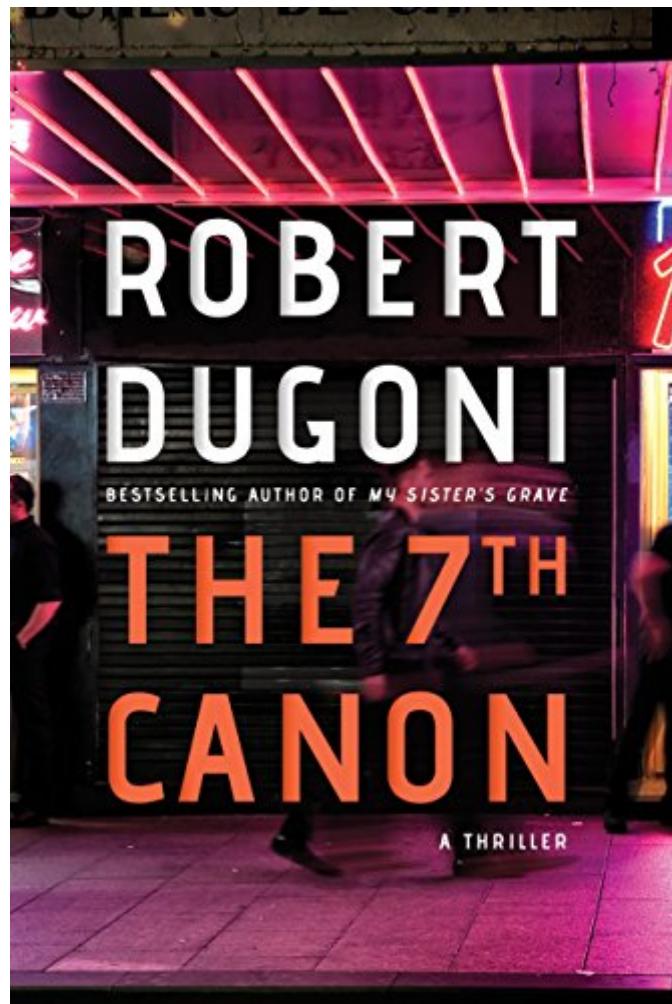


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## The 7th Canon



## Synopsis

An Edgar Award Nominee, Best Paperback Original. In San Francisco's seamy Tenderloin district, a teenage street hustler has been murdered in a shelter for boys. And the dedicated priest who runs the struggling home stands accused. But despite damning evidence that he's a killer—and worse—Father Thomas Martin stands by his innocence. And attorney Peter Donley stands with him. For three years Donley has cut his legal teeth in his uncle's tiny, no-frills firm, where people come before profits. Just as Donley is poised to move on to a lucrative dream job, the shocking case lands in his lap, and he must put his future on hold while putting his courtroom skills to the test. But a ruthless DA seeking headlines and a brutal homicide cop bent on vengeance have their own agendas. Now, as he unearths the dirty secrets surrounding the case, Donley must risk his neck to save his client's life—and expose the face of true evil.

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## Customer Reviews

I have no idea how good this book was when he wrote the first draft in 1996. But he's had twenty years to polish his craft and it shows here. The plot is intricate. The setting, characters and mystery

are all intriguing and troubling. The prose is crisp and clear and engaging. There is a lot going on. But nothing is extraneous. The setting is a seedy neighborhood in San Francisco thirty years ago. A boy is murdered in a flophouse run by a priest with a shady past. The priest discovers the body and the police immediately charge him with the crime. The evidence seems overwhelming. Almost as quickly, Peter Donley, a young lawyer working for his uncle, finds himself drafted as the priest's defense attorney, dropped into the deep end of the pool on his first criminal case when his uncle is sidelined with a heart attack. It would not be a wise career move for Donley to keep the case. But he finds himself drawn in and we are off on a harrowing ride. And I mean harrowing. Dugoni is not kind to his characters. They come with complicated backstories and are weighed down with emotional baggage. The good guys make bad decisions. And the bad guys are the heroes of their own stories. There is cost for everything and the piper is always paid in full. This book is not for the squeamish. But I recommend it for readers that can handle it. Disclosure: Thank you to Netgalley and Thomas & Mercer for providing a free copy of this book in return for my honest review

I'll be brief. This is my 4th Dugoni book, and I've loved every one. It's hard to believe this was his first attempt at writing a novel, but as has been said, this work has been dragged out of the mothballs and re-written, and has obviously had some expert editing. It's a tight legal/mystery/thriller with believable characters and a good storyline. Very minimal foul language, references to sex, and manageable violence. The only negative comment I would offer is something that is common to most thrillers: when the main character goes after the bad guy himself, things get a little out of hand. I know many lawyers, and I've never known any of them to attempt to take down an armed bad guy singlehandedly. But that's life, and this is fiction. Oh well, it makes for enjoyable entertainment!

I enjoy Robert Dugoni's books, and this stand alone is no exception. Dugoni mentions in his acknowledgement that this was an older manuscript and it has had many rewrites. I think these rewrites may have caused a few minor hiccups, but nothing that really detracted from the book. Perhaps it was a mix of earlier, more inexperienced writing with Dugoni's current, more polished style. Some characters were on a first name basis and others were last name. Throughout the book, the main character, Peter Donley, is mostly referred to as Donley. Frank Ross is an investigator for Donley's uncle, and he is usually referred to by his full name. I think I would have felt closer to these characters if first names had been used instead. Donley works for his uncle Lou. I wish this relationship had been apparent earlier in the book and then left alone. I felt some awkwardness with later mentions of this relationship. So, those were minor quibbles on my part. The book is good. It's

set in 1987. You know, before cell phones, computers, and DNA. I liked the characters, especially Father Tom. There is an underlying theme of fatherhood here, good fathers, abusive fathers, overbearing fathers, and their sons who feel guilty, or robbed, or intimidated. That theme is overlaid with a killing, an arrest, and subsequent legal wrangling which makes for an enjoyable read.

My new favorite Dugoni book. I can't believe it sat in a drawer all these years. I don't mind a story that takes place in the 80's - I lived thru it after all. Great characters, lots of intrigue, action and a spotlight on problems that are still relevant today.

Crimes solved; faith restored; lives changed. These are the main themes I've gathered in this legal thriller. Well written, it's got a pull that's hard to resist that I have to keep my kindle out of sight when I'm at work. The story revolved mainly around a priest accused of murder and his lawyer, who has not defended an accused criminal before. Both have ghosts from their past, but have each taken opposite ways of dealing with them. Any legal thriller fan would definitely enjoy this book.

second book I have done by this writer & he is a great mystery writer lots of surprises throughout his book; I have downloaded more of his to read; I am not sure that this was as good as my sisters grave but did not fall short by much; I recommend his book to read; if you have time, can read in one day

Character and setting are excellent. Plot is fine, but there are no real surprises. I dislike mysteries that pull a surprise ending out of thin air, so I'm reluctant to criticize this book for not being tricky. But maybe just a little more of a surprise would have made this five stars.

A great read with enough character development to have likeable heroes and a sufficient number of those serving as hate objects. Rather like going on a group tour. I couldn't wait to finish the book, but I didn't want it to end. I have another favorite author in Mr. Robert Dugoni.

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