

MAIN Characters in *Poison* by John Lescroart

Regarding 3 people with asterisk* - See Flipside

Our Hero, Family, & Partners

Dismas Hardy* - Defense Att'y, age 60+

- Frannie Hardy - his wife. They live in a rebuilt RR-style Victorian on 34th Ave near Clement. ***Their monthly(?) dinner club includes: Dismas & Frannie; Abe and Treya; Wes Farrell & Susan Duncan***
- Vincent Hardy - his son age 26; works at Facebook.
- Rebecca Hardy - his daughter age 28?; a 3rd yr associate in the Hardy law firm; she and Vinnie are half-siblings, but close.
- Phyllis - his long-time, no-nonsense secretary
- **Wyatt Hunt*** - the private investigator Hardy uses
 - └ Tamara Hunt - Wyatt's wife. They live in an old flower warehouse.

SFPD Cops

Lt. Devin Juhle - Head of the "Homicide Detail" [14 inspectors in detail]

- Inspector Eric Waverly - age 33; short fuse
- Inspector Ken Yamashiro - calm (Eric's partner)
- Inspector Darell Bracco
- Inspector Debra Schiff

Len Faro - Head of CSI

Victoria Lacy - Police photographer

Amit Patel - Medical Examiner [ch 21]

Prosecutors

Wes Farrell - SF County DA. Long-time friend of Hardy's and former partner in the Hardy law firm.

- Kathy Guerin - The ADA that presented the grand jury with the evidence against Abby Jarvis for Wagner murder.
- Paul Stier - another ADA
- **Abe Glitsky*** - age 63-ish; Investigator for the District Attorney; former Head of the SFPD Homicide Detail, and Hardy's "best and testiest friend" [pg 110-ish]
 - Treya - his 2nd wife (His 1st wife died of cancer when his son was about 5); also Treya is Wes Farrell's secretary.

Victims, Witnesses, & Suspects

Grant Wagner - victim; age 62 - not a heart attack! 4th gen

- owner of Pipes & Valves (P&V). Was killed about 1 month before book begins.
- Ginger Wagner - his 2nd wife, married 1994; age 70 w/ Alzheimer's
 - Joey Engel - her adopted son in 1994 [Grant's step-son]; high tech job - not involved in P&V
- Gary Wagner - eldest son now CEO
 - Eileen - his wife
- Grace Wagner Franklin - eldest daughter
 - Jim Franklin, her husband
- Gene Wagner - younger son, long-time CFO
 - Teri - his spendthrift wife
 - Abby Jarvis - his bookkeeper employee, accused of Grant's murder, and Hardy's client
 - Veronica [Ronnie] - Abby's 7 yr old daughter
- Gloria Wagner - younger daughter
 - Chad Loring, her finacé
- Stacy Holland - Grant's GF for 6 months before he dumped her 2 months before he died; age 38. Lives at Valencia St duplex

David Chang - victim; 2 bullets (neck & under jaw) at Clement St.

- apartment building. Was killed the same day that the book begins; an "entrepreneur."
- Wei and Jing Chang - victim's parents
- Sara Chang - age +/- 25; victim's sister
- Lou Honaker - witness [at first un-named] that heard 2 shots; older lady that lives in adjacent building [ch 2 & 9]
- Bill Kenney - + another guy & 2 women - all housemates of victim [ch 12]
- Chang's entrepreneur group

Books by John Lescroart in the Dismas Hardy Universe

	Title (Publication Date)	Lead Character		
		Dismas Hardy	Abe Glitsky	Wyatt Hunt
1	Dead Irish (1989)			
2	The Vig (1990)			
3	Hard Evidence (1993)			
4	The 13th Juror (1994)			
5	A Certain Justice (1995) †			
6	Guilt (1997) †			
7	The Mercy Rule (1998)			
8	Nothing but the Truth (2000)			
9	The Hearing (2001)			
10	The Oath (2002)			
11	The First Law (2003)			
12	The Second Chair (2004)			
13	The Motive (2005)			
14	The Hunt Club (2006)			
15	The Suspect (2007)			
16	Betrayal (2008)			
17	A Plague of Secrets (2009)			
18	Treasure Hunt (2010)			
19	Damage (2011)			
20	The Hunter (2012)			
21	The Ophelia Cut (2013)			
22	The Keeper (2014)			
23	The Fall (2015)			
24	Poison (2018)			
25	The Rule of Law (2019)			
26	The Missing Piece (2022)			

The books in the Dismas Hardy column are legal thrillers (but not the first two books, (*Dead Irish* and *The Vig*). Those first two books, along with the Glitsky and Hunt books, the author has said, are crime novels or crime thrillers.

The Dismas Hardy series begins in the mid-point of Hardy's life. Although he has already been a cop and a lawyer, life has been tough, and in the first two books he is just trying to adjust to his past. He works as "just a bartender" at the Little Shamrock - where he becomes a part owner... for the rest of the series.

Frannie is introduced in the first book and we learn how she became his 2nd wife.

Abe Glitsky, then a Jewish African-American SFPD homicide inspector, also appears in the very first book and in most, if not all, of the 26 novels. In three books, he is the lead character and Dismas Hardy is just a minor figure, a friend). At some point he is promoted to the position of Lieutenant in charge of the homicide detail. In later books, after the election of Wes Farrell as DA, he leaves the SFPD to work as an investigator for the District Attorney's office.

In the 3rd book, *Hard Evidence*, Hardy returns to the practice of law as a prosecutor, but ends up as a defense lawyer. Also in this book, David Freeman, a well respected defense lawyer is introduced. He is a continuing partner with Hardy in quite a few of the books.

The Wyatt Hunt Club books start with some background on Wyatt's life and how he got into the private investigator business (with a bit of help from an attorney working at the Hardy firm). Dismas is always a very minor character in these books, and, like many in the PI book-world, they are written in the first person.

All the characters age in real time. For example, Dismas is roughly 36 in the first book and roughly 65 in *Poison*.

† According to LesCroart: "In a real sense, *Guilt* is both a prequel and sequel to *A Certain Justice*. The events of *A Certain Justice* happen chronologically between Parts IV and V of *Guilt*."