



Conflict of Interest

Scott Pratt

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A six-year-old girl is kidnapped from her bed in Tennessee's oldest town.

The ransom note demands millions.

In this fifth installment of the highly-acclaimed and bestselling Joe Dillard series, Dillard is hired to represent the parents of a child who has gone missing. As the clock ticks, Dillard desperately tries to find the little girl, but the return of his wife's dreaded disease and the stunning appearance of his father combine to push Dillard to his emotional limit.

"I have grown to love Joe Dillard." - Janet Lindsay

"This author has created a cast of characters and a protagonist so real they virtually jump off the page." - Mark Rubenstein

Conflict of Interest Details

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From Reader Review Conflict of Interest for online ebook

Mahinui Gail says

I did not realize until I finished the book that Scott Pratt is a self published author. The story moves along at a good pace. The editing is tight. There is a comfortable balance of action and introspection. Scott Pratt writes a similar story and in a similar style to John Grisham, with a slighter fresher approach. I am not a fan of serial protagonists and that is who appears in the Pratt books. I recognize this as being a fetish of mine, so mention it only, and in the context of saying I am going to read the next in the series.

A further note on my style of review and giving of stars - I reserve my five star reviews for books that are truly original in concept and delivery, where the writing is simply as savory as a tart fresh from the oven. There are two kinds of go-to books for me- one is that writing that surprises, that you do not want to have to put back on the shelf because now it is over. The other is the book I go to for relaxation and all its pleasures. This is the relaxation book.

Some of what I liked best about "Conflict of Interest" is the lack of gratuitous violence, and unprurient descriptions of human damage combined with a more intellectual approach to letting the reader in on the criminal experience. I cut my teeth on Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys, graduated to Sherlock Holmes and Miss Marple, and by the time I was 35 found my way into a career where I worked side by side with law enforcement to develop methodology for determining the details of organized criminal activity. I gathered evidence, charted activity, hired attorneys to defend against attacks of a financial nature, and sat through many a trial. So, from my point of view, for a story of crime to be of any interest, it must ring true. Scott Pratt hits on all cylinders.

Marleen says

I like Joe Dillard as a character and as a lawyer. Based on the five books in the series that I've read so far, I can tell this about Joe: his life is, on one side, very mundane and normal; he's happily married for 25 years and is the proud father of 2 perfect grown kids, but on the other side, Joe seem to have a more exciting professional life. He's been a defense lawyer mostly, but was also a prosecutor and a D.A. Joe's been in quite a few scrapes due to his past cases and has come across more action than any normal lawyer would see. There was even a stand-off with some Colombian assassins at his house, in book nr 4.

Overall Joe has a good reputation, as a man, as a lawyer, and he knows quite a few people in his neck of the woods in eastern Tennessee. I especially like his friend and sheriff Leon Bates. That character stands out. As for Conflict of Interest, book nr 5, I'm not sure I'm as enthusiastic as other readers are. I felt that Joe didn't live up to his old self. He was quick to judge the father of the missing girl. In this kidnapping case, Joe was running in circles and didn't do a good job of being a neutral, smart lawyer. I can understand that he was distracted, what with the news of his wife's cancer being back and then the news about this long lost father (can't give away spoilers). I felt a bit disappointed by this story. For sure, I will read the rest of the series.

Jim Fromm says

Not a superhero

I like it when a problem is solved without jumping over tall buildings, crashing cars at one hundred fifty miles an hour, or doing anything that requires heroic displays. I prefer persistence, intelligence, luck, fear, attitude, and a host of humanizing frailties. Jack Dillard displays them all. In short, he's believable. Scott Pratt always offers interesting tidbits about the law and how it should be practiced. This is an excellent story, a likeable character, and a darn good read.

Rachel says

I was introduced to these books by someone familiar with the author, and I read the previous installations while living in Arizona, not paying much attention to the setting as it was 'out east.' Having recently moved to Western North Carolina, imagine my surprise in picking up #5 and discovering it's set only 30 miles away! Brought new joy to the series! I enjoyed this book, as it was a welcome change from the courtroom dialogue often found in the series, and was a solid outing.

Yvonne Moncovich says

A gripping thriller

When little Lindsey Monroe is snatched from her bed in the middle of the night, every manner of law enforcement agency comes out of the woodwork to find her. Naturally the parents are suspect and that's where Joe Dillard comes in. You see Lindsey is a dance student of Joe's wife Caroline. And Caroline wants Joe to help the Monroes.

Several times throughout the book we think we know who the kidnapper is and I surely had some thoughts of my own. But the twists and turns are exhilarating. There's also some raw emotion in this book which left tears in my eyes.

This isn't the roller coaster ride of books 3 & 4 but it's still a good book in the series. And in off to read book 6 because I can't wait to find out what happens next in Joe Dillard's life.

Abbie says

Joe Dillard, a one man crime fighting HERO

Pratt keeps his story so real I hate for the books to end. Defense attorney Joe Dillard is hired by many people who make him feel dirty, sick or used. He is almost resigned to this fate as he is hired by a couple whose daughter was kidnapped. Dillard decides to fight for the truth. Follow Joe Dillard on his quest for the truth. It's a ride you won't be able to forget.

Judy says

I love all these Joe Dillard books - - I've now read 5 in the past couple months.

This one is about a little girl who is kidnapped from bed. Her parents are the first suspects, and they hire attorney Joe Dillard to protect their legal rights while they seek their daughter's return. The ransom drop goes awry, and the next thing you know, the father is arrested and charged with murder and grand theft.

But Joe feels that there's been a rush to judgment, and he seeks out the truth on his own.

Great stuff!

ElaineY says

REVIEW OF AUDIOBOOK; JUNE 2, 2017

Narrator: Tim Campbell

I enjoyed this installment much more than the others though I listened to about a quarter of the previous one and never finished it.

This is the 5th book in the Joe Dillard series and I found it fast-moving and kept up my interest to the very end. Though this installment wasn't so much a legal thriller (no courtroom scenes) and was actually more like an episode from a primetime soap.

I hope Dillard's wife beats her cancer thoroughly. I don't care for my MCs to be burdened with serious family issues as I want them to have the luxury of 100% time for the book's thriller plot.

Susan Hawthorne says

Joe Dillard is my hero! I guess that makes Scott Pratt my hero too, lol. Great writing, and a great look inside the mind of a lawyer, his life, and how life itself can change a person.

The entire series is a delight.

Judi says

Just finished the fifth book of the series. My only problem is just two more to go. I love this character, Joe Dillard and his morals. He is a fighter for justice,

This one he starts out that a 6year girl, Lindsay, has been kidnapped. The parents have hired Joe because the police suspect them. As with all of Scott's novels, this is full of suspense, who done it, and memorable characters from the previous books. You will find out how Sarah is doing, Carolina is still incredible in her strength. Leon is back. You gotta love this character and the respect him and Joe have for each other.

There is a twist in the story and don't want to give anything away. Just saying - if you like courtroom drama, suspense, and a novel you don't want to put down or get to the ending because you will miss Joe and his family- I highly recommend this series..

Michele says

I just finished a 5-book series of Joe Dillard books by Scott Pratt. I loved them all, but #5 was my favorite. Joe Dillard is an ethical lawyer (is that an oxymoron???) whose main goal is fighting for justice. He starts off in book #1 as a criminal defense attorney, but switches to the other side of the courtroom working for the DA's office in #2. By book #5, he's back as a criminal defense attorney, but he's more selective in his clients. The books are riveting - the type you can't put down. My only complaint is that many of the victims tend to be children, which is hard to stomach, even as fiction.

Dan says

Scott Pratt has a good sense of storytelling. Writing in first person is often slow and often a book loses its page flow. Not here with Joe Dillard explaining how he feels about his wife's cancer, his dislike for those who mistreat children or how his intuition causes him to act irrationally. When a young girl disappears from her family home in the middle of the night and the kidnapper demands millions, Joe, a criminal justice lawyer, steps up to save the family from total disarray. This is a good, and suspenseful thriller that gets a person's blood pumping.

Heather says

Loved it

As always this was a fantastic book. I love the series always interested in what is to come. Looking forward to the next one.

Tracie Payne says

Ok this may have been my favorite. I have it bad for Joe Dillard!!

Diane D White says

Deeper, Richer, More Poignant

I'm not a lawyer, I'm not in law enforcement, I've never served in the military, I'm not a psychiatrist nor an oncologist. I can't judge the accuracy of those essential components in the Joe Dillard Series. However I do know Tennessee from East to West and in between and I'm glad Scott Pratt chose East Tennessee as Joe

Dillard's primary sphere of experience. The autonomous nature of those mountain people and their world of sunny peaks and shadowed valleys is a perfect vehicle for tales of unblinking personal moral codes versus corroded institutions.

I also appreciate Pratt's willingness to keep tasking Joe Dillard's already-burdened psyche with moral and ethical challenges a less heroic figure could not endure, much less surmount. Yet Pratt manages not to turn Dillard into a long-running cartoon strip parody of himself. Instead, each new book so far has developed deeper, richer and more poignant aspects of this good man's struggle to live and love honorably within the uncontrollably random and often deeply unfair human condition.
