

an appearance in this book.

The Execution of Noa P. Singleton

by Elizabeth L. Silver

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310 pages

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Reviewed by Mechele Williams

The first impression I had when I finished Elizabeth L. Silver's novel, *The Execution of Noa P. Singleton*, was *decent book—horrible ending*. Then I dug a little deeper to see if perhaps Silver had accomplished what she set out to do with the novel after all. I think she has.

Elizabeth Silver is not just another lawyer who writes about the legal system. She is at heart a writer who just happens to have a law degree. *The Execution of Noa P. Singleton* originated with her research on capital punishment while in her third year of law school. Although none of the characters or subject matter in the book derive from actual cases or persons, Silver credits her work on a clemency petition, which allowed her a glimpse into death row, for helping her find her story.

Noa P. Singleton is a woman who has spent ten years on death row for a murder she admits to committing. What is interesting is she is a likeable character, whereas Marlene, the mother of the woman she murdered, who appears to have had a change of heart about the death penalty and is willing to petition the court for Noa's clemency, is not.

Marlene isn't the only person in Noa's life with less-than-desirable characteristics. As the story progresses, the mystery surrounding "why" Noa committed the crime is as prevalent as the lingering question of "Did she really do it?" Only Noa can answer that question, and the