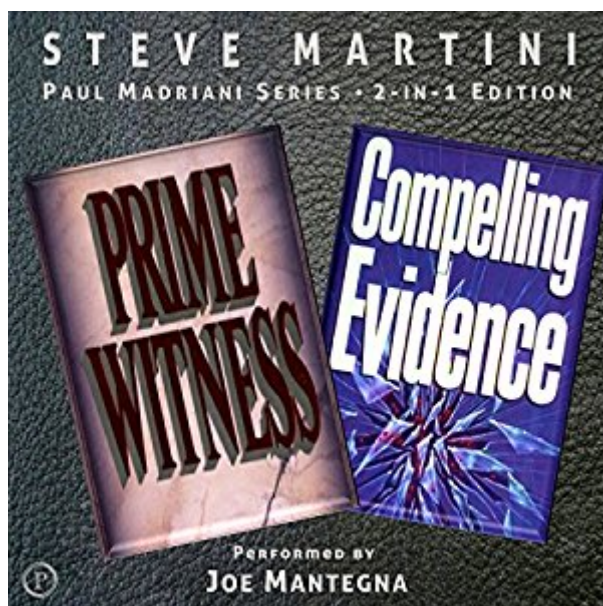


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# Compelling Evidence & Prime Witness: 2-in-1 Edition, Paul Madriani Books 1 And 2



## Synopsis

Compelling Evidence Paul Madriani was once a promising associate with the prestigious Potter, Skarpellos law firm, co-founded by his mentor, Ben Potter. But after a scandalous affair with Ben's wife, Talia, Paul left the firm to begin a brilliant career as a criminal defense attorney. Ben's impeccable reputation has made him a leading candidate for the Supreme Court, until he is found dead on the eve of the nomination, and Talia becomes the prime suspect. As the evidence against her snowballs, Talia hires her former lover to defend her against the ruthless chief prosecutor, who wants to send her to the gas chamber. Prime Witness In a period of five days, the rural college town of Davenport, California, has been rocked by two sets of brutal double murders. When another set of bodies is found, Paul Madriani, special prosecutor, must find the killer...and quickly. Physical and trace evidence lead to the arraignment of a college security guard on multiple charges of murder. While the evidence linking the suspect to the first four killings is solid, something is clearly different with the last two, and Madriani slowly begins to realize there is another killer in their midst. It is only during the trial, as he is fighting for both the conviction of one killer and the identity of another, that Madriani discovers shocking answers that go far deeper than anyone could have imagined.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ok, I'll admit it. I'm a little late to the dance on this one. An unabashed fan of John Lescroart, I finally caught up on my backlog of books in the Dismas Hardy/San Francisco series and was looking for something new. I had seen Steve Martini's books on store shelves for years, but for some reason never picked one up. Don't know what compelled me to try it, but I did figure if I was going to start, I

was going to start from the beginning. The difficult thing for a new reader to an older legal drama is to adjust to the anachronisms. Scenes of reporters leaving their seats during a murder trial to call new information to their editors, while stereotypical, are a little jarring today. Why don't they send a text message or a tweet, we wonder, forgetting that this novel takes place in the early 1990s. The book itself takes a little time to hook you. Many, many characters are introduced in a somewhat rapid-fire manner. Their place in the story takes time to become clear. Be patient: it does become clear, and (tremendous credit to the author) every character, every line matters. Like the main character, Paul Madriani, I did not see this book's ending coming, and I'm kicking myself because I should have. Martini gave readers everything we needed to know to ascertain the identity of the killer. (I did predict the killer's fate, but I got the ID wrong). The courtroom scenes are, by and large, very well-executed (one minor quibble: Martini has a defendant and her lawyer show up for a proceeding to find it has already started without them, the jury seated and listening to a readback of prior trial testimony. There are no words for how illegal that is. It just wouldn't happen. Ever. Period. No debate). I was looking for a new series with a main character I'd be interested in following. I'm pretty sure I found a good one. The second book has already been downloaded to my Kindle. I can't wait to get started.

This book is the first I've read of Mr. Martin's, but will not be the last. The drama of the trial, with all the interplay of the lawyer's and the judge, unfairness of some of the rulings, was eye opening. Explanations of law and courtroom procedures was well explained throughout the book. I am an avid reader of good fiction, and thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. On to the 2nd in sequence.

Meet Paul Madriani, attorney, in *Compelling Evidence*, the first book in the popular series by author Steve Martini. The story begins when Paul Madriani has been asked by his friend and fellow lawyer, Ben Potter, to do some probate work on the death of a mutual friend's daughter who was recently killed in an automobile accident. Ben confides in Paul that he will be nominated for the Supreme Court by the President in the next day or two and won't have time to do it. Paul was previously at the powerful multi-million dollar law firm of Potter and Skarpellos, was assigned to help Potter's wife, Talia, with some real estate issues, and ended up having an affair with her; Paul left the firm after the affair and went into private practice. Ben assures Paul that all is forgiven now, and makes an appointment to meet at a restaurant to discuss the details of the probate case. However, Ben doesn't show up at the restaurant and Paul soon learns that Ben Potter has been murdered. Talia Potter is arrested, charged with the murder, and requests that Madriani represent her. Ben's

partner, Tony Skarpellos, arranges for financing and brings in a totally incompetent attorney to take the lead, who messes up the preliminary hearing. Talia, even though she is innocent and the minimal evidence is circumstantial, is bound over for first degree murder. The incompetent attorney withdraws from the case, and Paul has little choice but to take over. As the story progresses, and Madriani represents Talia, his career is on the line, as well as his marriage that he is trying to salvage. Madriani loses several points in the court proceedings, and alienates the judge when his affair with Talia comes out. The ending is a total surprise, and the scumbag who most readers will suspect committed the murder, turns out to be truly a scumbag, but not, unfortunately the murderer. It will be difficult to put this book down until the identity of the murderer is confirmed. Steve Martini, who is a trial lawyer, writes a story that seems true to life with problems that ring true. The courtroom drama is fascinating, and Madriani doesn't always win, unlike so many fictional lawyers. He has his own demons to deal with, and in so doing puts everything that is important to him in jeopardy. The novel isn't an easy fast read; it is, however, well-written, easy to understand, and there are no issues left hanging. Compelling Evidence is recommended for anyone who enjoys a good legal thriller. This book was purchased with personal funds and no promotion of the book was solicited by the author or publisher.

I think I might have read this when it was first published. A few bits and pieces seem familiar. The legal stuff is well handled and the plotting is good. My plan it to work my way through the entire body of his work in the sequence it was written. There are some issues we expect to be resolved nowadays with technology and that was not available back then. The cell phone is not ubiquitous in the book and DNA is not always used as it is brand new and expensive. But other than that, it is a fast and enjoyable read.

I really enjoyed this book! Mr Martini is a unique story teller. The whole time I was reading the book I felt as if Paul Madriani was sitting at my kitchen table relating the whole story to me. The story is riveting and the book is hard to put down. The author has a special gift for personalizing all the characters and making you create an image of them in your mind's eye. I think I may have read another work by the author some time ago as there was a vague recollection of his style in my memory. I remember that book was equally enjoyable. I am very glad I came across this one and I will continue to read the ensuing books. Read this book, it will not disappoint you, but may keep you up later at night than you are used to staying awake.

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