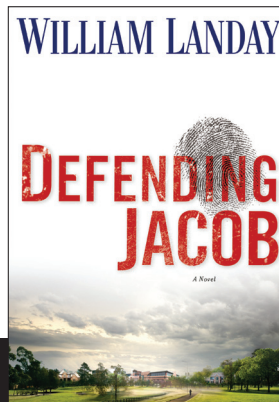




THE MOST
BUZZED-ABOUT
THRILLER OF THE YEAR



DEFENDING JACOB

ON SALE JANUARY 31, 2012

“DEFENDING JACOB is smart, sophisticated—and suspenseful.”

—LEE CHILD, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author

“Andy Barber, a respected First Assistant DA, must face the unthinkable in Dagger Award-winner Landay’s harrowing third suspense novel... Landay, a former DA, mixes gritty court reporting with Andy’s painful confrontation with himself, forcing readers willy-nilly to realize the end is never the end when, as Landay claims, the line between truth and justice has become so indistinct as to appear imaginary. **This searing narrative proves the ancient Greek tragedians were right: the worst punishment is not death but living with what you—knowingly or unknowingly—have done.**”

—★ *Publishers Weekly*

“Landay’s two previous novels were award winners, but he reaches a new level of excellence with this **riveting, knock-your-socks-off** legal thriller. With its **masterfully crafted characterizations and dialogue, emotional depth, and frightening implications**, the novel **rivals the best of Scott Turow and John Grisham. Don’t miss it.**”

—★ *Booklist*

A FEBRUARY INDIE NEXT LIST PICK



On Tour With William Landay 2012

Boston, MA
Kansas City, KS
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Denver, CO
Phoenix, AZ
Chicago, IL
San Francisco, CA
Seattle, WA
Portland, OR

Available Upon Request
Wednesday, February 1
Thursday, February 2
Friday, February 3
Saturday, February 4
Sunday, February 5
Tuesday, February 7
Wednesday, February 8
Thursday, February 9

by William Landay

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ON TOUR WITH WILLIAM LANDAY 2012

Boston, MA	Tuesday, January 31 7:00 PM <i>Talk & Signing</i>	Barnes & Noble 98 Middlesex Turnpike Burlington, MA 01803 Phone: 781/273-3871
Houston, TX	Thursday, February 2 6:30 PM <i>Talk & Signing</i>	Murder By The Book 2342 Bissonnet Street Houston, TX 77005 Phone: 713/524-8597
Denver, CO	Friday, February 3 7:30 PM <i>Talk & Signing</i>	Tattered Cover - Highlands Ranch 9315 Dorchester Street Highlands Ranch, CO 80129 Phone: 303/470-7050
Phoenix, AZ	Saturday, February 4 2:00 PM <i>Talk & Signing</i>	Poisoned Pen 4014 North Goldwater, Suite 101 Scottsdale, AZ 85251 Phone: 480/947-2974
Chicago, IL	Sunday, February 5 2:00 PM <i>Talk & Signing</i>	Barnes & Noble 55 Old Orchard Center Skokie, IL 60077 Phone: 847/676-2230
San Francisco, CA	Tuesday, February 7 7:00 PM <i>Talk & Signing</i>	Book Passage 51 Tamal Vista Boulevard Corte Madera, CA 94925 Phone: 415/927-0960
Seattle, WA	Wednesday, February 8 Noon <i>Signing</i> 7:00 PM <i>Talk & Signing</i>	Seattle Mystery 117 Cherry Street Seattle, WA 98104 Phone: 206/587-5737 Third Place Books 17171 Bothell Way NE Lake Forest Park, WA 98155 Phone: 206/366-3316
Portland, OR	Thursday, February 9 7:00 PM <i>Talk & Signing</i>	Powell's Books - Cedar Hills Crossing 3415 SW Cedar Hills Boulevard Beaverton, OR 97005 Store: 503/228-4651
Boston, MA	Wednesday, February 15 7:00 PM <i>Talk & Signing</i>	Brookline Booksmith 279 Harvard Street Brookline, MA 02446 Store: 617/566-6660
Boston, MA	Thursday, March 1 7:00 PM <i>Talk & Signing</i>	Newtonville Books 296 Walnut Street Newton, MA 02460-1907 Store: 617/244-6619



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Cindy Murray

Associate Director of Publicity

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Dear Editor/Producer:

In the past few months, we here at Ballantine Bantam Dell have had the pleasure of introducing industry colleagues to William Landay's brilliant new thriller, **DEFENDING JACOB**. And the feedback has been unanimous. Everyone who has read **DEFENDING JACOB** compares the experience to reading *Presumed Innocent* for the first time. It's that powerful.

Libby McGuire, Publisher of BBD, summed up all the enthusiasm: "**DEFENDING JACOB** is one of those special novels that pull you in and keep you enthralled, from the first page to final sentence. And then it haunts you. The questions it raises simply won't let you go. What would you do if this happened to your family? How would you handle it? Could you live with yourself later?"

And we are not the only ones who have been so affected by this novel. Lee Child has praised **DEFENDING JACOB** as "smart, sophisticated, and suspenseful—capturing both the complexity and the stunning fragility of family life." Other bestselling authors have called it "unforgettable," "brilliantly conceived," "a novel that comes along maybe once a decade."

Merging the best elements of a thriller and a courtroom drama, at its core **DEFENDING JACOB** is a superbly told love story—the love of an ordinary family: husband and wife; parent and son—and of the lengths a person will go to protect that love. As William Landay says, "Tolstoy was wrong: happy families are not all alike. If you're lucky enough to have one, be thankful. It can all be taken from you."

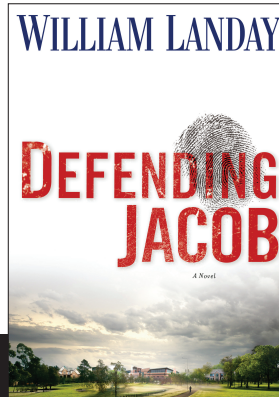
I urge you to read **DEFENDING JACOB**. I hope you'll agree this is one of the finest thrillers you've ever read.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Murray".



THE MOST
BUZZED-ABOUT
THRILLER OF THE YEAR



DEFENDING JACOB

by William Landay

ON SALE JANUARY 31, 2012

Andy Barber has been an assistant district attorney in his suburban Massachusetts county for more than twenty years. He is respected in his community, tenacious in the courtroom, and happy at home with his wife, Laurie, and son, Jacob. But when a shocking crime shatters their New England town, Andy is blindsided by what happens next: His fourteen-year-old son is charged with the murder of a fellow student.

Every parental instinct Andy has rallies to protect his boy. Jacob insists that he is innocent, and Andy believes him. Andy must. He's his father. But as damning facts and shocking revelations surface, as a marriage threatens to crumble and the trial intensifies, as the crisis reveals how little a father knows about his son, Andy will face a trial of his own—between loyalty and justice, between truth and allegation, between a past he's tried to bury and a future he cannot conceive.

Award-winning author William Landay has written the consummate novel of an embattled family in crisis—a suspenseful, character-driven mystery that is also a spellbinding tale of guilt, betrayal... and of the terrifying speed at which our lives can spin out of control.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

WILLIAM LANDAY is the author of *The Strangler*, a *Los Angeles Times* Favorite Crime Book of the Year, and *Mission Flats*, winner of the Creasey Memorial Dagger Award for Best First Crime Novel and a Barry Award nominee. A former district attorney who holds degrees from Yale and Boston College Law School, Landay lives in Boston, where he is at work on his next novel of suspense.

DEFENDING JACOB by William Landay

A Delacorte Press Hardcover • On Sale January 31, 2012

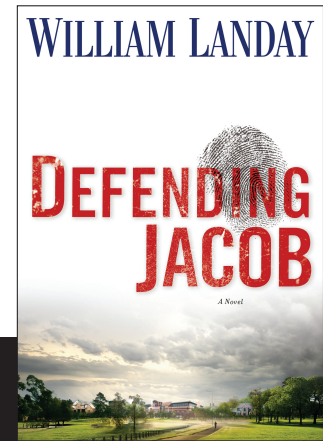
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A Q&A WITH
WILLIAM LANDAY
AUTHOR OF



ON SALE JANUARY 31, 2012

DEFENDING JACOB

What was your motivation in writing a thriller about a family in crisis?

I'd written a couple of novels before *DEFENDING JACOB* that were more traditional crime novels set entirely in the world of cops and criminals. I was an assistant district attorney and at the time I wrote those books, the crime world was something I thought about quite a lot. By the time I started *DEFENDING JACOB*, though, I had left the DA's office and become a full-time writer — and, most importantly, a father. So I decided to write something that was closer to my heart, a book that reflected my own life, given how my life had changed.

I have two kids, boys who are seven and ten years old as I write this, so I understand how vulnerable our children make us, emotionally. We all want good things for our children. We all want to be good parents, make good decisions, do the right thing. And of course we all want to feel proud of our kids. But for a certain percentage of us, an unlucky few, it won't work out that way. Some good parents — smart, well-meaning, conscientious people who do everything right — will see their kids wander into trouble anyway. It's a risk you take when you have kids, and every parent knows it.

DEFENDING JACOB began as a way to bring together these two parts of my life, the world of criminal law and especially of prosecutors, and the world of raising kids in the suburbs. (I suppose this would be the time to point out that my own two boys have nothing at all to do with Jacob Barber. The only crime my kids have ever committed is not listening to their father, though they are repeat offenders.)

Has your experience working as an Assistant District Attorney shaped *DEFENDING JACOB*?

Absolutely. I was an Assistant DA for several years in the 1990s, and many of the details in the book grew directly out of that experience. The prosecutor's office portrayed in *DEFENDING JACOB*, the Middlesex County (Massachusetts) DA's Office, is the same one where I worked — though the characters themselves are entirely fictional. (Yes, really.) And Jacob's murder trial is described in as much authentic detail as good storytelling allows.

But the book shows the influence of my years as a prosecutor in less obvious ways, too. Those years as an ADA made me more aware of crime, of its danger and pervasiveness and, I admit, its drama. I remember, when I first left the DA's office, how strange it seemed that no one else ever thought about crime very much. My days had been filled with every kind of crime, at least with the lawyers' work of sorting out what to do about it after the fact. My colleagues and I talked about our cases constantly, about this or that defendant or witness or cop or lawyer. But to most ordinary people, certainly to my neighbors in the comfortable town where I was living, crime was "out there," it was theoretical. Statistically, they were unlikely ever to be touched by it directly. They were innocent, in a sense. Not naive, but innocent. As a writer — particularly as a crime writer searching for interesting new settings — that is a promising opportunity.

In the book, it's not a spoiler to say that the Barber family, respected members of the community, are faced with the very real prospect of losing everything when their son Jacob is accused of a vicious crime. How accurate is the portrayal of their plight?

Thankfully, I don't know. In my work as a prosecutor, I had virtually no contact with defendants' families. Prosecutors spend lots of time with victims and their families, obviously, but victimhood does not carry the same social stigma.

Still, I remember looking across the courtroom at the defendants' families sitting in the front row of the spectators' gallery, particularly the parents. Some were belligerent, eyes narrowed, jaws firm; they defended their children to the hilt, never seemed to admit the slightest doubt about their son's innocence (it was usually a son) or the justice of releasing him back into the public. Others were plainly suffering; their son was caught in the teeth of the criminal justice system and there was nothing they could do to help him.

The plight of defendants' parents came home to me most vividly in a famous case prosecuted well after I'd left the DA's office. In that case the defendant's parents were both lawyers, the mother a prosecutor, the father a criminal defense attorney. Throughout a long trial that was splashed all over the newspapers and TV, these two lawyer-parents never spoke a word in public, never reacted to anything in court. They sat stone-faced, unwilling to give the jury or the media anything at all. Whatever their son might have done, it was impossible not to feel for them. Bad things do happen to good people, after all.

***DEFENDING JACOB* explores the emerging science of behavioral genetics and neurocriminology — the notion that, as a predictor of criminal behavior, nature may indeed be as significant as nurture. Can you tell us about your research into this, the legal and ethical implications, and what personal conclusions you came away with?**

I'm not a scientist, but I find this emerging science of "behavioral genetics" really fascinating. Essentially the idea is that physical factors — very specific genetic mutations or malfunctioning of the brain — may create a biological tendency toward violence. This is cutting-edge stuff. The effort to map the human genome began only twenty years ago and was completed less than ten years ago. The implications for science and medicine obviously are enormous.

But we've heard less about what these biological triggers might mean for law and crime. To a lawyer, it is a simple problem of proof: it is one thing to identify a statistical link between a certain genetic mutation and aggressive behavior; it is a heck of a lot harder to prove in court that Joe Smith committed a crime because he inherited that genetic marker.

For novelists — and readers — the question is really much bigger: what does this new science say about us — all of us, not just criminals? What does it say about our human nature? Our discussions of the nature/nurture question have always tilted in the direction of nurture. We like to believe we can be anything we want to be. We like to believe we are independent, free-willed, masters of our own fate. The suggestion that we might be wrong — that we are hardwired to behave in certain ways, that nature may play a larger role than we ever imagined — challenges a lot of assumptions we make about ourselves. What if we are not free but fated — by genetic inheritance or by physical damage to our brains — to behave in violent ways?

The haunting idea of a "murder gene" or a "warrior gene" is particularly subversive in criminal cases. The law generally presumes we are responsible for our own conduct. It presumes we decide to commit crimes. Defendants who cannot actually decide to misbehave — because they are insane or under age, most commonly — are considered

less culpable. Is the “murder gene” a new category, a new exception to the general rule? Rather than “not guilty by reason of insanity,” will we someday be saying “not guilty by reason of inherited tendency to violence”?

To my knowledge, the “murder gene” defense has never worked in court in this country, though it has been offered in mitigation at sentencing. But in Italy last year, a man convicted of what would, in the U.S., be called second-degree murder or manslaughter had his sentence reduced on appeal on the grounds that he exhibited genetic mutations and brain abnormalities that caused him to be violent. One of the abnormalities the Italian defendant had was a mutation in his DNA called “MAOA Knockout” — precisely the “murder gene” that Jacob Barber inherits.

For futurists and novelists, think of the implications of behavioral genetics. What if we tested children for the “warrior gene” when they entered kindergarten? Should students who test positive be monitored or tracked differently, for the protection of their classmates? Should the children of violent criminals be tested? What if a pregnant mother could be told her unborn child carries this dangerous genetic marker? Should the police be informed that certain citizens are genetically predisposed to become violent, to protect everyone else? On the other hand, there is a long and bloody history of this sort of thinking. The lethal danger of “eugenics” haunts all our discussions — and rightly so.

Today’s generation of parents is known for closely monitoring our children — including social media, which plays an important role in the case against Jacob Barber. As a parent with first-hand experience of how dangerous this world can be, how do you balance trust and the responsibility to keep your children safe?

It’s a real challenge for all parents today. Every web-connected device is a portal to all sorts of unhealthy material, including hardcore pornography. Parents have to be very, very careful. At the same time, you have to trust and respect your kids. It’s a very hard balance to strike. In *DEFENDING JACOB*, ordinary parents are shocked at what they find when they finally do check out what their son has been up to on the internet. I think that is probably a common experience, or would be if more parents were more alert to the danger.

On the other hand, kids have always kept secrets from their parents. They have always passed notes in class and whispered on the phone. Social media just introduced a new and powerful way for kids to do what they’ve always done. What certainly does change with social media is the broadcast aspect of communication, the ability to send the message to a large, unseen audience.

Not sure there are any easy answers here. Trust your kids, but watch them. Use and understand the same online tools they are using. And pray like hell that it all works out.

Was *DEFENDING JACOB* based on any real cases that you worked on?

No. There were several kid-on-kid homicides that took place during the writing, in Massachusetts where I live and elsewhere, but honestly there was no particular case that inspired it. In fact, I have been surprised at how often people say to me, “Your book reminds me of such-and-such.” These cases keep coming up all over the country. It happens over and over, and we are shocked every time. For parents, some crimes just hit close to home, I suppose. That our kids live in the same dangerous world we do — that their world may actually be *more* dangerous — is a troubling thought.

The extreme situation that Jacob’s parents are faced with will make readers question how they would react in a similar situation. Do you think writing *DEFENDING JACOB* has changed you as a parent and husband?

I think it's very hard for any of us to know how we might react in Andy or Laurie Barber's place. Personally, I suspect I have a bit of both Andy and Laurie in me. I am intensely loyal, as Andy is, and I can easily imagine myself standing by my son right or wrong, as Andy does. It's hard for me to imagine anything that could ever, ever separate me from my child. At the same time, like a lot of novelists I tend to stand back a little, to watch from a corner of the room. I'm sure that, like Laurie, I would have to look at the mounting evidence and begin to wonder, "What should we do *if*?"

Has writing the novel changed me? Well, it's certainly been a sobering exercise to imagine my own worst fears in such vivid, excruciating detail. But there is a payoff: it is useful to be reminded that a family is a fragile thing. And that is the power of novels, isn't it? You get to live for a while as another person, you step right into his consciousness, his thought-stream, you get to feel what it is like to be someone else. I suspect that, after being Andy Barber for a while, readers will return to their own families with fresh eyes. I certainly hope so, anyway. Tolstoy was wrong: happy families are not all alike. If you're lucky enough to have one, as I do, be thankful. It can all be taken from you.

As a parent, do you think it's really ever possible to be completely objective and unbiased when it comes to your kids?

Completely objective and unbiased, no. But every parent has moments where you see your child at a little distance, where you think, "This kid really is his own person — another human being, not just an extension of myself." Those moments feel a little sad, actually. You feel a little sense of separation, a precursor of the Big Separation that all parents have to steel themselves for, when the child finally leaves the family to go off into the world as a young adult. But completely unbiased? No way. We're all like Andy Barber, deep down. We see with our hearts.