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# The King of Lies: A Novel

*By John Hart*



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## The King of Lies: A Novel By John Hart

John Hart creates a literary thriller that is as suspenseful as it is poignant, a riveting murder mystery layered beneath the southern drawl of a humble North Carolina lawyer. When Work Pickens finds his father murdered, the investigation pushes a repressed family history to the surface and he sees his own carefully constructed façade begin to crack.

Work's troubled sister, her combative girlfriend, his gold digging socialite wife, and an unrequited lifelong love join a cast of small town characters that create no shortage of drama in this extraordinary, fast-paced suspense novel.

Hart's mastery of prose and plot belie his newcomer status as he explores the true heart of a man. An illuminating anatomy of a murder and the ripple effect it produces within a family and a community, *The King of Lies* is a stunning debut.



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## **The King of Lies: A Novel By John Hart Bibliography**

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

*Starred Review.* Hart's stunning debut, an exceptionally deep and complex mystery thriller, compares favorably to the best of Scott Turow. Jackson Workman Pickens, whom most people call "Work," is a struggling North Carolina criminal defense attorney. Work has wrestled with inner demons for most of his life, especially after the death of his mother and the disappearance of his wealthy father, Ezra Pickens, a highly successful lawyer who took him into his practice. Trapped in a loveless marriage and haunted by poor emotional choices and his sister's psychological trauma, Work finds himself under suspicion when his father's corpse surfaces more than a year after Ezra was last seen alive. Work's quest for the truth behind his father's demise opens old wounds and forces him to face the consequences of his own decisions. Few readers will be able to resist devouring this tour-de-force in one or two sittings—or clamoring for more John Hart. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From School Library Journal

Adult/High School—Jackson Workman Pickens, or Work, has always lived in the shadow of his larger-than-life father, a respected attorney. His life as he knows it—the law practice he shares with his father, the beautiful home and socialite wife—is a tribute to Ezra Pickens's ideas of success. When Ezra is found shot to death, Work is ambivalent about helping the police find the killer, afraid that the path will lead to his younger sister, Jean. Only he and Jean know how abusive their father was and how his actions ultimately led to their mother's death. Work's reticence only serves to reinforce the lead detective's belief that he is the guilty party, especially since he stands to inherit over \$15 million. As Work becomes more enmeshed in a web of circumstantial evidence, he learns that his sister's partner, Alexandria, was convicted of killing her own abusive father, and he begins to fear for his sister's safety as well as his own. Hart has crafted a mystery with fully developed characters and a fast-paced and intelligent plot. He not only gives readers plenty of action and suspense, but also delves unflinchingly into the dynamics of family relationships. Teens who enjoy Grisham and Turow will want to be among the first to read this exciting new voice in the mystery genre.—*Kim Dare, Fairfax County Public Schools, VA*

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

John Hart, a former criminal defense attorney, has written a character-driven whodunit that has critics effusive with praise. Compared to John Grisham and Scott Turow, Hart crafts a story filled with trauma, intrigue, plot twists (with some foreshadowing), and measured, powerful prose. Set in a Southern town, the story chronicles Work's descent into hell as he replays his relationship with his father, recognizes his "flawed" soul, and finds a circuitous path to redemption. "He's an original voice in a crowded genre, a welcome addition to both the worlds of literature and suspense," notes the *Denver Post*. Fortunately, St. Martin's Press and Hart have struck a deal for two more books.

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## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Michael Floyd:**

Reading a book tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of

information that could give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire their very own reader with their story or their experience. Not only the story that share in the publications. But also they write about advantage about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your children, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors these days always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some study before they write for their book. One of them is this The King of Lies: A Novel.

### **Ira Gonzalez:**

The e-book with title The King of Lies: A Novel has lot of information that you can understand it. You can get a lot of profit after read this book. This kind of book exist new information the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world now. That is important to yo7u to understand how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you throughout new era of the glowbal growth. You can read the e-book in your smart phone, so you can read the item anywhere you want.

### **David Stephenson:**

In this era globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You can see that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. The book that recommended to you is The King of Lies: A Novel this reserve consist a lot of the information on the condition of this world now. That book was represented how does the world has grown up. The language styles that writer use for explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some exploration when he makes this book. Here is why this book appropriate all of you.

### **Lorraine Paisley:**

As a pupil exactly feel bored in order to reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library or make summary for some guide, they are complained. Just small students that has reading's heart and soul or real their passion. They just do what the trainer want, like asked to the library. They go to presently there but nothing reading really. Any students feel that studying is not important, boring in addition to can't see colorful photos on there. Yeah, it is being complicated. Book is very important for you. As we know that on this age, many ways to get whatever you want. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this The King of Lies: A Novel can make you really feel more interested to read.

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