

## About HOOD ORNAMENT

Francis could kick himself for not stopping the horrifying prank his buddy Taylor pulled at the bar that killed a sweet old man. Hell, it wasn't intentional. A standard post-mortem test only for alcohol and the normal drugs, so no one will be the wiser. But when the man's daughter Ruby flies in from the Big Apple and retains Francis to sue the bar for over-serving her daddy, he sure as hell can't let some other lawyer take the case.

Sniffing around, Ruby gets suspicious and hires her own pathologist who finds the fatal toxin in her daddy's gut. Now a possible accessory for trying to cover up the crime, Francis is forced into increasing illegal shenanigans. Meanwhile, Ruby digs up a willing witness who spills the Taylor/shoe polish story. Taylor is arrested for culpable manslaughter. A cornered animal with a talent for arson, he kicks the whole shebang into a high-stakes horse race with fiery threats for anyone who stands in his way.

Leading up to the trial, Francis and Ruby try to foresee and protect those they love from what Taylor might do next. Thrown together daily, the pair steer one another astray with provocative guile. Those forced betrayals get harder as Francis and Ruby grow closer. But their risks remain the same. Ruby has the advantage of a mostly black jury pool, but if the old white judge gives Taylor no 'time,' she risks her ferociously protective brother getting 'life' for killing him. Francis is shored up by the white justice system, but risks disbarment if he lies on the stand and endangers his wife and daughters if he tells the truth.

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Don't Hold your breath though. I have to win the publishing lottery first.*