



Ascension Day

John Matthews

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Only 47 days left until Larry Durrant's execution, but lawyer Lac McElroy is determined to save his client's life.

There are only three small problems: the evidence against Durrant is overwhelming, he's made a full confession, and he wants to die...

But Jac's hungry to make his mark and he knows something just isn't right about Larry Durrant's murder conviction. Trouble is, everyone thinks Larry's guilty, from the Louisiana Governor right down to the accused, who has confessed to the crime and now wants to make peace with his maker.

Jac soon discovers that someone doesn't want anyone - especially a lawyer - digging around this case. And they'll stop at nothing to make sure Larry's execution goes ahead on schedule. Now Jac must decide whether he's prepared to risk his career, his reputation and his life to save a man who, by his own admission, is a murderer . . .

When DEATH is your only hope...

Ascension Day is the most exciting and compelling death-row thriller since The Shawshank Redemption.

Ascension Day Details

Date : Published 2007 by Penguin Books Ltd.

ISBN : 9780141004853

Author : John Matthews

Format : Paperback 576 pages

Genre : Thriller, Fiction, Mystery, Suspense

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John Herbert says

Rookie lawyer Jac McElroy is determined to save his client from execution on death row; but with only 47 days to go, and all pointers suggest it's a lost cause, and then with his own life under threat as well, it's not looking good.

And there's a few nasty people out there determined to keep it that way, whatever it takes!

With a touch of the "Shawshank Redemption" feel about it, this is 570 pages of will he - won't he, and the ducking and diving keeps the reader on tenterhooks all the way through this fine book.

Rich G says

This is probably one of the most intense and dramatic death-row thrillers I've ever read, as good as The Green Mile if not better. Maybe what makes it work so well is that the action switches between Jac the lawyer battling to get death-row inmate Larry Durrant clemency at the eleventh hour and the prisoner himself watching the clock tick down.

Throw into the pot a violent prison fixer on meths, a ruthless mafia boss and a hit man, Nel-M, straight out of Tarantino central casting, and you have the ingredients of one hell of a read. It's split into two-parts, but that's clearly marked under the title of part one, which is free, and getting part-two was an absolute no-brainer. One of my best reads in years!

Kendra McGlothlin says

This book is about Jac McElroy an starting criminal lawyer and Larry Darrant who is a prisoner it Liberville. Larry wants to die after being in jail for so long but keeps finding himself saving Roddy from another inmate. Larry feels like he has nothing to live for with the fact that he cannot keep in contact with his son who is only eleven due to his wife's fiancé. Larry is in prison for the murder of a female that he cannot recall if he really killed or not. Jac is trying hard to keep Larry from wanting to die and is in the process of finding away around all of this and is working on it. The bad thing is there are guys that don't want Larry out so they can get away with the murder of this young woman. Can Jac help Larry or will Jac find himself in more trouble then he ever though.

Wanda Hartzenberg says

Between me not caring what happens to any of the 101 characters in this book and the extremely long promotional parts in the book itself I am giving up. I hate not finishing a book but I can honestly not spend time to read something further if I cant even pretend to myself that I care if the guy in jail gets the death penalty or not. And since that is the main plot amongst a host of others I think I should at least feel something about his future.

The says

Decent Deathrow thriller

This was a very decent deathrow thriller. It was quite slow moving at first but it picked up momentum as it went along.

I did think that it was maybe a bit unrealistic in that I would have thought that some of the areas being investigated would have been covered in the original trial and appeal. There were a few things that seem a trifle implausible. Though having said that some of the things that you do read about capital cases do seem incredible and for the most part the storyline did seem fairly believable.

It got quite tense towards the end and was even quite moving at times.

Richard Ross says

I'm starting to lose interest in this book. It's tedious keeping up with all the sub-plots and characters, as well as constantly flipping back and forth with scenes. Although descriptions and writing style are excellent, the constant creation of suspense based on giving the reader little or no information is frustrating. Maybe I'm a little too simple minded for this author.

Darren says

I got this as a e book for my tablet from the net galley site. I enjoyed reading it. It had a good story to it. I hope to read more books by this author. It was so good that I read it in one day. It is my first book by this author.

Janice says

Got this one free on Kindle. Good premise and main storyline was pretty good, but the sub-plots didn't really add anything. Spoiler: the late-in-the-story twist involving disguises-positively ludicrous.

Patricia Scholes says

Very well done!

But not to be a spoiler, every single clue to free the (probably) innocent Larry Durrant either ends in someone getting killed or the clue vanishing altogether.

His lawyer, Jac, has been framed for murder and is also running for his life as well as away from the authorities. It doesn't seem like he will be able to help his client at all, until he comes up with an alias. He impersonates another lawyer who is out of the country and retired.

But that cover is also blown. As he chases down more clues both an assassin and the police are close behind him. The clues are destroyed, and the time for his client to be executed (his ascension day) is hours, then minutes away.

What else could go wrong? At this point I had given up hope that Larry Durrant would survive. But I realized that while that would be sad, it wouldn't be too awfully terrible if the bad people were discovered and put away. But it doesn't seem like justice will happen either.

This is an exciting read. The author does an excellent job in reeling you into his story, and holding you there with a clenched fist

It deserves a full four stars, and my blessings to the John Matthews.

Diane Niksa says

Well developed thriller. Many characters and subplots to keep things interesting.

Sally Malkowski says

I do not remember EVER being as glued to a book as I was to this one. The locale is New Orleans; the event is the execution of condemned killer Larry Durrant. The challenge is to prove him innocent ... or is he guilty ... or is he innocent ... or ...

Are the twists and turns overkill? Not once did I think so. I had to re-read the first 30 pages, thinking I'd missed points. Nada! The backstory was intricately interwoven throughout. John Matthews is a MASTER story teller. It is a complex story with many characters - if you're not in to that, this book is not for you.

For all of you who venture into the corridors of the Libreville Prison ... happy reading!

Lisa says

At 57% the main character is in a perilous situation and the Kindle edition is finished. The last 43% is a preview of two other of this author's books. I'm not sure if this was made clear in the description or not, so I'm not taking it out on the author, publisher or Amazon. It could easily have been my own fault for not reading the description carefully enough. That said, I'm just not compelled to pay for the second half of this book. It was okay and I would have finished it had it been a complete novel. But there were a lot of characters and side stories that were pretty hard to keep straight while reading on the treadmill (again, no blame to anyone but myself). Perhaps I'll check out the second half during Spring Break or the summer, just not right now.

Janicet says

This book has it all, and has both class and style, for edge of the seat drama, it takes part of the human psyche and blows it apart. It's about wrongful conviction, corruption, sex, danger and the shadow of death.

Powerful in its delivery and a brilliant story line.

While an innocent man waits for an unjust death, one man has the power to save him (Jac McElroy) but first he must unravel the dangerous intrigue and deception that has placed his client in prison, and in doing so he brings about a chain of events that will endanger his own life and sanity.

Sally Beaudean says

At times the descriptive language used by Matthews is stellar. The reader is drawn into the story quickly and there are enough conflicts to make a good "guy movie" action flick. That action-filled plot structure was what slowed the story down for me. I was more interested in the psychological development of the characters. But it's a good, interesting, and sometimes entertaining read.

H.D. says

This is a book about a young lawyer who makes a career change in his type of law practice.

He is the new lawyer so is given the lesser cases.

A prisoner is on death row for a gruesome murder with very little chance of his last appeal being heard.

The senior partners do not want their name associated with a doomed case so give Jac, the new lawyer, the case.

Only one of the newer partners (whom Jac works under) has any respect for him and his capabilities.

Jac encounters endless "road blocks" and, even at the peril of his own life, never ceases his efforts until the very end.

This has a huge amount of profanity, and sexual situations portrayed in a crude manner. There are also graphic, violent scenes. The situations could have been more tastefully written.

The amount of pages skipped because of the objectionable parts caused loss of interest. Otherwise it was full of suspense and action to the end.
