



# The Final Judgment

*By Richard North Patterson*

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## **The Final Judgment By Richard North Patterson Bibliography**

- Rank: #2417431 in Books
- Brand: Knopf
- Published on: 1995-11-15
- Released on: 1995-11-15
- Format: Large Print
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 9
- Dimensions: 9.75" h x .75" w x 1.50" l, 4.00 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 437 pages

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

Richard North Patterson frequently rejects the label "legal thriller" for his novels, and *The Final Judgement* works hard to transcend this limiting category. A cleverly assembled murder mystery told with rich prose ("Moonlight refracted on the still, obsidian waters of the lake and traced the pines and birches and elms surrounding it. The only sound Brett heard was the rise and fall of James's breathing.") and filled with a cast of quirky small-town New Englanders, the novel ultimately succeeds through Patterson's talents as a writer, not just as a plotter.

As in many of Patterson's best novels, *The Final Judgement* draws on flashback sequences to ground the story and establish key characters. Forty-five-year-old Caroline Masters, a minor figure in *Degree of Guilt* and *Eyes of a Child* is the narrative center, and much of the suspense in the novel derives from the slow unwrapping of her past--the death of her mother and estrangement from her father. In the opening of the novel, Caroline is waiting for a message from the White House appointing her to the U.S. Court of Appeals, when, instead, her long-distant father gives her a call. Her niece has just been named the primary suspect in the murder of her boyfriend. The college-age Brett Allen was found naked, passed out from drugs and alcohol, with a knife in her hand, and covered in her boyfriend's blood. The family wants Caroline to return to New Hampshire to defend the girl.

The perils that face Caroline multiply quickly. By taking the case, Caroline clearly jeopardizes her chances for the Court of Appeals appointment. And by returning home, she must inevitably face the accumulated memories and resentments of the New Hampshire crowd, including Caroline's high-school boyfriend who is the prosecuting attorney. But her niece's life is at stake. Ultimately, *The Final Judgement* is a tale of the deep and twisted history of a New England family, but it is told in a captivating style that is--despite Patterson's reservations about the rubric--"thrilling." --Patrick O'Kelley

### From Publishers Weekly

Patterson's previous bestsellers (*Degree of Guilt* and *Eyes of a Child*) were closely linked by shared characters, but his new thriller is tied to those two through only a tenuous bond?its heroine, Caroline Masters, who was the judge in *Degree*. Here, the reader meets Caroline as a candidate for the U.S. Court of Appeals, and as a determined woman who seems to have left sentiment, and her New Hampshire patriarch of a father, far in her past. But when her niece, Brett, is arrested for the murder of her slippery boyfriend, Caroline?despite the risk to her own career?is drawn by the young woman's plight into acting as her defense counsel. This task is made no easier by the fact that the prosecutor in the case was once Caroline's lover, and still yearns for her. At first, Brett's case looks hopeless?the killing was committed in the woods at night when she was drunk and disoriented, and there is no evidence that anyone else was there. But as Caroline focuses on a shifty state witness and rough-and-ready police procedures, promise for a lesser verdict than murder begins to glimmer. While Patterson excels at writing courtroom scenes, at the center of this novel lies not legal melodrama but the burden of Caroline's past and the reasons she has chosen to escape it. All in all, it's a somber, skillfully plotted performance with plenty of genuine surprises (though not in the identity of the killer), and with characters more substantive than those in Patterson's previous, California-based outings. 250,000 first printing; Literary Guild main selection.

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### From Library Journal

Patterson's novels are rich in multifaceted, believable characters and readable portrayals of the American

judicial system, and his latest effort will not disappoint his many fans. San Francisco lawyer Carolyn Masters, featured in *Eyes of a Child* (LJ 12/94), returns as this story's central character, drawn back to her New England home on the eve of her presidential appointment to the Court of Appeals. Her young niece Brett is accused of brutally murdering the boy she loves, and Caroline comes to her defense. Caroline has had no contact with her family in years and now must confront the sister and father who fatally betrayed Caroline's own young love 20 years before. The result is a well-executed, powerful modern-day tragedy. Essential for all libraries.

--Alice DiNizo, *Raritan P.L., N.J.*

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Paul McKinney:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled *The Final Judgment*. Try to the actual book *The Final Judgment* as your good friend. It means that it can to become your friend when you truly feel alone and beside that of course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you personally. The book makes you more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , we should make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

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#### **Marsha Gleason:**

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