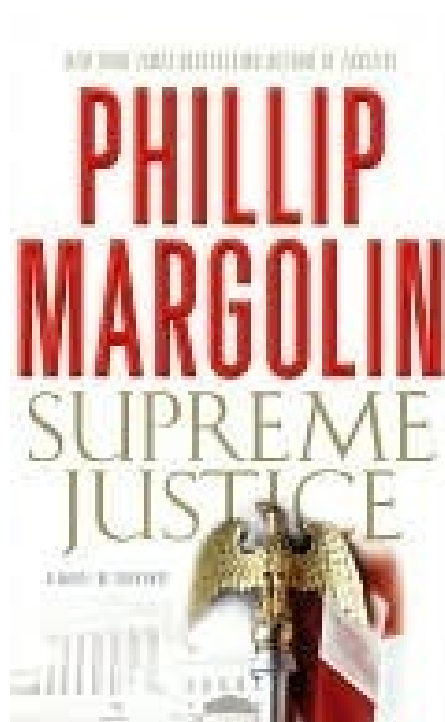




Supreme Justice: A Novel of Suspense

Phillip Margolin

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Supreme Justice: A Novel of Suspense Phillip Margolin

"*New York Times*" bestselling author Phillip Margolin returns to the corridors of power in Washington, D.C., with an exciting thriller about a ghost ship and the President's nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Sarah Woodruff, on death row in Oregon for murdering her lover, John Finley, has appealed her case to the Supreme Court just when a prominent justice resigns, leaving a vacancy.

Then, for no apparent reason, another justice is mysteriously attacked. Dana Cutler--one of the heroes from Margolin's bestselling *Executive Privilege*--is quietly called in to investigate. She looks for links between the Woodruff appeal and the ominous incidents in the justices' chambers, which eventually lead her to a shoot-out that took place years ago on a small freighter docked upriver in Shelby, Oregon, containing a dead crew and illegal drugs. The only survivor on board? "John Finley."

With the help of Brad Miller and Keith Evans, Dana uncovers a plot by a rogue element in the American intelligence community involving the president's nominee to the Supreme Court, and soon the trio is thrown back into the grips of a deadly, executive danger.

With nonstop action, *Supreme Justice* picks up where "Executive Privilege" left off, putting readers right back where they were--on the edge of their seats.

Supreme Justice: A Novel of Suspense Details

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From Reader Review Supreme Justice: A Novel of Suspense for online ebook

JoAnn Ainsworth says

Kept me glued to the pages.

Kacey - Traveling Sister says

A very light but good legal thriller. Second in the Series featuring Brad Miller.

To be honest, I read the first book but don't remember it at all. No worries though, I didn't feel like I missed anything crucial in the story line. Easy to pick up from this point.

Brad, a supreme court clerk saves his assigned supreme court judge, Justice Moss, from an attack in the parking garage. With the assistance of Dana Cutler, a private investigator, they are determined to find the true reason for the attack. Is it personal? Or is it related to a case they are discussing in the supreme court?

At times I found this book difficult to follow. There were so many characters and story lines, I felt that I needed a scorecard to keep track! On the positive side there were a few twists that I never saw coming. An easy read with quick short chapters.

Overall I enjoyed this book and look forward to the next in the series.

Jay Connor says

I had given up on Philip Margolin after a series of particularly gruesome outings with the lead Amanda Jaffe character. This despite really enjoying his plotting and pacing in several novels beginning with his break out: "Gone, but not Forgotten."

Thank goodness from remainder tables.

While cruising a remainder table in a B&N on the West Coast, I found a hardcover of his 2010 "Supreme Justice" on sale for less than the e-version or paperback - \$6.98. So, what the heck?

The book flap promised suspense and the Supreme Court as a main setting. Great for a political junkie like myself. I wasn't disappointed. Good read. Margolin was never good with believable characters, and he's remained true to that deficit. But great plot. It might come close to banging its head into a fairly low credulity ceiling but it does it with a wink and sufficient pace to keep you running forward.

Good enough read to get me back to the remainder table but probably not to the next Margolin first edition.

Terence M says

This was a re-listen to a book I read a few years ago. I can't remember why I liked it enough to put it in my "read again" pile, because it certainly did not deserve that allocation, in my current judgement. There appeared to be too many characters in the book with new players turning up at the drop of a hat. The story of the boat etc., in its second rendering, went on and on and life appears to be a pretty cheap commodity for Margolin - I lost track of all the killings by the end of the book. And the ending ... it also seemed to go on forever, before reaching its less than credible climax.

3.0 stars out of 5.0 stars

Mihir says

Full review over at Fantasy Book Critic

OVERVIEW/ANALYSIS: Phillip Margolin has been a favorite of mine since I read Wild Justice back in 2001, since then he has written more books featuring the characters of Frank and Amanda Jaffe (From Wild Justice) and several other solo books as well. The thing to note over here is that Margolin doesn't write sequels unless of course his characters fit the plot[Twisted plots are trademark of his] so with every other Amanda Jaffe book we get a solo book which feature a different storyline. One such book was Executive Privilege, which was released in 2008 and featured both Brad Miller, Keith Evans, and Dana Cutler. So when Phillip Margolin found a plot which could expand on these characters, he wrote Supreme Justice and here we are.

This book like other Margolin books is divided into several parts which are set in different time periods, for example the first part opens in 2006, the 2nd part in 2012, the third part in 2006, the 4th in 2007, the 5th again jumps to 2012 and the last two continue in the same vein. Each chapter begins with a different POV character and the characters are mentioned above. The story begins with John Finley surviving an attack on his ship, the next chapter then introduces us to Tom Oswald who happens upon an empty ship which has dead bodies and drugs. They are told to keep a lid on it by agents of Homeland security who abruptly confiscate the case. The narrative then shifts to Brad Miller in the year 2012 as he's preparing for his Clerkship with Supreme Court Justice Felicia Moss. The Supreme court is in a bit of upheaval as one of the Judges retires suddenly and the vacant spot causes an issue as people from various factions try to fill it with their candidate. There's also an attack on Felicia Moss which Brad foils. To gain more ideas about this he enlist the help of Dana Cutler.

The next part moves on to a previous murder trial which was dismissed the first time but now Sarah Woodruff has been indicted again for the murder of the same individual. Plus the prosecutor Max Dietz was never convinced of Sarah's innocence the first time around. It's from these varied plots that Phillip Margolin spins his web for the reader to decipher. The tale and the multi-character cast might seem a bit daunting but it's to Margolin's forte that he pulls it off with aplomb. The reader will be sucked into this tale as clues and misdirections are presented and the saga unfolds exquisitely.

Phillip Margolin is quite a storyteller. This can be gleaned easily from this book as he presents three dimensional characters and gives each chapter from a different POV. This allows the reader to have a very omniscient view into the story but at the same time not everything is as it seems. It also allows the reader to race right along side the characters as they uncover the actual mystery and not feel as if it's happened in the past and told to them later.

Even though this book contains characters from a previous book, this story is a standalone and can be read as such. There are very few spoilers for the previous book and so readers who like this book's characters can

also check out their previous appearance in Executive Privilege. Phillip Margolin once again deftly shows how mystery/thriller writers can keep their books fresh for long time readers with enticing plots and mesmerizing characters. A very good thriller for those who like reading plots in the vein of those by Agatha Christie, Arthur C., Doyle and recent greats such as Jeffrey Deaver.

Tim says

Conspiracy, filler banter, death and this story provided little in the matter of a satisfactory conclusion. 4 of 10 stars

Olivermagnus says

The three main characters from "Executive Privilege," private investigator Dana Cutler, FBI Agent Keith Evans, and attorney Brad Miller, are back in Supreme Justice. Brad is now working for Supreme Court Justice Felicia Moss. One of the important cases of the session is one regarding a woman charged with killing her lover twice. The first case was thrown out after a jury was selected but the second time, Sarah Woodruff was convicted and put on death row. She is trying to get a new trial based on evidence the government kept out of the trial. Justice Moss wants to give the matter more consideration but one of the justices becomes enraged that she's even considering it. Soon after that, someone attempts to kill her and she's saved by Brad.

There are a number of plots and subplots going on that all merge and get tied together at the end. In this case the ending left me hanging a bit. Overall the book was a fast and fun read, especially because I'm a fan of legal based thrillers. While this book can be read as a standalone, there are references to events in the first book. I like the characters and plan to read the next book in the series, Capitol Murder.

Marie says

Margolin has an annoying habit of introducing a seemingly endless cast of characters, and this book is no exception. Once he finally wades through and settles in with the characters of importance, he gives us a great tale of political intrigue. This quickly turned into a fast paced thriller with a shock ending, which was a great twist. He revisits quite a few characters from his previous book, Executive Privilege, and although it is not necessary to follow this storyline, I would recommend reading it first.

Steve Schlutow says

This book I did not really care for.. After reading many of his other books, such as Gone, but Not Forgotten, Lost Lake and Fugitive among my favorites, I thought this Washington trilogy--Executive Decision, Supreme Justice, and Capital Murders kind of a let down.. Margolin has written quite a few books out of the park, Supreme Justice was not one of them, and I thought it was the worse book of the three Brad Miller and Dana Cutler books..

Don says

A US Supreme Court Justice is surprised when a colleague vehemently refuses to grant a new trial to a Sarah Woodruff, a woman on death row. She is more surprised when there is an attempt on her life and it seems to be tied to the Woodruff case. There are lots of twists and turns and the Woodruff case connects to murders on a ship carrying drugs that mysteriously disappears with the help of the US government. Highly recommended.

Anne (Booklady) Molinarolo says

3.5 Stars

A good, fast, and entertaining read about a ship full of hashish, murder, and the attempt assassination of a Supreme Court Justice to keep the details of a rogue covert CIA op from becoming public. Dennis Masterson has no qualms in what he is doing and so be it if an innocent woman, a former cop, is put to death for a murder she did not commit. The *Woodruff* cert must be denied at ALL costs. He has the power to go to great lengths to keep the events of the *China Sea* buried and will bury ANYONE who gets in the way. Justice Moss, Brad Miller, Dana Cutler, and Ginny Skinner are as determined to get to the truth as Masterson is to bury it. Miller, Cutler, and Skinner brought down the former President after all.

As I said, *Supreme Justice* is fast-paced and very entertaining. The writing style is easy. The last twist of the novel blew me away!

Loretta Gibson says

This is a fast paced thriller with a lot of twists and a few surprises along the way. Our main character is a private investigator, as well as female, Dana Cutler. Dana is thrown into this mix of murder, drugs, sex, betrayal and politics. All the major and not so major law enforcement agencies get involved. You need to read *Executive Privilege* to get a closeup of Cutler. Thank you, Margolin, for creating a strong female protagonist, who has been victimized, yet more than survives and comes back fighting.

Toni Osborne says

This novel is an exciting thriller, a puzzling murder mystery involving a ghost ship and the President's nominee to the U.S Supreme Court. The story leads us in a twisted tale that opens more questions than answers involving a real soup mix of law enforcement officers: local police, state police, CIA, FBI, Homeland security and the U.S. Supreme court..... (Hahaha it seems the only group missing is the keystone cops.....))

This is quite an involved story with numerous characters, plots and sub-plots weaving in and out.

The main plot involves an attack on Felicia Moss, a Supreme Court Justice, who has the swing vote concerning a death penalty case reviewing the fate of Sara Woodruff, a police officer, convicted of

murdering her boyfriend, John Finley. When the officer's appeal reaches the top court, shadowy links begin to surface to a mysterious ghost ship and several cold case murders. Reopening the case threatens to uncork a bubbling mess hidden within the justice system.

Private investigator Dana Cutler, FBI Agent Keith Evans and attorney Brad Miller are brought in to determine why the murder case is causing shockwaves in Washington. As they search for answers, they are forced to pull out every trick in the book, jump many hoops and cross many avenues. The result will inevitably leave a warm spot in the heart of any demanding mystery reader.

This book is sharply written with an interesting and charming cast. Although some recurring characters from "Executive Privilege" have the lead roles, not knowing their past history did not deter my interest, the non-stop action kept me on the edge of my seat and entertained for hours.

Jolene says

This book was my least favorite of the Margolin books I've read (most of them). The character development is never great, but the storyline is usually pretty fun, with some interesting twists and turns. This one, however, seemed a bit laborious to me, and there were few surprises. When I read the end, it felt as if Margolin was tired of writing and wanted to tie everything up as simply and quickly as possible.

Carrie says

Tried to read this as something to do on the plane when I finished my other books, but it couldn't hold my interest.
