



## 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.

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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:

**Lisa Cook:**

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everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even restricted. What people must be consider if those information which is from the former life are difficult to be find than now could be taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen with you if you take The King of Lies: A Novel as your daily resource information.

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**Doug Campbell:**

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