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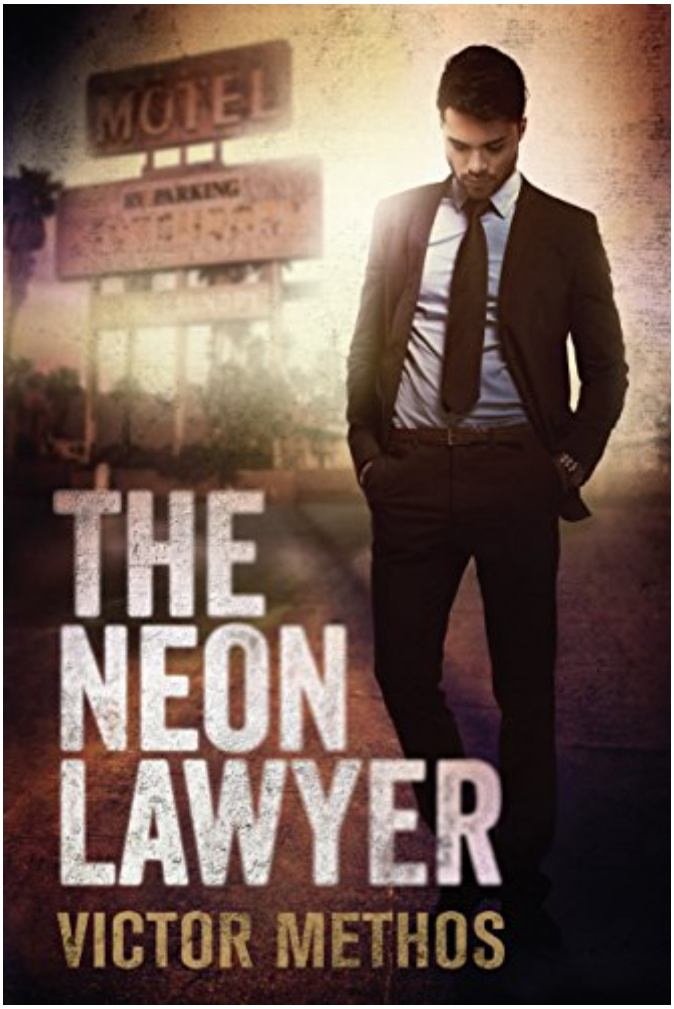
The Neon Lawyer



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Synopsis

With money and hope in short supply, newly minted attorney Brigham Theodore decides itâ ™s time to lower his standards. He joins a seedy fly-by-night firm in Salt Lake City out of desperation. After he loses his first caseâ ”a speeding ticketâ ”heâ ™s convinced his career is over. But to his shock, his boss hands him a slightly more complex case: capital murder.Brighamâ ™s new client is Amanda Pierce, a lost, exhausted woman who gunned down the man who tortured and killed her six-year-old daughter. A jury may prove sympathetic to her unbearable pain, but the law is no fan of vigilante justiceâ ”and neither is Vince Dale, the slick and powerful prosecutor whoâ ™s never lost a murder case. Thereâ ™s no question that Amanda pulled the triggerâ ”she did it in front of five witnesses. If she pleads guilty, she will avoid a death sentence, but saving her life this way comes with an admission that what she did was wrong. However, if she refuses the â œguiltyâ • label, Brigham will have no choice but to fight for his careerâ ”and Amandaâ ™s life.Revised edition: This edition of The Neon Lawyer includes editorial revisions.

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Customer Reviews

A young man named Brigham, transplanted to Utah despite his name, graduates from law school in

a poor economy and can't find a job. After visiting every firm in Salt Lake City, he lucks out with a firm that displays a neon sign. It turns out to be a haven for misfit lawyers. The office is owned by a lawyer with a Russian accent named Tommy who pays the attorneys a percentage of the fees they collect.Brigham's first case is a speeding trial. His second is a murder. His client, Amanda Pierce, shot and killed the man who molested and murdered her daughter. Brigham's ethically challenged boss gets the case on his public defender contract and hands it off to Brigham. Would any judge allow a brand new lawyer to represent a defendant in a death penalty case? Of course not. Nor should any virgin lawyer be stupid enough to take on a murder charge, much less one that carries the death penalty. While this novel purports to be based on a true story, it is a truly shocking story if Utah actually allowed a lawyer with no jury trial experience to handle a death penalty trial all by himself.In any event, Brigham moves forward with the case and is shocked to learn that the judicial system favors the prosecution. Apparently Brigham wasn't paying attention when he interned in the public defender's office. His approach to the trial is baffling. For instance, he decides not to question prospective jurors because "if you want an unpredictable verdict, you need an unpredictable jury." It doesn't occur to Brigham that if you want to win, you need a favorable jury. Brigham's choice is absurd given that the jurors are being questioned (and the jury shaped) by the prosecutor. Most of Brigham's trial preparation consists of reading books about how to defend a client.

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