed more than two dozen books with the same title. I hope this is only the first book featuring Jilly Truitt as the main character, and there will be more in the future.

I wish to thank NetGalley and Simon & Schuster for a copy of Full Disclosure in return for an honest review.. Written by someone who knows the intricacies of our Justice system and how lawyers operate, Beverley McLachlin, Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, deserves much praise for her debut novel.

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### **Catherine McKenzie says**

I've spent my legal career reading Justice McLachlin's judgments so it was a real thrill to get an early read of her first novel. McLachlin puts her experience on the Court to good use, writing a taut legal thriller that follows thirty-something Jilly Truitt on the biggest case of her career. At first it appears to be a simple case: rich man kills his philandering wife. But the more Jilly investigates, the more complicated it becomes. With great twists and turns, this will keep readers guessing to the very end.

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### **Icewineanne says**

3.5 Stars

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### **Arah-Lynda says**

Vincent Trussardi stands accused of murdering his wife Laura. He specifically requests Jilly Truitt, an up and coming defence attorney, known for taking risks that paid off, to represent him.

Jilly already juggling a full load finds her new client to be not entirely forthcoming, there is an enigma about him that will not be quiet and her investigation into the events surrounding Laura's death yields little beyond frustration, due in no small part to uncooperative family members and others of interest. All of her friends, family and colleagues warn her off the case, certain it will be a loser.

Let me just say that I found this authors writing to be very engaging. Her prose has a graceful, fluid style. It pours forth and I found myself carried away by the current. That said a couple of instances come to mind where, “the dish ran away with the spoon”, even so, I caught the author’s meaning well enough.

As well written as this story is I did not find it to be particularly mysterious or thrilling. Somewhere in one of my mind’s back rooms a couple of scenarios played out that I eventually heard described by McLachlin herself. soooo no it did not keep me guessing, I was however thoroughly entertained. And it is called Full Disclosure.

Definitely count me in, should McLachlin write another, cause man that writing.....3.5 stars.

My thanks to Simon & Schuster, NetGalley and Beverley McLachlin for an opportunity to read this advance copy.

Psssssssst

Beverley McLachlin, prior to her retirement was the 17th Chief Justice of Canada, the longest serving Chief Justice in Canada and the first women to ever hold this position. She knows of what she speaks.

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### **Christina Boodhan Juras says**

I received an ARC from NetGalley with many thanks. I work in the legal field and am familiar with Beverly McLachlin's name and some of her Supreme Court decisions. I was interested to see that she had written a book and was hoping for her memoir ;)

Full Disclosure is a novel about a woman who is defending a man accused of murdering his wife. It is quite nicely written, full of polish and sophisticated language. There are some interesting twists and turns. It was slightly far-fetched in my opinion and I had made a guess about the perpetrator early on.

The various references to fine works of art and artists are lost on me. I also find there is excessive use of first names to punctuate sentences. It is becoming slightly annoying. I am not keen on the name Jilly as it seems juvenile (most adults would go by Jill, I would think) but I'm going to remind myself that it might be a nickname. All in all, a very good debut from a skilled writer and well-informed legal authority.

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### **Eileen says**

At this point, I’m only halfway through, but there is no doubt that Full Disclosure is a robust five stars! It’s totally absorbing, this mystery/legal thriller! The author was a Chief Justice of Canada and the first woman to hold that position. She clearly knows her material, and presents it in a disciplined manner, such that one isn’t awash in intricacies of the law, but rather is given only details necessary to develop the plot. Keeping the reader slightly off balance is the intriguing mix of characters! The plot is rich, and the writing excellent in a quiet way. Short chapters may seem an odd thing to extol, but this aspect seems key in pacing the story. It also indicates self-discipline on the part of the author, a quality I find sadly lacking in much current fiction! Although the suspense does build and there are many twists, I’m fighting my usual tendency to gallop along! It’s just that good! Now that I’ve finished, I see that I was right!

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## Janet says

I received a DIGITAL Advance Reader Copy of this book from #NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

From the publisher-

From the former Chief Justice of Canada comes a riveting thriller starring Jilly Truitt, a rising, young defense attorney faced with a case that hits close to home. A searing look at what justice means in the courts and on the streets, *Full Disclosure* is perfect for fans of Kathy Reichs, Louise Penny, and Lisa Scottoline.

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Once a lawyer/once a judge/write a book? I was never a fan of Beverly Mc Lachlin as a Chief Justice due to her striking down the rape shield law, but I am kind of a fan of her novel which my husband is now reading as well. I was hoping that the case would be a little more Colin Thatcher-esque (google that, non-Canadians) and the novel proves that Mc Lachlin knows the law in Canada. My main fault was its brevity in length --- I wanted more words, more substance, more details: as a result, 2.5 of 5 stars (rounded up to 3) as I want my procedural/law books to have more meat to them.

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## Hannah says

2.5/5

I was extremely excited for this book, because as a criminologist I am a huge nerd and love Beverly McLachlin, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. Unfortunately, while Beverly McLachlin may be a wonderful judge, she is perhaps not the best fiction writer.

There were a lot of things I didn't like about this book. The first being the relationship between Jilly and her former client Damon. It was so unprofessional and odd! I really didn't understand the need for it, except to give Jilly someone to save. It wasn't necessary. His story should have ended when his trial did.

I also didn't enjoy the bizarre jump into Jilly's illness. One minute she was standing in a parking garage with a threat written in the condensation on her car, and the next she was delusional in the hospital suffering from the Asian Bird Flu? This really added nothing to the overall plot, and was super bizarre. If time needed to be lapsed and accounted for, I really think it could have been done in a better way.

The other three big things I didn't like are big spoilers, so I'll put them under the spoiler tag. I will say that the book wasn't terrible, and it was nice to read a legal thriller set in Canada - especially one featuring a female lead! I just don't think this book was right for me.

(view spoiler)

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## Saharra George says

McLachlin is a brilliant jurist but I don't get the impression she has spent much free time reading literature, or even decent genre fiction.

The first half page of the book alone reveals a work destined to be replete with the type of lazy or awkward writing that instantly marks the work of an amateur. A guard 'spies' the lawyer in the hallway, but there's no explanation to justify why the word 'spies' is chosen (it feels like a common issue with novice genre writers is punching up the language and avoiding straightforward descriptions in a manner that ends up feeling confused). Then a 'shadow' crosses the guard's 'hardened' features (a shadow from where? A literal shadow or figurative, because there's no indication either way. And why are his features hardened? What exactly does this mean?) Her client's hands are shackled in dignified mien, because let's throw in some unnecessary vocabulary.

The prose has no depth or density, the dialogue tries too hard to quickly reveal character which results in unnatural and corny exchanges, and the treatment of setting and interactions is often perfunctory.

If this wasn't guaranteed to sell 10,000 copies based on McLachlin's name I doubt she would have even found an agent. And that's too bad for Bev as this book is unbecoming of her reputation.

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## Esil says

3.5 stars.

Full Disclosure was written by recently retired Chief Justice of Canada's Supreme Court, Beverley McLachlin. Not surprisingly, it is a courtroom drama with a resounding ring of authenticity — lots of references to recent landmark Supreme Court decisions and pressing Canadian legal issues. Fortunately, it's also well written and a pretty engaging story. The plot focuses on criminal defence attorney Jilly, who is retained to defend Victor, who is accused of murdering his wife. While trying to figure out how best to defend Victor, Jilly has to deal with a few personal issues of own. Solidly entertaining and impressive for someone who has been busy leading Canada's highest Court for the past many years. I'll be happy to read her next mystery. Thanks to Netgalley and the publisher for an opportunity to read an advance copy.

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## Matt says

First and foremost, a large thank you to NetGalley, Beverley McLachlin, and Simon & Schuster Canada for providing me with a copy of this publication, which allows me to provide you with an unbiased review.

In her first piece of published fiction, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada Beverley McLachlin storms onto the scene with this courtroom thriller that will keep the reader guessing until the final chapters. Jilly Truitt is trying to establish herself as a competent defence attorney in Vancouver. Having been brought up in the foster care system, Jilly has seen just how dark things can get and found a way to move towards the light. Having been mentored by the best when she was fresh from law school, Jilly now finds herself face to face with the same man who taught her how to shape the law to her favour. When millionaire Vincent Trussardi hires her to defend him on a murder charge, things do not look good, but Jilly is up for a challenge. Having been accused of killing his wife, Laura, Trussardi proclaims his innocence and will not accept anything less than being fully exonerated. As soon as she begins preparing for trial, Jilly is warned by many to drop this legal hot potato as fast as she can, as there are secrets and mysteries that could easily trip up her defence. Still, Jilly sees potential and will use this to springboard her to greater success within the Vancouver legal community. However, with the case progressing, Jilly hits a few snags but cannot be deterred; she is in for the long-run. At trial, Crown Prosecutor Cy Kenge will do whatever it takes to bury his former protégé, forcing her to see that some people do not deserve their day in court. With the city watching and everything on the line, Jilly must decide if Trussardi's defence is worth all she has to offer. McLachlin does well with this, her debut novel, and will have those who love the genre raving about this for years to come!

Having followed former Chief Justice McLachlin throughout her time on the High Court, I was ecstatic at the opportunity to read her first novel, a wonderful career change since her recent retirement. McLachlin uses all her legal skills and injects the perfect amount of realistic plot and dialogue to help the reader relate to the story, be they from Canada or not. Jilly Truitt is a wonderfully crafted character, whose backstory is somewhat murky, but is revealed throughout the narrative. Jilly seeks not only to better understand herself, but the world around her, as well as how her clients could get into the messes in which they find themselves. The reader will notice some character development throughout the piece, both inside the courtroom and with her personal life. McLachlin surely knows how to breathe life into her characters, which is equally exemplified in the others who populate the intense narrative. Working together, there are enough crumbs left that the attentive reader could see a series emerging, giving just enough to pique curiosity. The plot is strong and the crimes believable to the point that they are realistic. The story moves through case preparation and into the courtroom, where McLachlin utilises her legal expertise to deliver banter where needed and testimony summary at other times. While the chapters are not extremely lengthy, there are some who bulk up the narrative, though they pass with ease as the reader forges ahead and makes the most of the experience. The reader is ready for all McLachlin has to offer and finds themselves treated to a wonderful legal thriller. There is enough Canadian content to give it a wonderful flavour, though the Canadiana does not inculcate the reader at every page flip. Highly recommended and one can hope that there is more Jilly Truitt to come in the near future.

Kudos, Madam Former Chief Justice McLachlin (is this the correct title, anyone?), for such a stellar debut. I will be encouraging anyone who enjoys the genre to read this and judge for themselves.

Like/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:



<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

A Book for All Seasons, a different sort of Book Challenge: <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/...>

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## **Emmkay says**

Crime fiction featuring a female criminal defence lawyer in Vancouver. It's been modernized and given some grit, but I was getting a fun Nancy Drew/Perry Mason vibe.

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