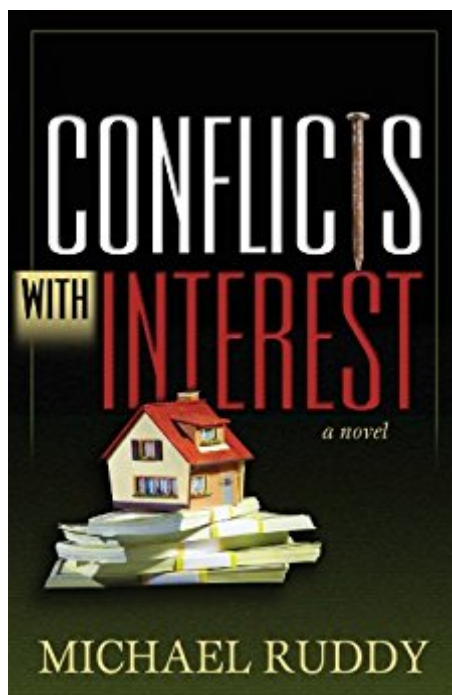


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CONFLICTS WITH INTEREST



Synopsis

T.R. Morgan, a seasoned building professional, finds himself entangled in the combined corruption of the high profile law firm that is attacking him and the insurance companies that are supposed to defend him. Still enduring the painful memories brought on by the tragic death of his wife, he soon finds out, nothing involving lawyers and insurance companies happens quickly. Instead of resolution, T.R., unwittingly enters a world of human trafficking, drugs, and illicit sex taking place behind the scenes. And his story comes forward to an explosive climax that no one could possibly foresee, least of all T.R. himself. This suspenseful tale of contemporary fiction is packed with enlightenment and high-stakes characters; provoking thought on a new subject in a new light.

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Customer Reviews

What a great story! This should be required reading for legislative staff in the California Assembly. Woven into an intriguing plot of good business against evil predatory plaintiffs' lawyers, and inept defense counsel, the book provides one heck of a good lesson in the ins-and-outs of professional liability coverage. It bellows the fact that, through such coverage, a business is not buying

bulletproof protection from professional error. Liability insurance is simply a downpayment for carrier-provided defense counsel having skills proportionate to coverage limits. A million bucks doesn't buy much of anything anymore. Ruddy did a good job developing characters and I felt their pain and frustration as reality became more evident with each chapter.

"Conflicts with Interest" is a great read. From the first page to the last word, I found it exciting, entertaining and enlightening. It exposes the layers of unethical insurance companies and lawyers that are enmeshed when a construction defects lawsuit is brought against a small homebuilder by an opportunistic homeowner whose famous self-serving attorney is out for blood. It was fascinating to learn the legal ramifications of a simple construction defect. Easy reading. Good character depictions. Great plot and subplots. Suspenseful. Can't believe it was that author's first work.

...legal wrangling, romance, suspense, a plot with twists and turns, a bit of violence, and even some useful information make this book hard to put down. I'm glad I bought the Kindle for iPhone version, so I could continue reading whenever and wherever I had a moment. Ruddy has an easy flowing writing style that is a pleasure to read. He builds a colorful cast of characters, some you love and some you love to hate. I look forward to his next book.

Engrossing read. Could not put it down. Within a few pages the reader is hooked. By the first third of the book, if your blood is not boiling with indignation of behalf of the protagonists, you do not have a pulse. Cannot wait for the author's next book.

Conflicts With Interest is a legal thriller that will have you ready to strangle some of the lawyers involved in a frivolous lawsuit over a home that had leaking windows. Just when you think the whole thing can't get any more ridiculous, it does, and to an extent that you might not have imagined. You read about things such as this in the paper but this book lays out the details of how this suit came about and how it proceeds and it just boggles the mind. But you can see from the way it unfolds that this sort of case is something that could happen and is probably why houses cost as much as they do these days. This was an entertaining read about a builder, T.R. and his son, Ryan who are sued by Steve Sanderson of a law firm called Sinclair, Sanderson and Starr. It's defect litigation for a home they built that could have easily been cleared up without a lawsuit but gets way out of control. The story is set in the San Francisco Bay area and if you've ever lived or spent time there, you'll recognize many of the restaurants and areas of San Francisco and Marin county where the story

takes place. It really gives a good sense of the area. Between the several insurance companies involved and the different law firms that get caught up in the suit, it becomes a little confusing at times, but I think Michael Ruddy does a good job of helping us keep the characters straight by making them interesting and very different from one another. It's easy to empathize with the main characters and feel their frustration as the story unfolds. It's the kind of book you can't put down once you get into it.

T.R. Morgan is drawing blank on the river. And the sharks are lurking in the shadows of these rough waters. An amateur poker player, he is in way too deep while chopping the blocks in a ring game that features the big guns. Morgan then deals an ignorant end with a beautiful woman by sucking on a fat stogie to ease the pain after he checks out of the action and ultimately proceeds to have his fire bets extinguished in craps. But the worst is on the horizon as Morgan cuts his losses when the casino does not grant him additional credit in this exercise in futility. He may be stripped of more than pride in an upcoming high-stakes game - with his home building company in the big blind - inside a courtroom that is stacked with some real wise guys. Author Michael Ruddy deals a meticulous hand of dialogue-driven action in *Conflicts with Interest* (January 2010, Rodeo Publishing), a novel which explores the sordid side of trial attorneys through an egotistical and politically-connected giant in this public chess match on shakedown street. Steve Sanderson is a master at gaining huge awards for his "beleaguered" clients in the tricky marketplace of defect litigation of new homes. "(His) reputation for litigation success and excessive jury awards was spreading quickly throughout the country," writes Ruddy. "The major homebuilders and insurance companies were the first to feel the financial strain. It was clearly his strategy and trademark - a numbers game. The more defendants names, the higher the probability of multiple, lucrative settlements for Sanderson." (He) had tapped some serious insurance company reserves and wiped out another developer. He was feeling good about the settlement cash, but regretted not going to trial. "With the Bay Area as a backdrop, Ruddy takes the reader on a tour of law firms that yearn for a piece of this possible lucrative payout, while diving into the blind ambitions of the powerful when storm clouds block the moon in the midnight hour; the illegal trafficking of those who are seeking crumbs from a miniscule slice of the American Dream and the type of illicit drugs that separate the "recreational" user in the boardroom from street people looking for a quick fix." I believe that while we've been designing and building homes, the rest of the country has been busy suing each other to death," says Morgan to his son, Ryan, who is also facing charges in this case. "This tort stuff is out of control. The legal disease has invaded the construction industry. Not just tobacco and

medical anymore." "Money happened, Ryan, easy money. Just figure out the system's rules and bypass around them. Everybody in here, most likely, is doing the same thing. Most of them, though, haven't found the bypass." "Morgan is not content to permit the contest to follow a script like a pro wrestling event, with the attorneys dishing out "punishment" that only looks real to those sitting in the gallery and joking around once they return to their cozy offices. He takes a stand against Sanderson, but will need to complete a straight flush to snatch victory from the iron jaws of defeat. And there may be more than dead money involved when a floorman arrives with a deck of clearly marked cards.

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