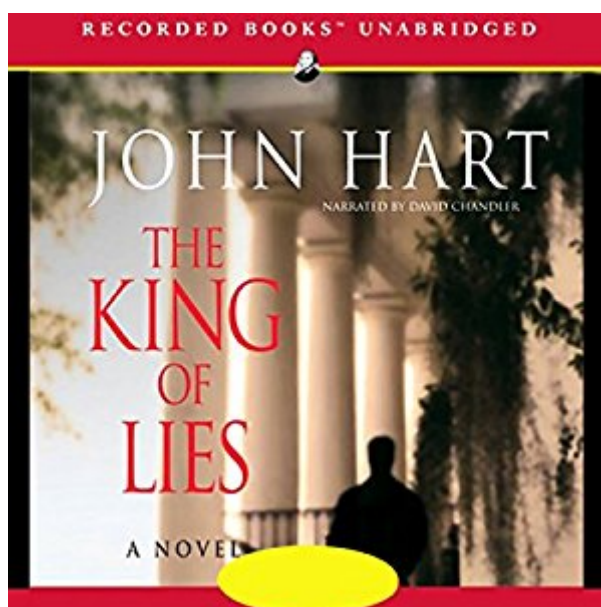


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The King Of Lies



Synopsis

From the masterful New York Times bestselling and two-time Edgar Award-winning author of *The Last Child* and *Down River*, comes this tour de force of murder and the dark ripples it sends through a man, his family and community. Jackson Workman Pickens—known to most as Work—mindlessly holds together his life: a failing law practice left to him when his father, Ezra, mysteriously disappeared, a distant wife, and a fragile sister, Jean, damaged by the shared past they've endured. And then Ezra's body is discovered. Set to inherit his father's fortune, Work becomes a prime suspect. But so does Jean. Fearing the worst, Work launches his own investigation, crossing paths with a power-hungry detective, a string of damning evidence, and the ugly rumors that swirl within his small, moneyed Southern town. Desperate for the redemption that has eluded him for so many years and stripped of everything he once valued, Work fights to save his sister, clear his name, and regain the love of the woman to whom he gave his heart so many years before. Praise for *King of Lies*: "The *King of Lies* moves and reads like a book on fire." ---Pat Conroy "Grisham-style intrigue and Turow-style brooding." --New York Times "[An] ambitious debut thrillerâ |a gripping performance." --People Magazine "Compares favorably to the best of Scott Turow" --Publishers Weekly (starred) "A striking new talent." --Entertainment Weekly --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

I really expected to like this book. The dust jacket is covered with praise of the highest order, in many cases from fine practitioners of the writing craft. So what went wrong? As my title explains, this

book uses too much foreboding and foreshadowing. Not since Thomas Cook have I seen someone who starts with such melodrama, then layers on globs of vague foreboding, and then lards over his product with thick globs of foreshadowing. It makes the first half of the book very hard to get through. Despite one of the endorsements claiming that this book will be read at 1-2 sittings, I had to stop half way through and read books by Richard Stark and Max Collins to get a head of steam back up for finishing *The King of Lies*. The second thing that went wrong is that I realized a third of the way through the book who did it. The basic plot is well thought out, and most authors could keep the reader in suspense until the book was almost done. But the heavy handedness of the foreshadowing betrays Hart's villain chapters too early, and the strongest asset of the book, its plot, is rendered moot by the premature set of clues that give the guilty party away. Several other reviewers have commented that the two halves of the book are almost like two different books. I agree emphatically. The protagonist, who seems to be in mammoth self-destruct mode for the first half of the book suddenly develops a spine in the second half and eventually solves the mystery of his father's death. The first half is a 1 star, the second a 3 to 4. Hart shows some real promise in this debut. The plot is quite well constructed. A few of the side characters are drawn with unusual depth. The legal aspects of the book ring very true.

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