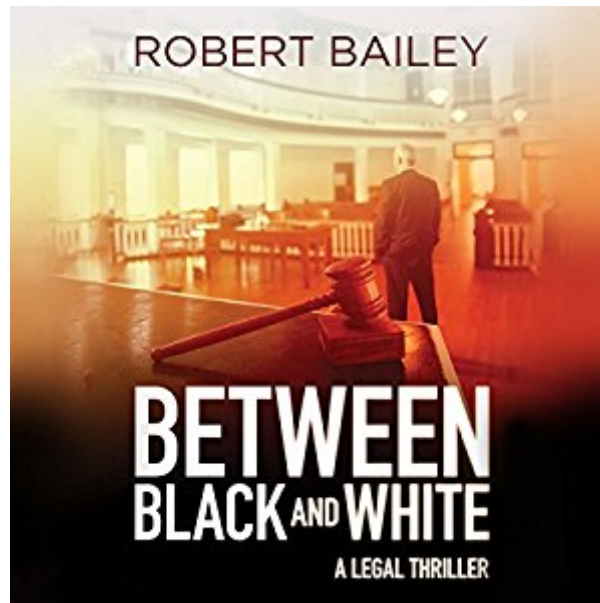


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Between Black And White: McMurtrie And Drake Legal, Book 2



Synopsis

In 1966 in Pulaski, Tennessee, Bocephus Haynes watched in horror as his father was brutally murdered by 10 local members of the Ku Klux Klan. As an African American lawyer practicing in the birthplace of the Klan years later, Bo has spent his life pursuing justice in his father's name. But when Andy Walton, the man believed to have led the lynch mob 45 years earlier, ends up murdered in the same spot as Bo's father, Bo becomes the prime suspect. Retired law professor Tom McMurtrie, Bo's former teacher and friend, is a year removed from returning to the courtroom. Now McMurtrie and his headstrong partner, Rick Drake, must defend Bo on charges of capital murder while hunting for Andy Walton's true killer. In a courtroom clash that will put their reputations and lives at stake, can McMurtrie and Drake release Bo from a lifetime of despair? Or will justice remain hidden somewhere between black and white?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I work for a small, plaintiff's law firm and after I read *The Professor*, I bought copies for both of the attorneys at our firm. I purchased copies of *Between Black and White* (BB&W) for them before I ever read it - I suspected it would be very good. When you live in or around Little Rock, Arkansas, you understand what Pulaski Tennessee, goes through. The first thing people think when Little Rock comes up, is the integration crises of 1959. The interesting thing is that Pulaski, Tennessee, and Pulaski County, Arkansas, where Little Rock is located, are both named for Polish Count Casimir Pulaski. Having said that, I strongly encourage you to read *The Professor* before you read BB&W, it

will give you background on the characters and the action. I started reading this book Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. and I didn't take off my PJs, didn't go get my mail, didn't eat a bite of anything. I drank two cups of coffee and fixed myself a glass of Coke. I was just about there when my son and his wife came over. They stayed no more than 30 minutes and left. I immediately returned to my book and at 9:00 p.m. closed it - finished. As a 5 year old boy, Bo Haynes watched as his dad was hung by 10 members of the Ku Klux Klan. Although he knew who one of the men was, because he was so accustomed to hearing his voice, the Sheriff said he couldn't take the word of a 5 year old boy about the man's voice. Point to remember. Before his dad walked out into the night to face what he knew was coming, he made his son promise, among other things he would take care of his momma (Point to remember), and he would make something of himself. The next morning his momma was gone and he never saw her again. Sports, football in particular, a blown out knee, and a law professor challenged him to do what he promised his daddy he would do. He graduated from Alabama School of Law and returned to Pulaski, Tennessee, to put the men who hanged his daddy in jail. There you have the plot of the book, it's the twists and turns that make it interesting. I had an idea how it would turn out but boy was I wrong. I didn't see those two coming, the brother and sister, the boy and his "daddy" - nope those were complete surprises. Block some time out when you start this book because you won't want to quit reading it until your finish it.

I enjoyed the first book by Robert Bailey, "The Professor". Being the first book in a series, there was a lot of character building but the story was good. "Between Black and White" took this series to a whole different level! It involves a murder case, a black male accused of killing a former klansmen in Pulaski, Tennessee. There is suspense, danger and twists and turns you never see coming. I highly recommend "Between Black and White" as it depicts a "true 21st Century American South" where the ancient lines that were drawn in the 1950's still exist....but they are not respected as they were: and when it's all said and done, the truth is more important than all else.

This is the second legal thriller involving Retired law professor Tom McMurtrie and his partner (and former student) Rick Drake. I really enjoyed the first book in this series - The Professor (McMurtrie and Drake Legal Thrillers) - and looked forward to reading this book when I had the chance. In this book, another former student, Bo Haynes, is arrested for the murder of a former leader of the KKK, a person that Bo had often accused of murdering his father in a hate crime years earlier - a crime he had witnessed as a small child. The evidence seems overwhelming and Tom and Rick agree to defend Haynes in this major criminal case. The story is

excellent. You won't get any spoilers from me, but the twists and turns go right to the end with a couple huge plot twists that I can't say I didn't see coming, but were skillfully brought forward in a way that was totally satisfying. If you are a big college football fan you'll love the references to football, but it sure didn't interfere with the story line. I can't wait until the next installment comes out.

I gave this book 4 Stars because I really enjoyed it. There were some parts of the story that I found rather offensive, such as the repeated use of the "N" word. There was also stereotypical verbiage I found annoying, like the use of the word "dog" by African American men. However, other than those nauseous little peeves, the book was a very good read. The story was fast-paced, and the characters were somewhat developed and believable. I really appreciated all the twists and turns in the plot, along with the authentic "whodunit" theme. That said, good job Robert Bailey!

Be sure to read the book, "The Professor," before reading "Between Black and White," if you can. You'll have more of a sight to the characters and their interactions. That being said, this is an enjoyable book to read on its own. Tom is the lead attorney representing his best friend, Bo, in a murder trial. The evidence against Bo is substantial and the forces of evil, including some members of the Ku Klux Klan, want a guilty verdict and the death penalty following conviction. It's an exciting read; the courtroom scenes are compelling; the final scenes page turners.

His story telling reminds me of my Mom's, Daddy's, and grandparents way of telling stories on the back porch of the house when we were young. They were so fascinating and took more than one night to tell them. They were a lot more interesting than watching television where you could only get two channels anyway. His characters are well developed and believable. The storyline is great. Looking forward to reading another book by this author. Maxmontgomery

Another very interesting novel by Robert Bailey and his great cast of characters. While the inclusion of the evil KKK is historically understandable in this location, it provides a disturbing edge considering those who are secretly involved. Proof positive that we can't really know even those who have been in our lives since birth. Courtroom drama is intense and edge-of-seat as Bailey writes so well. Really enjoyed and recommend.

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