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# 1324: A Dark Thriller



## Synopsis

"Love, hope, betrayal, murder" 13:24 has all the standard components of a great murder mystery, pulling you into several concurrent story lines as you puzzle out how all of the pieces will fit together in the end. And it does that oh, so well. But, as with all good books, 13:24 has a twist and it's that twist that truly pushes it over the edge into a fantastic read. • " Games Fiends An Best Seller in Vigilante Justice Thrillers Detective William Hursel has worked countless murder cases, staring down the cruelest deeds humanity has to offer. But nothing prepares him for the evil he found while pursuing 14-year-old Chris, a suspect in the brutal rage-killing of his own mother. While neighbors focus on Chris' odd obsession with the violent, blasphemous heavy metal band, Rehoboam, Hursel suspects a deeper motive — a hunch that is confirmed when Chris' second victim is discovered. Honored with a Starred Review in Publishers Weekly's Best Books Annual Issue Chris wanted a dad and he thought he'd found one in Andrew. Charming and successful, Andrew swept Chris' mother off of her feet. But Andrew's architecture firm conceals a vile secret. When Chris discovers the depths of Andrew's evil and realizes the truth of his own mother's involvement, he sets off on a bloody path of justice and revenge. Pursued by police and threatened by powerful criminals, Chris races toward a life-or-death confrontation with his ultimate target. Hundreds of 5-Star Ratings on Goodreads Meanwhile, Rehoboam's lead singer, Josh, thinks he may finally be ready to take the next step in his relationship with the band's fiery female drummer. But when news of Chris' crime spree triggers flashbacks of a harsh, fundamentalist upbringing, Josh finds his glamorous penthouse life unexpectedly interrupted. Linked to Detective Hursel's investigation by his cryptic responses to Chris' fan-club letters, Josh must eventually choose between clearing his name and keeping the secrets of his past. "a shocking blitzkrieg of murder, conspiracy, and child abuse" — Publishers Weekly "intensely involving as the plot hastens to its climax" • Kirkus Reviews "succeeded in unnerving me" — Darkness Beckons "a hard-hitting, emotionally charged crime story" — Midwest Book Review "Riveting and appropriately disturbing from cover to cover" — San Francisco Book Review "doesn't let go till the end" — Fresh Fiction Top 10 Best Seller in Vigilante Justice Thrillers Recorded August 2016 -

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## Book Information

File Size: 3463 KB

Print Length: 378 pages

Publisher: Rehoboam Press (March 22, 2014)

Publication Date: March 22, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00J6Y66IG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #10,023 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #10 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Abuse > Child Abuse #12 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Dysfunctional Relationships #60 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Crime > Vigilante Justice

## **Customer Reviews**

M. Dolon Hickmon comes to this book '13:24 with a rather profound depth of background. He is young, a survivor of child abuse and an activist in writing about child abuse and corporal punishment and as a proponent of Child Friendly Faith Project. Frustrated that books on PTSD and child abuse get little attention except from those in the business of treating patients and victims, Hickmon decided to combine his own experiences and create a contemporary mystery thriller that would hopefully find a broader audience to help educate the world about the particular problems with child abuse. His mission is successful: 13:24 is a spellbinding novel that pleads to be a film. Rather than attempt to distill the plot, the PR summary states the basics well: 'Teenage Chris knocks on the door of his mother's ex-boyfriend--then shoots the man dead in premeditated fashion. Hours later, an officer responding to a loud music complaint discovers a second body (female....) surrounded by a gruesome scene. With few clues to explain 'why', blame for the crimes settles on Chris's obsession with the dark and violent heavy-metal band, Rehoboam. Reporters broadcast this speculation under sensational headlines, but detective William Hursel is convinced there is a deeper motive. Trailing Chris, William uncovers an underworld where human traffickers ply the wealthy with

unseemly indulgences. Meanwhile, Rehoboam's lead singer, Josh, thinks he may finally be ready to take the next step in his relationship with the band's fiery female drummer. But when news of Chris's crime spree triggers flashbacks of a harsh, fundamentalist upbringing, Josh finds his career and his romance unexpectedly interrupted.

A good lesson for me is to never judge a book by its cover, literally. Before I start my review I have to confess that when *13:24* first came to my attention I had no interest in reading it, not even with Vyckie Garrison of NLQ's recommendation. I took one look at the cover, saw the shaggy-haired heavy metal lead singer and the animal skull above and decided this book wasn't something I'd be interested in. I knew there would be descriptions of physical and spiritual abuse and figured I was not going there again because this book would trigger me as well as be about heavy metal, a type of music that just isn't my favorite. But I have to admit it, was I extremely wrong! When I started reading *13:24* I was hooked from the first page. It is more than simply another book on spiritual abuse, at its heart the novel is more a who-done-it, a first rate crime novel coming from a unique angle. There are multiple stories and subjects tightly interwoven into an integral whole. It is one of those books that you cannot put down because you have to know what happens next and you're sitting on the edge of your seat dying to get to the next bit. The procedural cop epic has always been my personal favorite since my earliest television watching days. I could easily see *13:24* as a script for *Law and Order: SVU* or my all time favorite, *Homicide: Life on the Street*. You will find the type of plot twists that leave you guessing who the actual villain is. It feels very real and, like the creators of *Law and Order* love to say, "ripped from the headlines." The book also does what great procedurals do, introduce you to something you didn't know, a new sub culture or something just outside your comfortable life.

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