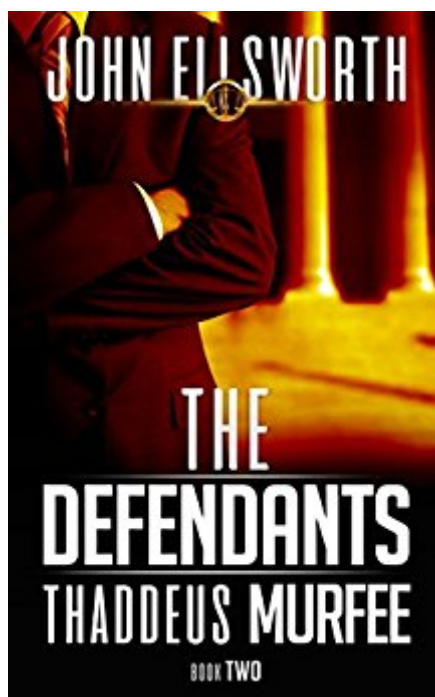


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# The Defendants (Thaddeus Murfee Legal Thriller Series Book 2)



## Synopsis

From Kindle All-Star John Ellsworth, author of #1 bestseller in thrillers category "Fast-paced courtroom drama that makes the pages turn with its depiction of the American Legal Justice System, Mob rule, and the tale of one rookie lawyer who refused to quit!" - American Institute of Justice Young Thaddeus Murfee is a trial lawyer with less than 18 months of courtroom experience. He is completely unprepared for the complicated murder case that he is asked to defend. While Ermeline was passed out, her date carved his name in her breasts. Later, he is found murdered. Ermeline is arrested based on circumstantial evidence because she had motive and opportunity. She hires Thaddeus, who makes his criminal lawyer debut defending his first murder case in this intense courtroom drama. In *The Defendants*, John Ellsworth offers you a courtroom thriller that puts you right in the front row of the jury. See the politics that lurk behind criminal cases and discover how love can grow out of the strangest beginnings that anybody could imagine. In the exciting climax in this free legal thriller, Thaddeus is only given a split second to save his own life. His heart-pounding reaction in this crime fiction novel is breath taking! "Legal drama in the first degree!" - Five Star Review Thaddeus Murfee novel categories include: Legal Thrillers, Crime Thrillers, Legal Suspense, Lawyer Mysteries, Crime Fiction, Mystery Series, Heist Thrillers, Organized Crime, Courtroom Thrillers, Courtroom Drama, Lawyer Novels, Legal Fiction

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## Customer Reviews

In his debut novel "The Defendants," John Ellsworth becomes the latest in a long line of attorneys to try to channel their inner John Grisham with a novel of a single courageous lawyer going up against a deck that's heavily stacked against him. While Ellsworth's hero, Thaddeus Murfee, is a likable character and Ellsworth shows off his legal expertise well at times in the book, his plotting is rather loose, and the book fails the credibility test on a few occasions. Murfee is an up-and-coming lawyer in his mid-20s who decides to hang out his own shingle in the small town of Orbit in southern Illinois. He's fortunate that he's best friends with the local state's attorney, who winds up funneling some work his way, the latest case being a potentially big personal injury lawsuit involving Ermaline Ransom, a waitress at a local strip club. Ermaline had been drugged and then had some letters crudely carved into a part of her anatomy not generally on public display after meeting a local contractor, Vic Harrow, for a drink after work. However, what Ermaline and Thaddeus don't know is that Vic didn't do the carving; it was a mob enforcer who did so thinking Ermaline was Vic's girlfriend. It seems Vic owed plenty to the mob and the crooked governor of the state as payoffs for getting state construction contracts. The mob does a bit more investigating into Vic's financial affairs and discovers that he's dead broke with no way of raising the money he owes. So, they decide to eliminate Vic as a lesson to other deadbeats and frame Ermaline, who has an obvious motive to want Vic dead. So, the mob pressures Ermaline's ex-husband to put her fingerprints on the murder weapon while she's asleep and then hide it where the police are sure to find it.

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