



House Secrets

Mike Lawson

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Mike Lawson's previous novels starring Joe DeMarco, fixed for the Speaker of the House have earned him a loyal following from thriller aficionados and a place among the most talented and captivating thriller writers focusing on the dangerous games of our nation's capital.

In *House Secrets*, DeMarco is sent to investigate the death of a reporter, the son of one of his boss's old colleagues, even though it appears to be nothing more than an unfortunate accident. He soon learns that the reporter was on the trail of Senator Paul Morelli, a rising star considered a shoe-in for his party's presidential nomination. Some politicians are lucky, and Morelli has been luckier than most, but his past has already been thoroughly scrutinized and he looks clean. But then, why is DeMarco being followed by a pair of rogue agents who freelance for the CIA?

Dirty secrets, beltway politics, and divided loyalties threaten as DeMarco's investigation spirals dangerously out of control. Filled with surprising twists, a captivating plot, and excellent characters both old and new, *House Secrets* is Lawson's best book yet.

House Secrets Details

Date : Published July 8th 2009 by Atlantic Monthly Press

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Author : Mike Lawson

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From Reader Review House Secrets for online ebook

Tim says

While the bad guy got what he deserved in the end, too many lives were damaged or destroyed in the process. 4 of 10 stars

TraceyK says

5 Stars, as usual. I'm always impressed with Mike Lawson's books. That is why I just can not stop reading them one after the other. His stories really give the definition of political thriller.

Joe DeMarco, who has a law degree, but because his father was tied to the mob, he couldn't get a job anywhere. Lucky enough, thanks to old affairs, gets "employed" from the Speaker of the House, John Mahoney. Secretly.

Mahoney sends him out to an old friend whose son has died. He wants DeMarco to look around and see if anything doesn't sit right.

DeMarco goes on the ride of his life, figuratively and literally. A small known reporters death connects to some of the most higher up people. Who would have thought that DeMarco's hidden family ties could have actually helped in a very political situation.

I don't want to spoil too much, but this story was particularly good for me!

Suzanne says

This is the first book in the Joe DeMarco series that I have read, and I really enjoyed it! I'm a fan of political thrillers and Lawson does not disappoint. House Rules is multi-layered with interesting characters coming in and out of the story, it wasn't until the very end that it finally came together for me. I love books that keep you guessing!

Pierre Tassé says

A very insightful book and full of conspiracy theories and lots of interesting and easy reading when it comes to Joe DeMarco. Something that we all can relate to having watched TV or see what is going on in the US Politics in 2018.

Jennie says

A highly entertaining, fast paced thriller with a complex plot, mix of nice and not so not characters that ebb and flow around the not so heroic lead character Joe DeMarco. Joe is an investigator for the Speaker of the House and investigates and sorts problems that arise for politicians on Capitol Hill. Joe is sent to investigate the death of a reporter which leads him to look into Senator Paul Morelli, up and coming rising star and possible future president. Joe discovers that evil lurks under the senator's charismatic facade.

This is #4 in the series, I am going back to fill in the gaps as this was an entertaining and engaging read and I

am looking forward to reading more of Lawson's down too earth and laid-backed investigator.

Donna says

I have enjoyed this series by Mike Lawson (the Joe DeMarco series). He writes solid thriller type books. I love his characters. They are well drawn and they all serve a purpose. I always hate it when the sole purpose of all the other characters is to stroke the ego of the MC and to make the MC look the best thing out there. Thankfully, Mike Lawson doesn't fall into that trap.

He also writes great stories that are creative. I've read a few books in this series and have enjoyed them all.

Hayfaa says

It was a smooth reading with clear writings.. but somehow the story was not that much appealing to me, but having read it with the elections of USA 2016 happening in parallel (President Trump elected on 9 of Nov) , it made me think more of the powers of the President. . and it felt scary.. it gave me a lot of thoughts. .but well the ending was still satisfying(what I needed!! because of all the frustration I've built for the Senator Morelli).

Terence M says

Interesting and intriguing political and criminal drama. An enjoyable and easy to finish novel, well narrated by Joe Barrett, with an under-hyped and credible Joe DeMarco as the main protagonist. Recommended. 4.0 out of 5.0 stars.

Bill Mchargue says

Best book by Mike Lawson yet!

Maddy says

PROTAGONIST: Joe DeMarco

SETTING: Washington, DC

RATING: 4.5

SERIES: # 4 of 4

The Joe DeMarco series are political thrillers with a difference. The protagonist is a lawyer who works in Congress at the will of the Speaker of the House, John Fitzpatrick Mahoney. DeMarco serves as a “fixer”, the person who smooths things over that are about to cause trouble. He doesn't officially show as reporting to Mahoney; he has some small measure of independence that leaves folks guessing about who is calling the shots. Joe isn't your standard political hack; he has a sense of humor and a cynical attitude that keeps things

real.

DeMarco's latest assignment is to work with ex-Congressman Dick Finley whose reporter son has died in what Finley feels are suspicious circumstances. Terry Finley was no Bob Woodward, but it appeared he had the lead on a story about a political scandal involving golden boy Senator Paul Morelli who it is widely assumed will be the next presidential candidate. Upon meeting Morelli, DeMarco is taken by his passion and ethics and feels that Finley had been following the wrong trail. But then he finds himself being tailed by some CIA freelancers and wonders what is really going on.

What's really going on is a startling tale, with twists and turns galore. Morelli has been raked over the coals in the past and always come up clean. His alcoholic wife is among his biggest detractors—why does she have it in for her gifted husband? Lawson has created an engrossing plot, full of sinister characters from both sides of the law. The dirty secrets that he uncovers feel like they've been ripped from today's headlines.

HOUSE SECRETS is the fourth in the Joe DeMarco series, which is rapidly becoming a favorite for me. The characterization is excellent, starting with the protagonist and stretching to the secondary players, who exemplify good and evil in all its guises. The look at the various political machinations from one who is in the midst of the politicians is fascinating. This is an excellent political thriller, and I highly recommend it.

Matt says

I quite enjoyed this book, as the DeMarco series progresses. I am sure that Lawson is coming up with new and exciting ways for Joe to delve into his past and pull out some great adventures.

While Lawson does base his novels on true political events, however vague they may be, he does individualise the entire plot and makes it come to life. I am never sure what waits around the corner and really look forward to things progressing.

I am almost caught up to his book series, but always want more Lawson. Addictive for sure.

B.R. Stateham says

First, let me say Mike Lawson is a flawless, smooth writer. You start one of his novels and the pages just speed by you effortlessly. Let me also say that the main character in the novel, Joe DeMarco, is a dichotomy of viewpoints for me. On one hand you kinda like the guy. His job is interesting and he's got an interesting personality. But only up to a point. On the other hand, for a 'fixer' for the Speaker of the House (doing the dirty work for the Speaker of the House) the man should have more of an 'edge.' He doesn't. And that's irritating.

Still, if you're looking for an excellent read from a master storyteller, you can't go wrong with a Lawson novel. I would recommend all of the Joe DeMarco novels.

Margaret says

I'm on a roll reading Wash, DC based spy/thriller books. We're all being bombarded with all kinds of unsettling news from DC, so why not escape sideways a bit into real fiction land? (Or is it...? Hard to discern nowadays between fact and fiction...) But - take heart - this nifty, easy on the brain series is big on Just Desserts, and the hero, Joe DeMarco, is refreshingly human in a likable sort of way. I grew up in the DC area so any book that takes place there is like visiting home.

Chris Degregorio says

TWO THINGS I ENJOY OR APPRECIATE

- Even though this book is fiction, it was very realistic and easy to believe that it could happen in real life.
- There weren't any dull moments in this book, it kept the reader engaged.

ONE LITERARY ASPECT

- The book is told from a third person omniscient point of view. This lets the reader piece together parts of the story that the protagonist doesn't yet know.

ONE DRAMATIC ASPECT

- The author describes everything from the setting to the characters in vivid detail. I can clearly picture what each character looks like, where they are, and what they are doing.

ONE CINEMATIC ASPECT

- This book is split up into over sixty chapters but each one is only a few pages long. This would be easy to make into a film because each chapter could be one scene. The setting is in various cities across the United States in present time so filming would be extremely easy.

MY PREDICTION FOR THE ENDING

- I don't have a prediction because i finished reading the book.
-

Ranusia says

Fun and thought provoking political thriller. Was definitely rooting for Joe DeMarco. Brought a lot of thoughts on the current political situation. Didn't realize this was part of series by the author. It would have been nice to work from the first book to the current one. One can read this one though without having read the others.
