



Death's Witness

By Paul Batista

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When Tom Perini, a legendary Heisman Trophy winner turned criminal lawyer, is found brutally murdered in Central Park, his widow Julie Perini suspects a wider conspiracy. Not only was her husband part of the defense team for a Congressman on trial for bribery, her intuition also tells her that the FBI is not too eager to find the killer.

Relying on her skills as a journalist, Julie begins her own investigation and soon discovers her late husband's secret underworld associations; ties that now threaten her and her toddler's lives. Fighting grief and a sense of betrayal, Julie is pulled into an inescapable labyrinth of organized crime dealings, political corruption, brutal power grabs and murder.

Desperate, Julie turns to Vincent Sorrentino, Tom's defense partner, for help, and the two discover a shocking and terrifying truth that threatens to paralyze them. But it may also hold the key—the only key—to saving the lives of Julie and her daughter.

Renowned attorney Paul Batista seamlessly combines crack legal expertise with suspenseful storytelling to produce a pulse-pounding action story and a first rate courtroom procedural; a legal thriller so authentic, it reads like tomorrow's headlines.

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Death's Witness By Paul Batista Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #128205 in eBooks
- Published on: 2016-01-26
- Released on: 2016-01-26
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The verdict on Batista's debut legal thriller: guilty of delivering not only sharp courtroom drama but steamy romantic escapism as well. Vincent Sorrentino, a crackerjack Manhattan DA (not unlike Batista, a commentator on Court TV), is leading the legal team for 14 defendants accused of bribing Congressman Daniel Fonseca, including Selig "Sy" Klein, owner of a shady trucking empire personally represented by Sorrentino's colleague and friend, Tom Perini, a former Heisman Trophy winner. Tom's murder while running in Central Park shatters his wife and toddler's world and almost lands Fonseca a mistrial. Grieving Julie Perini suffers more shocks as she learns about her husband's secret underworld association connected to the ongoing trial. Batista provides a gripping, if sometimes confusing, insider look into the seamy side of justice and the politics behind criminal shenanigans. The sweet resolution might feel too good to be true, but is still satisfying. (*Oct.*)

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Review

"Batista, in a word, is wonderful here, guiding his readers skillfully and assuredly through a complex plot. *Death's Witness* is Exhibit A for the proposition that Batista is as much a winner at writing as he is at defending."

?Bookreporter

DEATH'S WITNESS is a USA Today best-seller.

About the Author

Paul Batista, novelist and television personality, is one of the most widely known trial lawyers in the country. As a trial attorney, he specializes in federal criminal litigation. As a media figure, he is known for his regular appearances as guest legal commentator on a variety of television shows including, *Court TV*, *CNN*, *HLN* and *WNBC*. He's also appeared in the HBO movie, *You Don't Know Jack*, starring Al Pacino.

A prolific writer, Batista authored the leading treatise on the primary federal anti-racketeering statute, *Civil RICO Practice Manual*, which is now in its third edition (Wiley & Sons, 1987; Wolters Kluwer, 2008). He has written articles for *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The National Law Journal*.

Batista's debut novel, *Death's Witness*, was awarded a Silver Medal by the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA). Batista is a graduate of Bowdoin College, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and Cornell Law School. He's proud to have served in the United States Army. Paul Batista lives in New York City and Sag Harbor, New York.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ronda Caesar:

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Alan Malbrough:

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Chris Robins:

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