

The Washington Post

‘The Cadaver King and the Country Dentist: A True Story of Injustice in the American South’

Radley Balko

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My new book hits the shelves today. I wrote “The Cadaver King and the Country Dentist” with Tucker Carrington, director of the George C. Cochran Innocence Project at the University of Mississippi School of Law. So as not to inundate you with book-related stuff, I think I’ll just compile reviews and book tour dates and post them here once a week.

First, here are some kind things some folks have written about the book thus far:

- Kirkus reviews: “A horrifying exposé of how a few individuals can infect an entire state’s criminal justice system”
- Publishers Weekly: “A clear and shocking portrait of the structural failings of the U.S. criminal justice system. ... This eminently readable book builds a hard-to-ignore case for comprehensive reform.”
- Booklist: “A searing investigation. ... This work should spark both admiration and outrage — and, one hopes, reform.”
- Library Journal: “A chilling, fact-filled narrative. ... Well-documented and accessible, with a definite point of view, this book ... is notable for its depth and geographic focus. This stinging exposé of faulty forensics is suited to the serious CSI enthusiast as well as students of criminal justice.”
- BookPage: “Compellingly written, *The Cadaver King and the Country Dentist* is a chilling reminder of what happens to the rule of law when the law forgets the rules.”
- Garden & Gun: “A blistering exposé of Mississippi’s bungle-prone process of investigating deaths.”
- Simple Justice: “An infuriating and important book. It deserves to be read. It needs to be read. Read it.”
- Local Voice (North Mississippi): “A brilliantly reported and enraging chronicle of decades-long abuses.”

The book was also named one of Amazon’s best nonfiction books for February, and we were fortunate enough to get some flattering jacket blurbs from Slate’s Dahlia Lithwick, National

Book Award winner Ibram Kendi, and James Forman Jr., author of the acclaimed “[Locking Up Our Own](#).” And [here’s a Q&A](#) my co-author and I recently did with Vice.

I also did a [Q&A with the Nashville Scene](#), and you can read excerpts both [there](#) and in the [new issue of Reason](#).

Finally, here’s a list of spots where we’ll be talking and signing books over the next few weeks:

Feb. 27 — Square Books, Oxford, Miss., 5 p.m.

March 1 — Lemuria Books, Jackson, Miss., 5 p.m.

March 2 — Octavia Books, New Orleans, 6 p.m.

March 4 — Page and Palette, Mobile, Ala., 2 p.m.

March 10 — Parnassus Books, Nashville, 2 p.m.

March 13 — McNally Jackson, New York 7 p.m.

March 15 — Cato Institute, Washington, 4 p.m. ([requires registration](#))

March 15 — Busboys & Poets, 5th & K, Washington, 7 p.m.

March 17 — Politics and Prose, Washington, 3:30 p.m.

March 22 — Virginia Festival of the Book, Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, Charlottesville, VA, 4 p.m. (panel with John Grisham, Bill Sizemore and Brandon Garrett)