

The background features a complex network of white nodes connected by thin white lines, set against a gradient background that transitions from dark purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with some forming distinct geometric shapes like triangles and polygons. The overall aesthetic is modern and digital.

The Holdout

Written by Graham Moore

Published by PDF Site

Table of Contents

The Holdout Book Review	1
The Holdout Reviews	2
The Holdouts Key	3
The Holdout Problem	4
The Holdouts Band	5
The Holdout Synopsis	6
The Holdouts Find The Key	7
The Holdout Kindle	8
The Holdout Vk	9

The Holdout

By Graham Moore

The Holdout Book Review

In this twisty tale from Moore (The Sherlockian), the Academy Award-winning screenwriter of The Imitation Game, young juror Maya Seale is convinced that African American high school teacher Bobby Nock is innocent of killing the wealthy white female student with whom he appears to have been involved and persuades her fellow jurors likewise. Ten years later, a true-crime docuseries reassembles the jurors, and Maya, now a defense attorney, must prove her own innocence when one of them is found dead in Maya's room.

BOTM pick for February 2020!

This will be a short review, because the less you know about this book going in the better, but what a wild ride! While some parts of the plot were a bit far-fetched and reaching at times, it didn't cause my interest to wane, and if you can suspend the need for 100% believability, I think you'll enjoy this book as much as I did. We get two mysteries for the price of one in this book, and if that kind of a bargain doesn't sell you, then perhaps the exploration of

BOTM pick for February 2020!

This will be a short review, because the less you know about this book going in the better, but what a wild ride! While some parts of the plot were a bit far-fetched and reaching at times, it didn't cause my interest to wane, and if you can suspend the need for 100% believability, I think you'll enjoy this book as much as I did. We get two mysteries for the price of one in this book, and if that kind of a bargain doesn't sell you, then perhaps the exploration of social justice issues such as racism and profiling will. Clearly the author has some sort of experience in screen writing, and I can wholly see this being optioned for screen, a project I'd be thrilled to watch. Overall, this was a juicy, escapism type of read and I'd recommend it to those looking for an exciting way to pass the time in 2020.

*Many thanks to the publisher for providing my review copy. ...more

The Holdout Reviews

25 year old black teacher Bobby Nock, is on trial for killing white 15 year old pupil Jessica Silver, heiress to a billion dollar fortune. Her body hasn't been discovered, but that isn't going to stop this trial going ahead.

There are 12 members of the jury in this high profile murder trial, and it's expected that Bobby Nock's conviction is a foregone conclusion - that is until jury member Maya Seale manages to persuade the other jury members to vote not guilty.

Fast forward 10 years, and Maya is now a 25 year old black teacher Bobby Nock, is on trial for killing white 15 year old pupil Jessica Silver, heiress to a billion dollar fortune. Her body hasn't been discovered, but that isn't going to stop this trial going ahead.

There are 12 members of the jury in this high profile murder trial, and it's expected that Bobby Nock's conviction is a foregone conclusion - that is until jury member Maya Seale manages to persuade the other jury members to vote not guilty.

Fast forward 10 years, and Maya is now a successful lawyer - but she's also the prime suspect in the murder of one of the jurors after a reunion at the hotel in which they were sequestered during the trial.

I think it's a case of the less you know, the more interesting you'll find this one. As legal thrillers go it's pretty good, though I personally didn't identify with any of the characters for some reason. Nevertheless this was a riveting read with twists and turns, and not least it was a cracking ending. If you enjoy legal dramas then look no further.

* Thank you to Netgalley and Orion Publishing group for my ARC in exchange for an honest unbiased review * ...more

Graham Moore's legal thriller is a compulsive and enthralling novel, based in Los Angeles, that points out many of the shortfalls of the justice system, from law enforcement, media intensity and social media, right through to the court trial and the jury system. Moore exposes the multiple ways that society throughout its racist judicial system stacks the cards against black defendants. In 2009, 25 year old black music teacher, Bobby Nock, is on trial for the murder of 15 year old schoolgirl, Jessica Silver, the daughter of billionaire, Lou Silver. There is no body, but the prosecution led by Ted Morningstar, think they have a slam dunk case with the evidence they present, only to find themselves being confounded. As the trial

The Holdout

sets to conclude, the jury, with the exception of Maya Seale, plan to deliver a guilty verdict. Maya does not fall in with the others, instead she turns each juror so that Bobby Nock is found not guilty.

However, each juror found themselves facing public and media excoriation for their controversial verdict, bringing with it notoriety and a raft of life changing consequences. 10 years on, Maya is now a successful lawyer, a partner at Cantwell & Myers, invited to a reunion of the original jury members at the same hotel they had all been sequestered in. The Murder Town podcast team are turning the trial into a Netflix docuseries, in which Rick Leonard, one of the jury members, is planning to present incontrovertible evidence of how they all got it wrong and Bobby Nock was as guilty as sin. A reluctant Maya attends, and in a narrative that goes back and forth in time, what happened at the original trial is slowly revealed, and in the present, the reunion kicks off a cycle of death and destruction that threatens to claim Maya as a victim.

Moore writes a fast paced, intense and riveting legal drama, peppered with twists, underlining from a legal perspective, that often while the truth can be an accurate reflection of what occurs, it can prove to be a poor legal strategy, leaving defendants with the stark choice of the high likelihood of being found guilty if they tell the truth or have a better outcome by lying. Whilst feeling ambivalent about the ending, I found this to be a highly entertaining read that touches on the serious issues of ethics, morality, race and justice, or more aptly, injustice. There are instances where a suspension of disbelief will be required, but otherwise this is an engaging legal thriller that I recommend. Many thanks to Orion for an ARC. ...more

The Holdouts Key

I LOVED IT!

I was so sure I'll love this book:

Facts: We have an Oscar winner script writer of *Imitation Games* on the board, still developing three other scripts to produce including this book! (Yes, I cannot wait! With an impressive casting, this will be killer movie!)

We have legal drama dances with whodunit murder mystery, *12 angry men* (1957, Sidney Lumet's masterpiece) meets *Beyond A Reasonable Doubt* (1956, Fritz Lang's fantastic crime drama).

We have moving, dazzling, riveting reading in our I LOVED IT!

I was so sure I'll love this book:

Facts: We have an Oscar winner script writer of *Imitation Games* on the board, still developing three other scripts to produce including this book! (Yes, I cannot wait! With an impressive casting, this will be killer movie!)

We have legal drama dances with whodunit murder mystery, *12 angry men* (1957, Sidney Lumet's masterpiece) meets *Beyond A Reasonable Doubt* (1956, Fritz Lang's fantastic crime drama).

We have moving, dazzling, riveting reading in our hands about not one but two murders (or let's say one murder and one disappearance) intercepted with one decade gap. We go back and forth between two timelines to figure out.

So after finishing it, I'm so happy that I'm not disappointed: It's smart, exciting court drama/Legal thriller/murder mystery that you cannot put it down. You hardly figure out who is the bad guy because most of the characters are not easy to like including our ambitious, opportunist, smart lawyer Maya Seale, deal breaker, successful defense attorney, once upon a time juror and now she is also prime suspect of the murder.

On 2009, Bobby Nock, an African American high school teacher was accused to kill his wealthy white female student Jessica. Her DNA is found at his car. But her body hasn't been found. So infamous 12 people gathered to decide his future and he was acquitted from first degree murder because one juror believes that he was not guilty and she convinced the other 11. But after the case, the other 11 still thought they made a mistake and blamed the one who still believed innocence of Bobby Nock. That one juror's name is MAYA SEALE.

The Holdout

Our 12 angry jurors still try to move on their damaged lives when the date shows verdict's 10th year of the anniversary. Even though Maya keeps her personal life secret, not to be traumatized by the reporters, she seized this life wrecking experience as an opportunity and became one of the best defense attorneys of the city and youngest partner of her firm. But when she meets with Rick, another juror, she had also a secret affair during the trial. And after the verdict, Rick wrote a book to smear Maya's reputation, holding vendetta against her. Now he tells her, he make an agreement with production company about the docuseries of the trial and he found something crucial to change everything they knew. He invites Maya to join with other 10 juror friends.

Maya rejects him at first but her boss forces him to do the interview for the production. And when she goes to the hotel where is arranged for the production meeting, she gets alone with Rick to learn more juicy details and what he holds back but Rick denies to talk about it. They fight. She leaves to gather her wits. When she comes back she finds Rick lying in a blood pool in her room. This is not looking good for her situation. Especially after their 10 years log feud, everybody can think she has a motive to get rid of him.

So who did kill Rick? What did Rick find so crucial resulted with his dead? Why Bobby Nock disappeared after being interviewed with Rick? Could he kill both Nick and Jessica? What all of the jurors were hiding from the beginning?

I'm not gonna tell more not to give more clues. But I can say that: nothing as it seems and the conclusion of the mysteries are well-crafted and satisfying. The only thing bothered me was I hated the guts of the characters and I didn't empathize with none of them including Rick even though he was a victim, his obsession and his personal vendetta against Maya because she broke his heart was a little bit extreme.

So I'm giving excellent, shiny, smart, heart throbbing, impeccably developed, high tensioned four stars!

I'm thanking myself for not letting this book root at my pending category forever purgatory of NetGalley and rewarding myself doing something useful at my quarantine days.

Stay safe my friends. Drink more booze, read more books, wash your hands, put distance to loved ones not to get angrier and punch them on the face! I'm planning to publish my locked-up diaries on new blog. (Only 25 days old!) I'll keep you posted, looking forward your feed backs and comments!

blog
instagram
facebook
twitter ...more

The Holdout

Ten years ago, Maya, the lone holdout on a jury, convinced 11 of her fellow jurors to acquit a black teacher accused of murdering his white teenage student. Was justice served?

One juror, Rick, doesn't think so and he's written a book holding Maya responsible for letting a guilty man go free. He hints that he has a new evidence and 10 years post-trial, on the eve of a documentary about the case, the jury reassembles. On the first night of their reunion a juror is found dead in Maya's room and she is

Ten years ago, Maya, the lone holdout on a jury, convinced 11 of her fellow jurors to acquit a black teacher accused of murdering his white teenage student. Was justice served?

One juror, Rick, doesn't think so and he's written a book holding Maya responsible for letting a guilty man go free. He hints that he has a new evidence and 10 years post-trial, on the eve of a documentary about the case, the jury reassembles. On the first night of their reunion a juror is found dead in Maya's room and she is the prime suspect. From here the story alternates between the still unsolved 10-year-old case to the present day murder investigation.

I expect to suspend some disbelief when I'm reading fiction but there's a limit to my ability to do so before my eyes start to roll. I was engaged for the first 50% but then the story took a turn I couldn't get behind, starting with a lawyer going rogue investigating her own case.

I think the author had some thoughtful things to say about the justice system but the story would have benefited by tackling fewer social issues. To compound the problem, the narrative was interrupted multiple times by preachy commentary. I get that it's hard for authors to resist the impulse but I prefer the issues to be presented in a more nuanced manner that is integral to the story. I found the ending to be convoluted and ridiculous.

I prefer a more literary approach to police procedurals and courtroom dramas. While I found this book to be the literary equivalent of a Lifetime movie, it might be an entertaining way to spend time on a long flight or an afternoon at the beach. Many have enjoyed this book more than I did so please check other reviews.

*I received a digital copy of this book from NetGalley. All opinions are my own

* This was a buddy read with Marialyce. For our duo review of this book and others please visit [https://yayareadslotsofbooks.wordpres...](https://yayareadslotsofbooks.wordpress...) ...more

The Holdout Problem

DNF @ 51%

I just can't finish this one.

Maybe it's the third person narrative, I don't know, but I'm so disconnected from this book that my red low-battery icon has been showing since around 20% into it.

Don't let me discourage you from picking it up, different books for different fry cooks, amiright? ... sorry, that's all I could come up with *sees myself out*.

** I was provided an ARC by the publisher in exchange for an honest review. **

This is an intriguing book that mostly keeps my interest throughout. The start certainly catches your attention and lets just say it's a head turner! Ten years ago Jessica Silver, daughter of wealthy Lou Silver, goes missing and her body never found. Her teacher Bobby Nock is eventually charged with her murder and the case goes to trial. The evidence against Nock is not overwhelming but is suggestive and one thing for sure, the trial is an absolute shambles. The jurors are expected to return a guilty verdict but one juror, Maya Searle, is not convinced of guilt. After days and days of debate and counter debate the jurors reach a not guilty verdict much to the outrage of the court of public opinion. It's this element of the book I find most disturbing as public opinion ruins many of the jurors lives. Ten years on, one juror believes he has irrefutable evidence of Nock's guilt and the jury reassemble for a TV programme. What happens next is unexpected and twisty demonstrating that the trial sets off a chain reaction of catastrophic events with an impact similar to a runaway train. The story is told in alternate storylines from each jurors perspective at the time of the trial and now, principally from Maya's point of view. This works well for most of the book but I think that towards the end of the book the final remaining jurors stories do not seem so relevant.

There is a lot I like about this book. The case is really interesting, the trial is fascinating if flawed and the juror dynamics is excellent. I like the dialogue between Maya and the other jurors and it feels a bit like knights armed combat. You get two mysteries for the price of one, the story unfolds really well with a feeling of suspense and tension and it feels a bit like a movie. There are some really good twists, more than one shocker and the end is very unexpected. I like that the author makes you think long and hard

The Holdout

about the jury system and how one person with a strong point of view can persuade others to change their minds. However, whether you have a jury or judges you will always have opinion because we are human and our brains are wired that way.

My only reservations about the book lie with its length, it's a bit overlong and the end is rather convoluted. Overall, though I did enjoy it as I like the concept, the characters are really interesting especially Maya and the law aspect is intriguing and thought provoking.

Thanks to NetGalley and Orion Publishing Group for the ARC. Publication date in UK 20/2/20. ...more

The Holdouts Band

I was a huge fan of *The Last Days of Night*, so I was curious to see what Moore would write next. Don't look for another historical fiction, this book is a legal thriller. But it's equally as good.

Ten years ago, Maya Seale convinced her fellow jury members to acquit Bobby Nock for the murder of Jennifer Silver. The question being was he guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. As so often happens, the court of public opinion thought the jury got it wrong and each jury member suffered the fallout. He was a huge fan of *The Last Days of Night*, so I was curious to see what Moore would write next. Don't look for another historical fiction, this book is a legal thriller. But it's equally as good.

Ten years ago, Maya Seale convinced her fellow jury members to acquit Bobby Nock for the murder of Jennifer Silver. The question being was he guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. As so often happens, the court of public opinion thought the jury got it wrong and each jury member suffered the fallout. He gestured around the room. "Do you think any of us were allowed to go back to real life?" Now, Rick Leonard, one of the jury members, has convinced a documentary series that he has new evidence that proves Bobby guilty. The series gathers all the jury members together again. And then, Rick is killed in Maya's hotel room. Of course, the police think she must have killed him.

Once again, Moore's writing is very strong and makes excellent points about racial identity among other topics. He also knows the legal system. The start of the book, with Maya trying to get damning evidence excluded was equal parts hysterical and unnerving. Like Maya during the murder trial, I found myself fascinated by the ins and outs of the law. I could totally understand the frustration of not being able to share their beliefs about the trial with anyone, even the other jurors. I would have lost my mind!

The book alternates between the current day and the time of the trial. The present day is all told from Maya's perspective, but the past is told using a variety of different jurors. The book deals with both mysteries - was Bobby guilty and who killed Rick. I was correct in my guess about one mystery but the other caught me totally off guard. And there continue to be twists even after we knew the who part of the whodunit. Yes, it's a little unbelievable at the end, but it works.

Our human psychology is on full display here; the blame game in particular. Also, how quickly alliances can be made and then fall apart. I loved how Moore developed Maya as a character.

This is a well thought out mystery sure to entertain fans of Louise Penny and John Lescroart.

My thanks to netgalley and Random House for an advance copy of this book. ...more

I just finished this audiobook while sweating in the sauna.... and I am now speaking into the phone while soaking in the pool.

The Holdout

Anyone who hangs around Goodreads has at least seen this book..... with the eye-catching cover..... so I figure there are plenty of reviews covering many points of views from other readers - one more from me describing the plot or naming the key characters is kinda unnecessary.

So instead, Ill add some of my thoughts:

.....I was hoping Id like it as much as The Body of I just finished this audiobook while sweating in the sauna.... and I am now speaking into the phone while soaking in the pool.

Anyone who hangs around Goodreads has at least seen this book..... with the eye-catching cover..... so I figure there are plenty of reviews covering many points of views from other readers - one more from me " describing the plot or naming the key characters is kinda unnecessary.

So instead, I'll add some of my thoughts:

.....I was hoping I'd like it as much as "The Body of Questions" by Jill Ciment. - it wasn't AS GREAT OR EXCITING OR FUN....

But.....

.....The beginning was engaging (crazy first page opening)....

.....The set-up story sounded good - it "was" good!

.....The middle portion of this book was tedious and borderline-boring.

.....The last chapters in the book were twisty - a surprise- one I never saw ahead of time. Not sure satisfying- but surprising.

.....I liked the idea of this book: I certainly did not hate it.... but I'm not left ecstatic either.

.....I'm glad I took my turn reading it " -

.....or shall I say LISTENING to it. The voice narrator highlighted the tension-dialogue scenes brilliantly"-(those scenes of yelling, arguing and swearing between two characters were my favorites because their anger felt F#%king REAL.....

but.....

.....much of the story "didn't" feel real (totally improbable actually).

Overall.... entertaining: the beginning and ending were the best parts.

Also.... I agree wholeheartedly 100% that "Holdout" would make better TV-screen entertainment than in book-form!

3.5-3.7 rating.

...more

The Holdout Synopsis

They decided to serve because, supposedly, it was their Civic duty. The trial that of a young, black teacher who is accused of murdering his white student. The motive is that they were having an affair and she was going to tell. Problem is there is no body. This trial would change all their lives

Written as a made for tv mini series, this dialogue laden novel requires a certain suspension of belief. Is it possible for all these jurors to have facts that they withheld from the court? Would a They decided to serve because, supposedly, it was their Civic duty. The trial that of a young, black teacher who is accused of murdering his white student. The motive is that they were having an affair and she was going to tell. Problem is there is no body. This trial would change all their lives

Written as a made for tv mini series, this dialogue laden novel requires a certain suspension of belief. Is it possible for all these jurors to have facts that they withheld from the court? Would a former juror, now a seasoned attorney herself act the way she does? Going around investigating when her lawyer told her to do nothing? I just couldn't go there.

The story does reveal constant new threads, which muddies the water, and I did want to find out the resolution. Who actually killed this young woman? It does wrap thing up but I found the ending rushed and the way it was portrayed unsatisfactory.

So, just okay for me, but better for those who can buy into it book, line and sinker.

...more

3.5 stars

In 2009, 25-year-old high school music teacher Bobby Nock was tried for the murder of his 15-year-old student Jessica Silver.

When Jessica - the daughter of billionaire Lou Silver - disappeared, the police found sexy text messages between herself and Nock and found traces of Jessica's blood in Nock's car.

The fact that Nock was black and Jessica was white exacerbated matters, and the teacher was quickly arrested and prosecuted.

Maya Seale was one of a diverse bag of jurors at Nock's

The Holdout

3.5 stars

In 2009, 25-year-old high school music teacher Bobby Nock was tried for the murder of his 15-year-old student Jessica Silver.

When Jessica - the daughter of billionaire Lou Silver - disappeared, the police found sexy text messages between herself and Nock and found traces of Jessica's blood in Nock's car.

The fact that Nock was black and Jessica was white exacerbated matters, and the teacher was quickly arrested and prosecuted.

Maya Seale was one of a diverse bag of jurors at Nock's trial, and though the evidence against the teacher was strong, Maya had reasonable doubt.

Thus, though the eleven other jurors wanted to vote guilty, Maya turned them one by one.....and Nock got a not guilty verdict. Nock's acquittal resulted in vicious backlash from the public.

The fallout caused many jurors to regret their decision to let Nock off. The most sorry of all was an African American juror named Rick Leonard, who wrote a scathing book that blamed Maya for the reviled verdict.

Ten years later Maya, who believes "it's better that ten guilty men go free than one innocent be wrongly punished" is a criminal defense attorney who'd prefer to hear nothing more about Bobby Nock. Unfortunately Maya is out of luck because the producers of a podcast called 'Murder Town' are making an 8-hour docuseries about Nock, to be aired on Netflix.

The producers ask the original jurors to cooperate with the show, and Maya - who's still being excoriated by the public - refuses. However Rick Leonard claims that he's found definitive proof of Nock's guilt, which he'll reveal when he's interviewed for the podcast. Maya can't resist hearing this 'proof', and reluctantly agrees to participate in the program.

The Holdout

The jurors are assembled at the Omni Hotel in Los Angeles, where they were sequestered during the trial, and are even given their old rooms. The attendees meet for an ice breaker on the evening before the interviews, and talk about the trial and the podcast.

Later that night a juror is found dead in Maya's room. In the ultimate ironic twist, Maya is arrested for the juror's murder.

The book is a dual mystery in which two cases are highlighted: the killing of Jessica Silver and the murder of the juror. Maya, who's out on bail, aims to prove she's innocent. Hence she noses around against the explicit instructions of her defense attorney, Craig Richards, who tells her to lay low.

In fact Craig wants Maya to claim she killed Rick in self-defense - even if she's completely innocent - to ensure she doesn't go to prison. (Apparently Craig doesn't care if the 'real killer' is caught.)

The murder trial of Bobby Nock has a whiff of racism and classism, which continues later, when Nock is convicted of disseminating child pornography. As a result Nock has to register as a sex offender, which means that he'll be persecuted by the media forever.

The book is told from the rotating points of view of Maya and other jurors, so we know what people were thinking and doing during and after Nock's trial, and what they're up to at the present time. There are some surprising revelations and the strong suggestion that lawyers don't care who's innocent or guilty....they just want to win.

I'd recommend this novel to readers who enjoy mysteries and legal thrillers.

Thanks to Netgalley, the author (Graham Moore) and the publisher (Random House) for a copy of the book.

You can follow my reviews at <https://reviewsbybarbsaffer.blogspot....> ...more

The Holdouts Find The Key

First and foremost, a large thank you to NetGalley, Graham Moore and Random House for providing me with a copy of this publication, which allows me to provide you with an unbiased review.

When this Graham Moore novel crossed my radar, I could not help but be interested to see how he'd spin this story about a jury faced with a murder trial. The book ended up being so much more, perfect for those who love a good legal drama with a mystery mixed into the plot. Maya Seale is a successful criminal defence attorney in Los Angeles, able to see things from the accused's point of view with ease. However, she has not always had this wonderful job, having served on a highly-controversial jury a decade before. In 2009, Maya and fourteen others were gathered to hear the case of *The People vs. Robert Nock*, in which the defendant is accused of killing one of his high school students. Maya engages with the other jurors, none more so than Rick Leonard, as they listen to the evidence and form their own opinions about his guilt. The story depicts how this collection of everyday citizens made the baffling decision to find Nock not guilty, which created immediate vilification by the public. As the story progresses, Moore introduces a second narrative in which the jurors are brought together by a production company to revisit their decision a decade later. While Maya awkwardly encounters Rick Leonard again, the man who shared her bed during the trial and then stabbed her in the back during a tell-all book after the trial, she also gets the chance to remember a lot of what happened during the trial. When Leonard is found dead in Maya's hotel room, all eyes turn to her as the most likely suspect. Maya, wanting to clean her name, collects a number of portfolios Leonard left behind and discovers new and scandalous information about their fellow jurors. As the story flips between 2009 and the present, the readers can fill in all the pieces, from the trial and the current investigation to find out who might have killed Rick Leonard. Additionally, there is the question of what really happened and how the jury's deliberations turned on a dime. An intriguing legal drama that will leave the reader wondering how much they think they know about an apparent open and shut case, as well as the plight of those tasked with judging a man's life with filtered evidence. Recommended to those who love all things courtroom, as well as the reader who likes a mystery that slowly unfolds.

I always enjoy something with a legal flavour, particularly when it strays from the cookie-cutter style of writing and leaves me wondering where things will go. Maya Seale takes up the role as the protagonist in this piece, whose role is important in both the 2009 and modern narrative streams. She went into the trial and was sure she could convince any of her fellow jurors of the truth she saw, thinking that Rick Leonard would be the least of her worries. However, she was wrong and spent much of the flashback sections trying to convince them, while seeking to stay one step ahead in the present day narrative as

I always enjoy something with a legal flavour, particularly when it strays from the cookie-cutter style of writing and leaves me wondering where things will go. Maya Seale takes up the role as the protagonist in this piece, whose role is important in both the 2009 and modern narrative streams. She went into the trial and was sure she could convince any of her fellow jurors of the truth she saw, thinking that Rick Leonard would be the least of her worries. However, she was wrong and spent much of the flashback sections trying to convince them, while seeking to stay one step ahead in the present day narrative as

The Holdout

she is accused of killing her one-time lover who sought to hang her out to dry. As she discovers new truths about her fellow jurors, she also must piece together what happened leading up to the trial that split the country. Many other characters make their impact throughout, particularly through a narrative technique that Moore uses, allowing the reader to see things through a variety of perspectives. This, in turn, permits the reader to have a better handle on all aspects of the story and the trial at its core. Graham Moore does a masterful job at presenting a case to the reader, develops the courtroom arguments and pushes the reader into the deliberation room as well. By writing chapters that tell things from the perspective of all the jurors, the reader is given the opportunity to see the story in a new light. Adding the current time period narrative, the story's plot thickens even more and everything that the reader (and jurors) thought they knew soon goes up in smoke. Powerful in its delivery and easily read in short order, Moore treats the reader to a wonderful legal tale that is anything but straightforward.

Kudos, Mr. Moore, for a lovely way to introduce me to your writing. I will surely be back to read more in the coming months.

Love/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

A Book for All Seasons, a different sort of Book Challenge: <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/...>
...more

3.5 stars

Held my interest and although I have some mixed feelings with some of the stuff at the end, overall this was a good read. It was almost like I was getting two mysteries for the price of one as the story alternated between the jury trial from ten years ago as well the murder that occurred in the present time.

Fifteen-year-old Jessica Silver, vanished ten years ago. The case made national news as her family has money, lots of it. Jessica's teacher, Bobby Nock, a twenty-five-year-old 3.5 stars

Held my interest and although I have some mixed feelings with some of the stuff at the end, overall this was a good read. It was almost like I was getting two mysteries for the price of one as the story alternated between the jury trial from ten years ago as well the murder that occurred in the present time.

Fifteen-year-old Jessica Silver, vanished ten years ago. The case made national news as her family has money, lots of it. Jessica's teacher, Bobby Nock, a twenty-five-year-old African American man, is suspected of murdering her and the case goes to trial. Given the evidence, it seems likely the jury will convict. However, juror Maya Seale is convinced Bobby is innocent and manages to change the minds of the rest of the jury members. When they come back with a not guilty verdict, it is controversial and it

The Holdout

certainly has an impact on their lives to say the least. Ten years later a docuseries is being produced and the jury gets together to discuss the trial. But one of the jury members winds up dead, and now Maya is the main suspect in his murder. So, what exactly happened now and what exactly happened to Jessica ten years ago?

This was a fairly quick read and I think that is due to a couple reasons. One, the alternating timelines as well as switching back and forth between characters keeps the action going at a good pace. You could say Maya is the main character in this book but eventually you get to know the other jury members as well. I also thought the author's screenwriting background shone through a bit with this book. The writing is simple and to the point. If you are looking for overly descriptive passages, this isn't the book for you. That's not to say it isn't well-written, as my interest level was high throughout the book.

The author brings some substance to the story as race is one of the subjects that is explored throughout the book. The story doesn't have a simple ending as there are multiple layers and there was one piece of the puzzle I didn't care for as it ventured out of realistic territory for me. I also didn't find anything to be all that surprising or shocking but to be fair despite that I still enjoyed reading this book. I think if you enjoy legal thrillers this is a pretty safe bet.

I was provided an advance reader's copy in exchange for an honest review.

...more

The Holdout Kindle

I don't want to alarm anybody, but the February BOTM selections are up.

This was my selection and I am freaking excited about it!!

Go and get 'em, people!!!!

Some books and their authors believe they have to cram every bit of information into their stories. While often it works well, in this book it seemed to muddle some really important concepts and ideas.

Ten years ago, Maya Seale, sat on a jury and was the instrumental force in the way the verdict was determined. Spurred on by her experience as a juror, Maya becomes a criminal defense attorney. However, her world is about to be rocked as a show, driven on and assisted by one of the former jurors,

Some books and their authors believe they have to cram every bit of information into their stories. While often it works well, in this book it seemed to muddle some really important concepts and ideas.

Ten years ago, Maya Seale, sat on a jury and was the instrumental force in the way the verdict was determined. Spurred on by her experience as a juror, Maya becomes a criminal defense attorney. However, her world is about to be rocked as a show, driven on and assisted by one of the former jurors, Rick Leonard, decide to bring the jurors together and try to come to terms with their previous decision. Most of the jurors are anxious to participate while Maya has qualms. During the initial trial, Maya and Rick, another juror, became quite close and after the trial as these two battled their way through the decision, that closeness disappeared and later become the source of a scathing book penned by Rick. The jurors meet and then one of them turns up dead and the race is on to find not only the murderer of one of the jurors, but also to come to terms with the verdict made ten years prior.

Ten years ago, Jessica Silver, the daughter of an extremely wealthy man went missing. Bobby Nock, a teacher of Jessica's, becomes the lead suspect in her disappearance and what is presumed to be her death. Bobby is black and he and Jessica had carried on a sexual relationship while Jessica was fifteen and his student. Jessica is gone and Bobby is the one that everyone suspects. The trial occurs and the jurors come together with their verdict, bringing their own misconceptions, preconceptions, and prejudices along with them.

The book flips back and forth between the trial, the aftermath, and many characters. We get a glimpse into the questions of race, of police procedures, the way trials are conducted, the deals that are made, and the makeup of juries. Represented as well, is the notoriety of the case using social media as a point

The Holdout

of information.

While there were many elements to ponder, the book did get caught up in too many issues. While it did hold my interest, through the bulk of the story, the ending just seemed quite contrived and convoluted. However, overall, it did raise some really intriguing questions, and I did enjoy thinking about the many answers there might have be to some particularly probing and relevant questions.

Thank you to the Graham Moore, Random House, and NetGalley for a copy of this book due out February 18, 2020. ...more

The Holdout Vk

While I am reading a book I usually take notes to remind myself of both positive and negative things that stand out about a book. This time, I didn't make a single note. I didn't dislike the book, but it just didn't make much of an impression on me. It wasn't suspenseful, the characters weren't likable, there were huge ethical lapses and the ending didn't satisfy me at all. So I guess that's my impression. I received a free copy of this book from the publisher. While I am reading a book I usually take notes to remind myself of both positive and negative things that stand out about a book. This time, I didn't make a single note. I didn't dislike the book, but it just didn't make much of an impression on me. It wasn't suspenseful, the characters weren't likable, there were huge ethical lapses and the ending didn't satisfy me at all. So I guess that's my impression. I received a free copy of this book from the publisher. ...more

Being a juror on a high profile murder case has got to be a thrill ride and a half: looking at the bloody evidence and weighing witness statements, the savage craziness of the media interest, then finally getting to decide the fate of a man charged with murder. It's got to be just like tv, right? Exciting. Maybe even a shot at your own fame 15 minutes or otherwise.

But what Maya Seale got wasn't quite fame, it was INFAMY. Not convinced of Bobby Nocks guilt beyond reasonable doubt, she campaigned Being a juror on a high profile murder case has got to be a thrill ride and a half: looking at the bloody evidence and weighing witness statements, the savage craziness of the media interest, then finally getting to decide the fate of a man charged with murder. It's got to be just like tv, right? Exciting. Maybe even a shot at your own fame! 15 minutes or otherwise.

But what Maya Seale got wasn't quite fame, it was INFAMY. Not convinced of Bobby Nock's guilt beyond reasonable doubt, she campaigned for a Not Guilty verdict and eventually persuaded, or wore down, all the other jurors. The result was spectacularly unpopular, provoking uproar in both the courtroom and the real world, and changing the jurors' lives forever.

Now it's 10 years later and they're back together again. Apparently there's new evidence to consider and more questions to be asked. Everyone wants to know if they got it wrong. But when one juror ends up dead, it looks like someone's willing to kill to keep their secrets buried for good.

You can tell the author has screenwriting experience, The Holdout would be well served as a slick tv series or film. Nevertheless, this is a surprisingly issue led book for something that's also a hell of a lot of fun. Racism stands front and centre, with the black defendant Bobby Nock identified as the murderer of a pretty blonde girl from the ~right~ kind of (rich) family in no small part due to the colour of his skin. The intersections of race and justice are examined throughout the novel, particularly through the multifaceted levels of expectation, misunderstanding, and outright prejudice. The notion that race or skin colour has more to do with guilt/innocence than the evidence is cleverly developed

The Holdout

through the varied perspectives of the jurors. Multiple POVs reveal the action in a dual timeline, the original period of the trial and the present day search for the killer(s). More than the did-he-do-it mystery or even the who's-the-killer-now question, it's the author's examination of justice via jury that fascinates. All the big social issues are here in microcosm and while the sideways commentary on fairness, class, race, justice, and the individual are intriguing, I wish there had been more of it. Especially because the plot did edge into the far-fetched at times. Even so, while readers might guess something of the ending if they know the rules of storytelling, knowing one of the twists didn't ruin the finale in any way. The book kept some surprises close.

Fast paced and offering a genuine good time, this is well worth reading before it undoubtedly hits the screen.

ARC via Netgalley ...more