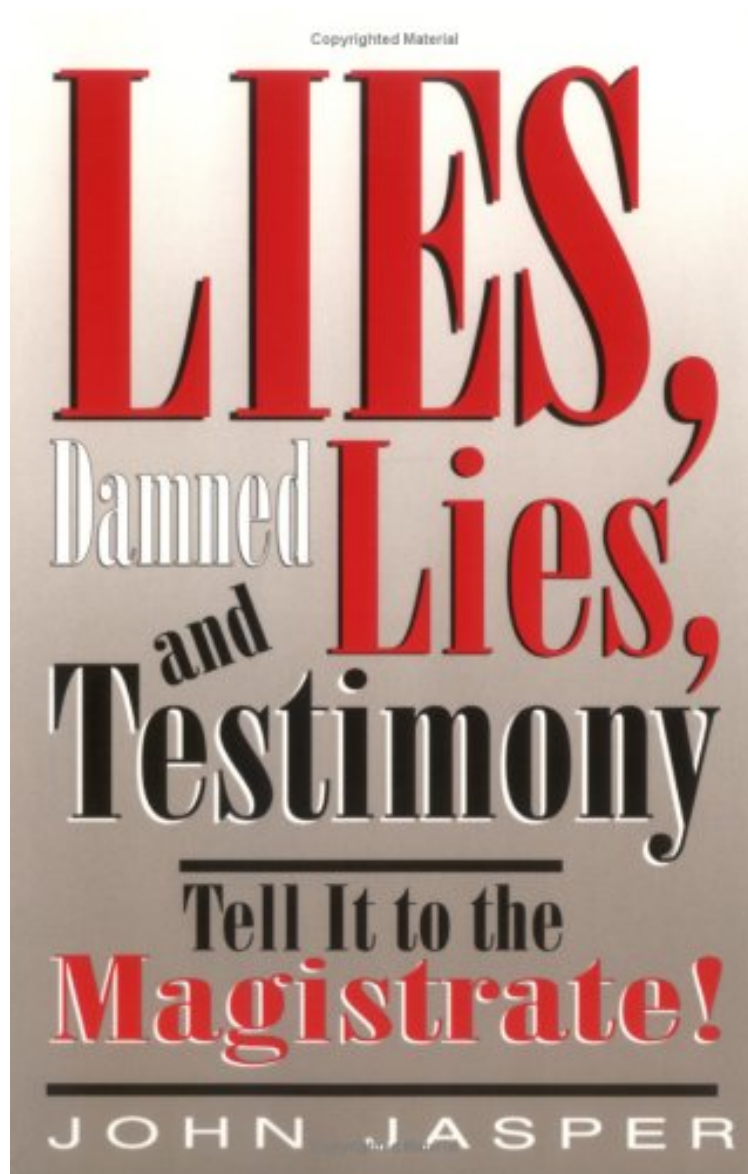


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Lies, Damned Lies, and Testimony: Tell It to the Magistrate!

John Jasper

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John Jasper : Lies, Damned Lies, and Testimony: Tell It to the Magistrate! before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lies, Damned Lies, and Testimony: Tell It to the Magistrate!:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A quick read By Jerome J. Huhman This fellow you want to listen to when he starts to tell you about his job and the people he meets who frequently don't want to be meeting him. A very

fun read for an evening. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good bookBy David HahnFunny (but in that "thank God it involves somebody else" kind of way). A good bathroom book as the chapters are really short.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Want someone arrested? Go tell it to the magistrate!By A CustomerWant someone arrested? But the police won't do it? In Virginia, you go to the County Magistrate (used be called Justices of the Peace) and tell your story under oath. If you are the victim of a crime, and your sworn testimony doesn't veer too far from the truth, the magistrate will issue an arrest warrant and you will get your day in court. After 15 years as a county magistrate, and after hearing thousands of stories, John Jasper has discovered that no one tells 'the whole truth and nothing but the truth'. We all lie, some of us are damn liars, and it's his job to get behind the lies as quickly as possible and winnow the truth out of the strong emotional stew presented to him in the guise of testimony. Oh, and it's also his job to issue search and arrest warrants requested by the police, interview drunken drivers and spouse beaters and drug dealers brought in by the police to determine if they wait for trial in jail or on bail, and to also try to solve heartbreaking problems brought to him by citizens who really need the advice of Solomon and the protection of Superman. You will read stories here, first told in the basement of the county jail, which will make you laugh, make you cry, make you angry, make you smile. They will also leave you, as they have left John Jasper, very wary of the judicial process in the county, the state, and the USA.

Help Wanted: MAGISTRATE Shift work; evening, weekend, and holiday hours required. Serves as judicial officer at various police stations. Apply Room 102, Adult Detention Center. That's an ad you don't see in the help wanted columns every day. But there it was, alphabetically between laborers and maids. A very curious ad indeed. John Jasper mulled it over for a while and reread the ad a few more times. He was intrigued, but he was also a little suspicious. In the back of his mind was the thought that there was a scam occurring in room 102. Then again, it was the Adult Detention Center, so it had to be legitimate, didn't it? There was only one sure way to find out. So off he went, seeking room 102. Such moments change people's lives, and John Jasper's life was forever changed when he became a magistrate of the Commonwealth of Virginia. He was taught the job the same way he had learned to swim in summer camp -- they threw him off the dock into deep water. But this time, in addition to deep, it was also strange and mysterious water. Along the way, he was told that everybody lies, and everybody knows it. The magistrate's job, he discovered, is to figure out what happened, not who's telling the truth. Since everybody's lying, nobody's telling the truth, so determining what actually happened is what's important. Join John Jasper in a sometimes exasperating but unfailingly hilarious romp through Virginia's criminal justice system. You'll discover the funniest (and sometimes saddest) "out takes" the magistrate's office has to offer. Here's a sampling of chapter titles: "He's Deaf, I'm Chinese", "'Y' is for Asian", "Combat Boots and a Mini-skirt", "A Jerk, a Parakeet, and an Iranian", "A Rocket Scientist", "'Z' is for Allute", "DWI -- Too Drunk to Walk", and our personal favorite, "The Finger."

About the AuthorAfter graduating from college with a degree in business and history, John Jasper served a two-and-a-half-year hitch in the Army before moving on to an unusual assortment of jobs around the country for the next three years. Guarding a candy factory, manning a first aid station at a steel mill, and making skis in Colorado preceded his return home to Virginia to begin a career in business management. After a successful but uneventful decade in the business world, he was appointed a magistrate in 1985. Fourteen years and thousands of cases later, he still finds that the next case is never predictable. He lives with his wife Christine and their beagle Willie in an old farmhouse, beside a stream, at the end of a dirt road.