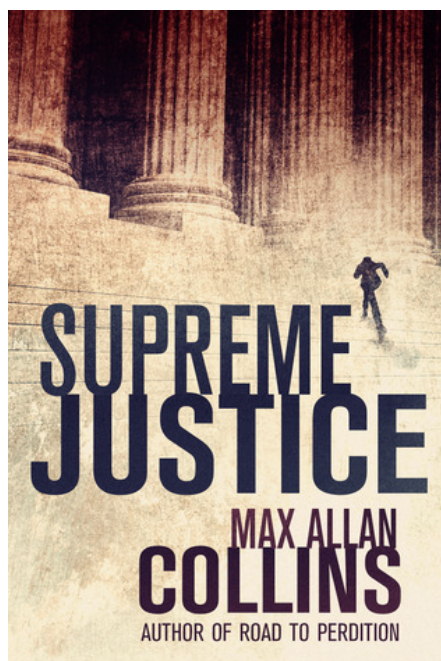




Supreme Justice

Max Allan Collins

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After taking a bullet for his commander-in-chief, Secret Service agent Joseph Reeder is a hero. But his outspoken criticism of the president he saved—who had stacked the Supreme Court with hard-right justices to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, amp up the Patriot Act, and shred the First Amendment—put Reeder at odds with the Service’s apolitical nature, making him an outcast.

FBI agent Patti Rogers finds herself paired with the unpopular former agent on a task force investigating the killing of Supreme Court Justice Henry Venter. Reeder—nicknamed “Peep” for his unparalleled skills at reading body language—makes a startling discovery while reviewing a security tape: the shooting was premeditated, not a botched robbery. Even more chilling, the controversial Venter may not be the only justice targeted for death...

Is a mastermind mounting an unprecedented judicial coup aimed at replacing ultra-conservative justices with a new liberal majority? To crack the conspiracy and save the lives of not just the justices but also Reeder’s own family, rising star Rogers and legendary investigator Reeder must push their skills—and themselves—to the limit.

Supreme Justice Details

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Author : Max Allan Collins

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From Reader Review Supreme Justice for online ebook

Tracy T. says

Very good book and great narration by Dan John Miller (audible review).

This was a very good book. I really liked Joe Reeder aka Peep. I like a good mystery, conspiracy story and this was one for sure.

The story line and plot was very good. Who is assassinating the Supreme Court Justices? Joe Reeder found out! I liked that it kept me guessing until the end.

I won't give any spoilers but this was a good one, I liked the writing and the story flowed very well it didn't get confusing at all, it was fast paced and entertaining,

As for the narration it was great, Dan John Miller did a really good job on the female voices and read with emotion, He has a very nice reading voice too. This was narrated in 2014 so I am sure he has gotten even better.

I have already started the next book in this series and am enjoying it already.

Also these books are free read free listen with KU subscription.

William says

This is a pretty good story, ruined by the author's assumption that everyone shares his political viewpoint. It is one thing to put an attitude or political philosophy in the words and mind of a character, but when such infuses the narrative and is clearly the author's then it gets in the way. Or at worse just aggravates the reader.

Second fault is the casual prose which too many of today's authors adopt. The use of contractions has no place in serious writing or even the text of garden variety pulp fiction, a genre in which this person's work belongs.

I understand from reading about him that he is commercially successful. But that does not make him a good writer.

So if you do not mind some cheap plot devices, casual writing, and politics fit for Mother Jones readers, then have at it.

Trish R. says

Don't ask me why I read book three of this series then went back to one. Just goofy, I guess. However, I don't think I really missed anything important so they can all be stand-alone stories.

This one was about Reeder and how he first met Patti but that's about all that was different. Miggie and Fisk were in this one too but that's all. There was Sloan, Cribbs and Eaton, and Nicky Blount from book 3 made an appearance. It was about a conspiracy to kill Chief Justices of the United States, and they did get two of them. But Reeder put it all together at the end of the book and the bad guy was a really big surprise. And there were an awful lot of head-shots in this book. Lots of blood and brain matter. Yuck!

This book was better inasmuch as it described Reeder's white hair and white eyebrows but that was about all. I really hate not knowing what all the main characters look like. I mean, really look like.

There was a little sex described between two really young kids, maybe 19 and 20. And the F-bomb was used 32 times.

As to the narration: Dan John Miller did a fabulous job, laughing, yelling, whispering, on the phone, whatever was needed. His reading voice is awesome, even if his women's voices need a little bit of work.

Julie says

Supreme Justice by Max Allan Collins

This book was my June Kindle First read. The reason I picked this one was because I've always been a Max Allan Collins fan. The timing of the unfortunate Supreme Court decision a couple of weeks ago had nothing to do with my choice. However, I did notice Amazon taking full advantage of the subject matter by heavily promoting it recently.

Sadly, this book just was not up to Collins' usual standards in my opinion. Slightly preachy, a lot dull and boring with the main characters having zip personality and no chemistry. The plot was predictable and not a lot of action to sort of boost the lack of snappy dialogue. Max was way off his game with this one.

Two Supreme Court Justices are murdered and a former secret service agent teams up with a young lady named Patti, to try and uncover the conspiracy. Reeder is supposed to be a rogue ex-secret service agent who took a bullet for a president he didn't even like. Young Patti is smart and fresh out of field training trying to make a mark in a predominately male occupation. She struggles at times but speaks her mind when she feels she is being patronized or left out of the loop. Reeder's character was so formulaic I wondered if Collins' was having a little fun with us by perhaps being a bit satirical. In fact, the thought crossed my mind more than once that Max was maybe poking fun at the whole thriller genre. That I could have taken, but I don't think that was the case.

Overall this one is a 2 star- but only because I just can't bring myself to give Max Allan Collins a one star rating.

ElaineY says

REVIEW OF AUDIOBOOK; JANUARY 30, 2016

Narrator: Dan John Miller

Warning: bound to upset those with strong political (American) views! I'm not interested in politics nor am I American but I enjoy listening to political thrillers provided they don't spend too much time talking about the politics - which this book does. Still, I found it interesting enough to keep listening, though that's likely due to Dan John Miller's excellent narration. He's great with female voices and his skill at giving different voices

to each character is the best I've heard so far.

The story itself feels as if it came from a Harlequin Thriller category - it's light, formulaic, with a cheesy wrap-up so if you're a guy or not familiar with Harlequin romances, be warned. Since I already bought the second installment (there are only 2 audiobooks in the series out for now) and I enjoy Miller's narration, I plan to listen to it.

I also bought some of the author's work with the late Mickey Spillane but will leave those till I feel in the mood for some noir PI tales - so far I've never been interested so those Mike Hammers may stay in my folders for another eon!

Debbie Oxier says

I really enjoyed this book, especially the main character. I decided to look up the author and see if there were any other books with Joe Reeder as the lead. Sadly there weren't. What I discovered was that the author had been catching a lot of flak from conservatives saying the book was too liberal and written with a liberal political slant in mind. I didn't see it that way. Yes, the main character was a liberal and the Supreme Court justices killed were conservative, but I didn't read this for its political slant, I read it purely for entertainment. And I wasn't disappointed. It was a work of fiction and to refuse to read it because of what you heard or read makes no sense. You are depriving yourself of a very good book with great characters, plenty of suspense, and a very satisfactory ending. Just so you'll know, the court had been stacked with conservatives and Roe vs. Wade had been overturned. The main character didn't agree with the decision but that's not what the book centers on. This is a murder mystery and the author does a good job of working the plot, building the suspense and bringing everything to a satisfying conclusion. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Diane says

Joseph Reeder is a former Secret Service agent who took a bullet for the president, a man whom he didn't respect and whose conservative politics he did not like in Max Allan Collins' political thriller Supreme Justice. His politics put him at odds with his superiors and coworkers, and he compared himself to Pete Rose, who didn't get into baseball's Hall of Fame due to his gambling, saying that, like Rose, "he accomplished great things, but would spend eternity on the outside."

Reeder now owns a private security company, and is called into help when a very conservative Supreme Court justice is killed during a robbery at a restaurant where Reeder's company provides security. After viewing the security camera footage, Reeder concludes that the justice was targeted, and the robbery was a coverup for murder.

A task force investigating the case, consisting of DC local police, FBI and Homeland Security, are all protecting their turf and squabbling amongst themselves as to who the culprit is and what their motives are. Reeder's murder theory is dismissed until another incident occurs, and now Reeder wonders if someone is targeting conservative justices, trying to change the direction of the Supreme Court after they have overturned Roe v Wade and made abortion illegal.

The new president is a liberal, and if he can appoint more liberal justices, abortion could be made legal again. But would someone in the White House go so far as to eliminate justices to change the law back? It is an intriguing premise for this action-packed novel.

Reeder is paired with a young female FBI agent, and his relationships with his former coworkers come into play here. They have to investigate on their own, being careful not to tip off anyone who may be involved in the murder.

Supreme Justice is a fast-paced thriller, heavier on the action than on character development. It is the kind of summer read that you can polish off at a day at the beach, quickly turning the pages to find out if Reeder's theory is the right one. Careful readers may be able to figure out who the culprit is, although there are plenty of red herrings here to throw the reader off track.

As I was reading this, I thought that if it was the 1980's, this would make a perfect Clint Eastwood movie: Reeder is a loner, an honorable man, loyal to his values who ends up caught in a situation only he can resolve.

I'm sure we haven't seen the last of Joe Reeder; this is the kind of character who could conceivably spawn an entire series of thrillers for those who like their action spiked with a dose of political intrigue.

Mark Prohaska says

I found this story to be smoothly written, exciting, and meaningful.

When I read a story I look at about four broad areas. This is how the story rates, in my opinion, on these four areas:

Writing quality: excellent

Research: very good

Emotional content: good

Thematic content: good

The writing seemed excellent to me. It was very smoothly written and showed the care and experience of a master story teller. The plot, pacing, description, transitions, dialog, character development, and other aspects of writing were all superb.

The research was carefully done, as far as I can tell, and the details included in the book were apparently accurate and were interesting and helped the story. As you read the story you will learn what a deer slug is, how motion detectors could be tied in with firing a gun remotely, what kinesics is especially as it relates to crime detection, and a host of other details.

Also, when I read a story it isn't just an intellectual exercise. Ideally, the story should connect with me on an emotional level and this story does not disappoint. I found the story riveting, suspenseful, and ultimately emotionally satisfying.

Finally, I think a good story should have something to say about humanity, culture, or human nature. Each chapter is headed by a quote from a former supreme court justice, former presidents, and even Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of WWII and all of these individuals are of course buried at Arlington. Each quote is appropriate and suggests something meaningful about human nature. The story also explains

how repealing Roe v. Wade could push some people, including those in law enforcement to the breaking point and beyond.

If you would like to read a well written, exciting, and meaningful story I would recommend you read Supreme Justice by Max Allen Collins.

Randy says

Max Allan Collins once again delivers a thriller that doesn't let go once it sucks you in.

A Supreme Court justice is killed. It looks like a bungled robbery, but former Secret Service agent Joe Reeder spots something in the security tapes that tells him it was an assassination. He's an expert at kinesics, reading body language, and that ability gets him invited as a consultant on the investigation.

Reeder once took a bullet aimed for a President he didn't like and voicing that opinion caused his resignation. People just don't like him and it takes a second Justice's murder to change a few minds about his theory.

Now it's a race to find out the truth for Reeder. He's got a new partner that doesn't quite trust him and family in peril.

Another winner from Collins and plotter/researcher Matthew V. Clemens.

Taylor Porter says

Cheesy thriller offers no surprises, dumb ending

Spoilers ahead.

There are few things I am able to truly hate about Supreme Justice. I have to respect the complete disregard for originality. The ability to abandon all thought. All effort. Mr. Collins has achieved the unachievable: complete uncreativity.

This thriller starts promising enough. In a seemingly random act of violence a justice of the supreme court is gunned down in cold blood. All involved in the investigation agree that it was a robbery gone bad, until people reading expert Peep Reeder joins the team.

Go ahead and read that last sentence over if you like. Granted, "Peep" is the guy's nickname. But that name feels like a slap in the face. Peep (ugh) is a former secret service agent, famed for taking a bullet for the President, yet shunned by his colleagues for expressing his negative political opinions afterward. I'm sort of with his co-workers as Peep can't help but mentally run people down for their politics every chance he gets.

When Peep sees the footage of the murder he quickly deduces from the perp's body language that there was nothing random about the assault. Amazingly, this somehow JUST NOW prompts a federal probe of the

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE'S murder. Peep's best good pal (and godfather to his daughter), FBI agent Gabe Sloan arrives to lead the investigation.

If you don't know: "Sloan" is actually derived from a Gaelic name meaning "stab you in the fucking back before the end of this book". Seriously. When I read this guy's name I said out loud "he did it". Guess what? He did it. His heel turn is highlighted by one of the most laugh out loud lines I've ever read:

"Sloan's eyes glittered with moisture. And insanity."

Hard to miss that body language. Sloan blames right-wing conservative justices for the death of his daughter, who died after a back-alley abortion. In the not-to-distant future Roe v Wade has been repealed. The deaths of the republican justices will tip the scales to the liberals when the current democratic president appoints new judges. All this is revealed in the last forty or so pages in a clumsy, out-of-nowhere manner that renders everything prior meaningless.

There's lots of silly scenes in this book that can be found in the worst mysteries and thrillers. Here are a few:

Peep's partner, agent Patti Rogers, sees the perp's face in a mirror on the security tape (Peep missed it) and says "Got ya." You don't have shit because the guy is right behind you sucking on a cup of coffee.

Sloan kidnaps Peep's daughter. No real good reason. All he does is draw attention to himself. They had NO clue before that.

This:

Of course," he said. "I'm the people reader, remember? Goddamnit, I hope I am."

Why are there nine people assigned to this case? You'd think everyone in the government down to mailmen would be after these guys. What's worse is they started out with ONE homicide detective until Peep, in his lone act of intelligence, calls horseshit.

No one says anything. They grin. Every sky little slight earns a grin from one to three characters including the speaker. He grinned. She grinned. It's like everyone is flirting with everyone else.

And on and on.

Admittedly this genre isn't really my thing. I didn't expect much from Supreme Justice and somehow this came in below grade. Other reviews I've read suggest this is an easy read. I agree. Chapters are short and bookended with quotes from famous political figures. Bad news: JFK's speechwriters were WAY better than Max Allan Collins. I was never really bored by this book. But I'm not lying when I say I called Sloan as the bad guy right away. Don't be impressed. Total layup.

When I looked up Collins' other works I discovered he's written several CSI novels, which makes sense as this reads like an episode of any given cop drama. If that's what you're looking for, read and be dazzled. If you want something more, I hope you've got a good sense of humor.

Eric says

3.5 stars

Supreme Justice is a good overall suspense mystery. Some dialog is kind of hokey and a somewhat predictable plot. The audio book is overall okay. The narrator had too deep of a voice to do female voices effectively.

This tale of Supreme Court Justices being assassinated started off pretty interesting but the plot got more shallow as the story progressed. Joe Reeder is kind of a Jack Reacher clone. The book even has a similar tone as the Reacher books. Rogers is a great character albeit a little to trusting in Reeder. What saves the book is that it moves along at a pretty good clip so it doesn't get bogged down too much in the plot or the characters. The dialog lays it out for the reader and just doesn't quite click too well as one might think characters of the FBI might talk to one another. There are some intriguing parts to the plot but overall pretty well worn. There are some great quotes from various famous people who are buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

A generally quick read and decent mystery story. I will read the next book when I'm the mood for a story that is not too deep to read.

Kathi Defranc says

Good thriller

Excellent writing in a story in which a former Secret Security agent is brought into a task force by his friend to help search for the killer of 2 Supreme Court justices. As the agent, Peeps, closes in on a conspiracy involving someone in the task force itself, his daughter is kidnapped, and he comes to realize his 'friend' is involved. Good storyline, great action, the story keeps you turning to the next page! Excellent book for all mystery/thriller lovers out there, I highly recommend it!

Denise says

Supreme Court Justice Henry Venter is killed in what appears to be a robbery gone wrong and a multi-agency taskforce is established to track down those responsible. Asked to review footage from the attack, former Secret Service agent and kinesics expert Joe Reeder sees something no one else has noticed: The robbery was nothing but a smokescreen, rather than collateral damage, Justice Venter was the target of an assassination. By special request from the FBI's Assistant Director, Reeder is added to the taskforce as a consultant to pursue his theory, which is soon proven correct when a second Justice is murdered. Partnered with FBI agent Patti Rogers, he works to unravel a conspiracy aimed at changing the balance in the Supreme Court for years to come - hopefully before yet another murder happens on their watch.

A fastpaced political thriller that keeps you on your toes, even though the big twist came as less of a high impact surprise than I assume was intended. (view spoiler)

Jim A says

A pretty decent novel with a premise that would have been unthinkable 20 years ago. Someone has

assassinated two justices of the Supreme Court. The purpose is to realign the court into a more liberal stance.

Joe Reeder, an former Secret Service agent who took a bullet for a president he despised is asked by the FBI to use his skill at reading people to assist the investigation.

Collins does a pretty good job of mixing up the political views of the characters. He takes aim at the far right wing nuts and also at the far left wackjobs as well.

All in all an entertaining read for those who enjoy political thrillers. And, like all Collins novels, it moves right along. As for the end game, the clues are there for those who look for that type of thing.

Sojourner says

Supreme Justice by Max Allan Collins is a political thriller set a decade into the future. The hard-right justices of the Supreme Court have taken a hard right turn. Some earlier landmark judgments have been reversed, the most significant being Roe v. Wade. The justices have allowed prayer back in schools. Murmur of discontent is brewing in certain quarters.

Supreme Court Associate Justice Henry Venter, who successfully spearheaded the efforts, along with other government officials is out eating in a restaurant when two masked gunmen attacked and killed Justice Venter. Though it was initially thought to be a robbery gone wrong, former Secret Service agent Joseph Reeder, who is requested by an old FBI friend Gabe Sloan to help with the investigation, is convinced that the killing was premeditated and only made to look like a bungled robbery. When Reeder joins the team investigating the crime, his theory of a planned assassination didn't find many buyers. But the opposition soon falls in line when another justice is killed within twenty-four hours.

Much to his annoyance, Joseph Reeder teams up with agent Patti Rogers but as the two are thrust into a world of conspiracy and deception of the highest order, she's the only one he can trust. Max Allan Collins' Supreme Justice is fast-paced, suspenseful and makes for a compulsive reading. Full of twists and turns with situations that are truly believable and characters you can easily relate to, this political thriller is one story that will leave you breathless.
