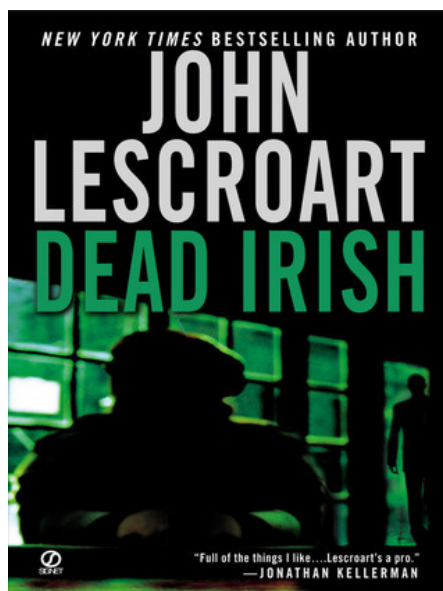




Dead Irish

John Lescroart

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In his new life as a bartender at the Little Shamrock, Dismas Hardy is just hoping for a little peace. He's left both the police force and his law career behind. Unfortunately it's not as easy to leave behind the memory of a shattering personal loss-but for the time being, he can always take the edge off with a stiff drink and round of darts. But when the news of Eddie Cochran's death reaches him, Hardy is propelled back into all the things he was trying to escape. Now he must untangle a web of old secrets and raw passions, for the sake of Eddie's pregnant widow Frannie-and for the others whose lives may still be at risk.

Dead Irish Details

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ISBN :

Author : John Lescroart

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Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Crime, Thriller, Suspense

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From Reader Review Dead Irish for online ebook

Lynn says

3.5 stars because of a slow start.....with a great finish. It seemed to take a long time for me to get oriented amongst all the players in this mystery. Two-thirds through, I couldn't put it down. I'm hoping many characters introduced will reappear in later books in the series. Dismas is an appealing and complex protagonist.

Nancy Ellis says

Dismas is a former cop, former attorney, now divorced bartender, who is drawn back to investigating the apparent suicide of Eddie Cochran, his friend's brother-in-law. As Dismas digs into the young man's recent past, though, he uncovers a picture of a young man who was an idealist, happily married with a baby on the way, heading for law school in a few weeks' time. Dismas works hard to convince the police that the case is a homicide, and along the way we learn of the web of secrets involved in all aspects of the case from a botched drug deal by Eddie's boss, the politics of the police precinct causing the detectives to just want it to be a suicide, and the tangled lives of Eddie's friends and family, all leading to more deaths.

This got off to a rather slow start for me, with so many threads to the story line I wasn't sure where it was going, but it was definitely worth sticking with, and by the final chapters I couldn't put it down. What a great ending! An excellent beginning to a promising series!

Leon Aldrich says

I read one in this series out of order (I won't admit to which one). It was a solid read, enough where I picked up both Dead Irish and The Vig, where they've been sitting on my shelves collecting dust. I make lapses in judgement like that all the time. Putting off reading a great author for no sensible reason.

I'm breaking out The Vig next.

Tea Jovanovi? says

Odli?an serijal popularnog ameri?kog autora... Kod nas je prevedena samo jedna njegova knjiga... upravo ova "Irska smrt"... Da li zato što se radnja dešava u mom omiljenom ameri?kom gradu, San Francisku, da li zbog žanra i likova... kako god, odli?an pisac, našim ?itaocima uglavnom nepoznat... Ako volite Grišama, Patersona dopaš?e vam se i ovaj pisac... Nadam se... :)

Jen says

Dismas Hardy is a former cop/former attorney-turned bartender. And he's quite content in this role as bartender at the Little Shamrock; it leaves him time to compete at darts. But, when Eddie Cochran, his boss's

brother-in-law, apparently commits suicide and leaves his pregnant wife with no insurance money, Diz is pulled into the investigation.

For the most part, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. As far as character names go...Dismas is pretty darn cool. Right up there with Elvis! And the character of Dismas is definitely layered with all kinds of complexity. I took an immediate liking to him.

The plot was an intriguing one, and I think Lescroart did an excellent job on the build-up. A lot of mysterious events, possible culprits...I liked how Lescroart weaved in cultural aspects. The conclusion was a little more of a let-down. I didn't really "buy it." I'll try to say this without any spoilers here (for those who like me have not read Lescroart yet). There's a point where the police say to Hardy, "but where's the motive?" I found myself saying, "this character committed this heinous crime for THAT reason? Really?" Maybe my own preconceived notions influenced my reaction; I'm not sure. I just know the ending was a bit of a let down for me.

There were also a couple of occasions where Lescroart's choice of dialogue was a bit offensive to me as a reader. I think it could have remained realistic without going to the degree that Lescroart did. It wasn't often; maybe twice, but they did stick out in my mind.

I listened to this on audiobook. The reader was David Colacci. I thought he did an excellent job. I love the richness of his voice. Not having read a Hardy book before, I didn't have an idea in my mind what he should sound like, but I do think Colacci did a great job of bringing Hardy to life.

Tammy Walton Grant says

John Lescroart's legal thrillers were an auto-buy for me in the mid 90s. I loved Dismas Hardy: the disillusioned, beat cop-cum-prosecutor-cum-bartender and his black cast-iron frying pan, his best friend Abe Glitsky and his world in San Francisco. Lescroart never disappointed and I looked forward to every release.

Then I had babies and quit reading anything that didn't start with the words "What to Expect...".

So recently, while trolling on GR (because really, isn't that what we all spend our free time doing?) I discovered that the book I started with was not the beginning of the series! For anyone who suffers from the same disease I do (URBOO - unable to read books out of order) this is a major development.

So here I am, 17 years later, starting at the beginning.

Dead Irish was a fairly decent read although I must say that if I'd started with this one I might not have kept going -- Lescroart's voice had definitely improved by the time I picked up the series 4 books later. It's a bit slow moving, with multiple POVs that switch so suddenly it was initially difficult to figure out whose head I was in.

However, getting Dismas' back story, and meeting the characters that populate the series was worth the slow going.

3 stars.

Matt Garcia says

Solid mystery in this one. It was intriguing and a bit unconventional although I did guess the twist about halfway through (please hold your applause lol.) This aspect and the plot in itself carried the book for me and made me look past the negatives that I thought the book had.

Lescroart focuses more on the detective footwork than the legal aspect and it gives us a peek into the life of a private eye (even though Dismas Hardy technically isn't one.) It takes a long time to gather evidence and come up with a solid case and this is portrayed rather realistically and serves as both an advantage and a hindrance to the book.

The San Francisco setting was neat and Lescroart does a nice job of giving us a view of the city and its various accoutrements.

The antagonist's comeuppance in the end is a bit different and I didn't see it exactly playing out that way.

I'd be open to checking out more in this series but I'm certainly not in any hurry to do so.

NEGATIVES: Takes a little while to get going. The first 150 pages or so were slow and plodding. I was actually bored with this one up to this point but it does redeem itself and thankfully comes together as the book goes along.

I didn't particularly care for any of the characters. They weren't bad necessarily (at least the males weren't) just unimpressive.

I also felt like Lescroart's writing came off as a bit racist and misogynistic in several parts. There are numerous instances where characters act the stereotypical way that their race is presumed to act. The same goes for many female characters i.e. gold-diggers, stunning knockout beauties, overly emotional. The females were poorly written and cardboard cutouts. Perhaps this is just a product of the times (1989) but all of this seemed to come up quite often.

A decent start to a series that I give a generous 4 stars.

Paul O'Neill says

Solid story, great characters with a twist I didn't see coming. This is a classic 'whodunnit' book featuring an ex cop/ex lawyer/ex marine/current bartender with a tragic back story. All too often these type of books only focus on the police work and don't focus on the personality and background of the characters. That isn't the case with Dead Irish. I'd liken it to Michael Connolly's excellent Harry Bosch series in that regard.

Polly says

I really wanted to like this book more as it had a good main character, lots of interesting side characters and great dialogue in places. Dismas Hardy is a former cop and lawyer, who is asked to help his current boss and

friend, Moses, find out if his brother-in law took his own life or was murdered which is a good premise. Sadly, I just found it such a slow read! At one point I almost gave up, but I finally finished it in just over a week. I can often read three books in that time. If an author's writing style resonates with me I can even read one in a few hours! My rating is more 2.5 stars than three.

Tim says

A slow start before interest picks up in this twisty whodunit. 7 of 10 stars

Gina says

Hmm... not a bad book! Where shall I begin...

As I was doing a search for new releases for January, I came across Suspect by John Lescroart. It sounded really good, so I checked up on it, wanting to make sure that it wasn't part of a series. Sure enough, Suspect was a stand-alone novel, but I came across this one as well. It's the first in the series, and a few reviews postes, especially the one that I found helpful, had me wondering if I should give this one a shot. See, the person stated that, even though this is the first in the series, the series gets way better as you move along. So I wondered, why not give it a try? Sounded interesting enough, and I read the excerpt on Lescroart's website, so I thought: "Why not give it a try? Coles has it in stock to boot..." So that's what I did.

It wasn't bad, although not all that exciting. Sure, one review complained that you don't get the 'shattering personal loss' until midway through the book, but it didn't bother me as much. It made me cry when I finally got to it.

The plot wasn't bad either. I liked how it came about, especially in Hardy's head. There wasn't much action, but what there was worked well. I usually really like lots of action in a suspense novel, but truthfully, this one didn't need it.

What I truly liked about this novel, is how the main character, Dismas Hardy (Diz for short), battled with himself in this novel. You truly get a sense of self out of him, how he felt when the 'shattering personal loss' hit him, how it affected him, why he is today the way he is, and wondering how his life is changing now. Truly excellent how the author touched you through the character.

I'll have to give credit to that reviewer. I will most definitely be reading the rest of the series.

Francois Arsenault says

I'm told the Dismas Hardy books become a lot better but this first one is a absolute mess.

Lescroart's prose attempts a Wodehouse-like approach to giving out information in an obtuse way. Instead of laughter, though, his mostly breeds confusion. Add to that the constantly shifting points of view that seem to be completly arbitrary and you get a book that lacks a great deal of focus. The main character is likeable enough but appears in little over half the books. New characters and viewpoints are still being introduced in the last few pages.

The mystery itself is not that interesting. The lack of focus, overabundance of characters and useless tangents make it needlessly complicated. It's also evident pretty early on who the culprit, if not his motive, is. Which is a shame because the one thing that could have been very interesting was that motive if it had been treated much less superficially.

Mal Warwick says

San Francisco bartender Dismas Hardy was briefly a patrol officer in the SFPD while he worked toward a law degree. He left the law shortly after the death of an infant son and divorce from his wife. But when his boss and best friend learns that his popular brother-in-law has mysteriously died, Dismas can't resist the urge to investigate. The SFPD believes the man committed suicide. Dismas believes otherwise, and he sets out to find the truth.

The joy of San Francisco noir

To access police resources, Dismas turns to his former partner, now Detective Sergeant Abe Glitsky. Glitsky hopes for promotion to lieutenant and is reluctant to help an outsider. Largely on his own, then, Dismas digs for evidence of murder. His investigation leads him into the dark corners of San Francisco society and triggers additional murders. Suspense builds as the tale becomes ever more complicated. Dismas focuses on first one, then a second suspect, but the evidence is only circumstantial. The action cascades toward a shocking revelation and a violent conclusion. Dashiell Hammet may have pioneered what may be called San Francisco noir. John Lescroart proves himself to be a worthy successor with *Dead Irish*. The book is a joy to read.

About the author

John Lescroart has been writing crime novels for nearly 30 years. *Dead Irish*, his first, was published in 1989. This was the first of 15 books to date featuring former San Francisco cop and attorney Dismas Hardy. Lescroart has written nine other novels. His work frequently appears on the New York Times bestseller list and has been translated into 22 languages. He lives in Davis, California, a little less than two hours north of San Francisco.

Cathy DuPont says

Good, I'm happy...a new writer for me whose writing I really enjoy, John T. Lescroart.

This is the first in the series of many books with the introduction of Dismas Hardy. Dismas 'Diz' Hardy, ex-copy, ex-lawyer, and ex-husband is presently a bartender. A thirty something guy who is trying to find himself and hold it steady in the face of past tragedies.

I've always enjoyed characters who aren't perfect, who have flaws and Diz has one or two. The main one is his inability to face life head on. He's disassociated himself to hide, presently as a bartender. Granted a good bartender but it's not a complicated or challenging position however it keeps him out of the fray of living life to the fullest.

Dismas is asked by his friend and boss, the owner of the bar where he works, to 'look into' the possible murder of his Irish Catholic brother-in-law. There is some question as to whether it's a suicide or murder. If

it's a suicide the insurance will not pay off the widow. Both the widow and murdered(?) man are old friends of Dismas and although he is not anxious to take on the challenge since the police are investigating it, he relents. His hesitancy is related to his inability to stay away from obligations and remain as uninvolved with others as possible except on a shallow level.

Unfortunately, I am not good at guessing the 'bad guy' until it is obvious and the author lets the reader know. However, I got this one early on. Pure happenstance, nothing to do with any clues provided or the writing. Just a good guess on my part which does not happen often so I'm boasting.

Nice writing on the part of Lescroart who gave the characters depth and made the reader care about them. This is what I enjoy most about the writing of authors; an excellent description of the scene. Excellent dialog and character descriptions such that the reader cares about them (or hates them) and becomes involved in the story and what happens to them.

By the way, Dismas is a unique name which I had never heard before. So I had to find out where it came from. St. Dismus was the 'good thief' who hung on the cross when Jesus was crucified. Interesting name for the author to choose for a unique character. Look forward to reading more of Dismas Hardy to see how he evolves, if he does.

Tim Titolo says

I am starting a series of books by John Lescroart. Since the author is supposed to be a legal thriller writer I though it was worth the effort. The first is Dead Irish which, from what I can tell, is the first with characters Dismas Hardy - a cop turned lawyer turned bar tender (amen!) and Abe Glitsky - cop.

These characters seemed to pop up every time I tried to read Lescroart (though I never finished his books) and so I thought I would go back to the beginning.

Dead Irish was not very action packed and the story was not captivating. I hope the second Lescroart book is better. I will give the author a pass since the book was written in 1989 toward the beginning of what looks like a healthy writing career. The book may just be my own disinterest but I found myself skipping a page or two when it got really boring and that is something I just do not normally do.

So far I do not recommend Lescroart - at least not as to Dead Irish.
