

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

Issue: August 1, 2013

The Last Alibi.

Ellis, David (Author)

Aug 2013. 480 p. Putnam, hardcover, \$26.95. (9780399158803).

Defense attorney Jason Kolarich (*The Wrong Man*, 2012) has always thrived on the courtroom's adrenaline rush, but pain and medications from a recent injury have dulled his interest. So, when new client James Drinker claims he's being framed for murder, Jason is not firing on all cylinders. As a preemptive strategy, he maps out the techniques the killer may be using to implicate his client. But Jason has missed cues suggesting that Drinker isn't who he claims to be, leaving Jason the unsuspecting target when Drinker uses those techniques to incriminate his lawyer in a string of murders on Chicago's North Side. Jason's clouded memory holds the key to Drinker's identity and motive for revenge, but he can't retrieve it in time to avoid arrest. The playing field then moves to the courtroom, Jason's turf, where he responds with an impressive but risky volley of Perry Masonesque maneuvers. Ellis' plotting is playful yet airtight and infused with enough warped psychology to provide lip-chewing thrills. This fourth Jason Kolarich novel is an excellent choice for readers who seek connections with powerful characters.

— *Christine Tran*