



## Dead Man's Rule

*Rick Acker*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

# Dead Man's Rule

*Rick Acker*

## **Dead Man's Rule** Rick Acker

Chicago lawyer Ben Corbin has just launched his private practice when Dr. Mikhail Ivanovsky, a mysterious Russian scientist, hires him to sue for possession of a safe deposit box. But when the box's owner enlists the city's highest-powered lawyer—and then turns up dead—the Russian confesses: inside the box is an old Soviet biowarfare formula for the deadliest disease known to humankind.

To make matters worse, a technicality called the Dead Man's Rule now forbids the scientist from taking the stand. With no one to testify—and therefore no evidence—the odds against Ben seem insurmountable.

As the threat of a massive bioterrorist attack looms large, Ben and his team race to rebuild their case and rescue the box. To succeed, he'll need all his wits and resources and Dr. Ivanovsky's specialized knowledge—and both men will need to trust in a higher power.

Revised edition: This edition of Dead Man's Rule includes editorial revisions.

## **Dead Man's Rule Details**

Date : Published June 28th 2016 by Waterfall Press

ISBN :

Author : Rick Acker

Format : Kindle Edition 368 pages

Genre : Mystery, Christian Fiction, Thriller, Fiction, Legal Thriller

 [Download Dead Man's Rule ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Dead Man's Rule ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Dead Man's Rule Rick Acker**

---

## **From Reader Review Dead Man's Rule for online ebook**

### **Tracy T. says**

Audible Review-

Hmmm this was a bit hard to follow along and there were a lot of characters popping in. I thought some of the story was good but kind of got lost in "translation" as so many people had accents from either Germany, Russia, Czechoslovakian and English. A lot of terrorist action going on with a lot of God talk.

There was some interesting court room action and some torture action going on. I did finish the book but only because I had time invested in it and wanted to see how it ended. But it was confusing and hard to follow.

Doubt I will move on with this series.

As for the narration, it was good, especially since there were so many accents going on. Christopher Lane did a good job on the female voices too. He has a nice reading voice.

Glad this was a free read and free listen with my KU.

---

### **Amy says**

This book was fascinating. It is a mystery about bio terrorism. It has no swearing and no thing inappropriate in it. I thought is was very interesting.

---

### **Lisa says**

I love Rick Acker's writing. His courtroom cases always have you hanging on by the seat of your pants. The bad guys in this one were some of the worst. This would make a wonderful movie. I really liked the main character. I would like to see another book with him. And the mad scientist dr was good also. I loved the ending with him. I like how the author always weaves some Christian values into his books. It's very uplifting to find that. The bioterrorism part interested me because of working as a microbiologist. This part of the book scared me more than the bad guys. Just the thought of a bad virus or bacterium let loose in the world makes me cringe. It's hard to believe that something that can only be seen under a microscope could wipe out all the living.

If you like audiobooks, the narrator for this one is amazing. He can do accents so well. He really brings the story to life. It was like watching a movie.

---

### **Libby says**

Well written Legal thriller written from a Christian worldview that deals with terrorism and bioweapons. My

husband listened to it together and enjoyed it

---

## **Lisa Johnson says**

Title: Dead Man's Rule

Author: Rick Acker

Pages: 314

Year: 2005

Publisher: Kregel Publications

Ben Corbin is a young attorney who has left a big name law firm to start his own practice. He has been in business six months and has discovered he has no trouble attracting clients, but he does have trouble collecting his fees from them. He is in the middle of prepping for a trial when a former client recommends him to Dr. Ivanovsky, a former Russian biological scientist. The good doctor has paid \$5000 to a certain small-time Russian drug dealer for the contents of said drug dealer's brother's safe deposit box. The drug dealer's brother is dead, but used to work for the CIA and KGB as well as smuggling on the side. The doctor tries to get into the safe deposit box, but the bank won't let him as the necessary paperwork isn't signed, transferring ownership. Dr. Ivanovsky tries to get this from the drug dealer, but now the drug dealer won't sign and claims he was never paid any money. He now plans to sell the box to someone else for a great deal more money.

Dr. Ivanovsky presents his case to Ben. Ben tells him he will probably spend more in legal fees than the \$5000 he paid for the box and probably the contents of the box as well. The doctor is adamant that he wishes to proceed with suing the drug dealer. As the case progresses, things begin to look good for Ben and the doctor and then they have a setback. This happens time and again. Ben wishes he never would have taken the case. Ben also suspects that what is in the box is far more valuable than some jewelry, which is what the doctor initially claims is in the box. Soon people connected to the case begin to die or disappear. Can Ben win this case? At what cost? What is the cost, not only to him, if he loses?

This was a good book, but not a great book. There was a little too much legalese for me that bogged down a few parts of the book. I did like how the author wove Christianity into the plot as well as the theme of trusting God in all situations and not ourselves. There were some tension-filled moments for sure and a few suspenseful ones too. I think the threat of biological warfare is very well depicted in the story and that the average person is oblivious to that threat. I will be reading more of this author's books and would recommend this one for those who like legal suspense.

My rating is 4 stars.

Note: The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot...> Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

---

## **RANGER says**

It's easy to think a novel like this one might bury you with legal language and dry jurisprudence. But don't be fooled by this novel's start. Rick Acker's Dead Man's Rule begins as the story of a litigation lawyer, Ben Corbin, taking on a somewhat hapless property dispute case involving a retired, eccentric Russian scientist, Dr. Mikhail Ivanovsky, and some other Russian ex-pats. But Dead Man's Rule is one legal thriller that packs a serious concealed-carry punch. As the story unfolds, Corbin finds himself dragged into a drama of

international intrigue involving the Russian Mafiya, Chechen Islamo-terrorists and one of the Cold War's most dangerous bio-terror creations, the fabled Soviet Ebolapox Virus. It's a fantastic read. The Chicago Russian immigrant community setting is unique and well done. The Russian-American private detective, Sergei Spassky, is a great character. I liked all the characters, although I hope Ben Corbin is a little more developed in the sequel. I just finished Sharon Gilbert's new book, Ebola and the Fourth Horseman of the Apocalypse, which goes into considerable detail about Ebolapox, a lab created virus combining the DNA of Ebola and Smallpox. I had no idea Dead Man's Rule was about the same virus. While Dead Man's Rule is a work of fiction, it's based on scenarios developed by the DOD and Homeland Security. Frightening scenarios. Read this book.

---

### **Glen says**

I won this novel in a goodreads drawing.

A lawyer that just left a high powered firm to strike out on his own is hired by a Russian. It seems this Russian bought a safety deposit box. The contents of this box are unknown. However, it seems that the seller changed his mind.

Then all of a sudden the FBI wants to get involved.

The lawyer has to find out what is in the box, and who all wants the contents.

Very suspenseful.

---

### **Audrey Grant says**

Another great book by Rick! This is two I have read to review in the last two weeks! Again we see what this author is so good at, weaving a courtroom drama in with a twisting mystery that has men from exotic lands trying to wreak havoc in & on our people and land but there are always those who will work till they dig out the tiny little lies, mistakes or overlooked little tidbit that gets to the truth.

And such is the case with the lawyer and his private detective in "Dead Man's Rule"! Every time it seemed all was lost... bam! He would see something he hadn't noticed or remember something because of the way a witness tagged a little something on the end of their statement.

Honestly, it was kind of like a modern day Perry Mason, but so Not at the same time!! Now from me that is a huge compliment! Because I cut my Mystery "teeth" on Perry Mason Books over 35 years ago! I'm not saying it read like a PM, (cause it doesn't) It just gave me the same thrill! And then there was the way he wrapped it up... Now that was like no one else in the world.

If Rick keeps writing, I'll keep reading, reviewing, and being Happy, Happy, Happy!

I was given this ebook by Net Galley to read and review. I have given my honest opinion. All thoughts and comments are my own.

---

## MsONEal says

The transition from legal thriller to geopolitical thriller was somewhat jarring. Two-thirds of the story (I tracked it) focuses almost exclusively on the legal issue and the last third is devoted to the more serious problem. There should have been fuller integration of the storylines.

That being said, Mr. Acker's characterizations are excellent. I fell in love with Dr. Ivanovsky and appreciated Ben's courtroom courage. The suspense kept me reading well past my bedtime.

There's a fair amount of preaching, but as a Jesus Freak myself, I didn't mind. In fact, I was pleased to know that there are Believers out there who can write action-packed, suspenseful stories. Definitely recommended.

---

## Marliss says

Rick Acker knows his law, and this is a clever and well-written book. I read Acker's YA book first, so I started this one with some trepidation, but was very pleasantly surprised.

---

## Lghiggins says

*Dead Man's Rule*  
by Rick Acker

Some of the first comments I read about Rick Acker's legal thrillers compared his work to that of John Grisham. I, along with many other more qualified critics, consider Grisham to be in the top in his genre. I snickered a little at this appraisal of Acker and said to myself, "Well, that's a little overblown." I am currently chewing away at my naysaying words. Grisham and Ackers both write legal thrillers with interesting characters, exciting action, strong plot lines, and details arising from effective background research. The legal situations are integral to the plot, not inserted as an afterthought because the author is also a lawyer. Acker is not an imitator of Grisham; in fact, Acker is an excellent writer in his own right. There is always room for another good suspense writer!

*Dead Man's Rule* had my attention right from the prologue, "A Relic of War," which is not a typical background piece. It pushes the reader into the story, ready or not. The setting changes in the first chapter to Ben Corbin's legal offices but the interest level doesn't change, and immediately the reader begins mentally searching for the connection.

I like it when the main character is human (flawed but trying) and likable, and Ben Corbin fits into that category. If there is a weak character as far as the writing goes, it is found in the depiction of Ben's wife, Noelle. She is two-dimensional in a world of three-dimensional characters, but her role in the novel is fairly small.

The archvillain, General Elbek Shishani, is fleshed out by Acker so that he is not just some "bad guy" to be dealt with by the hero and his CIA and FBI associates. The reader will probably not approve of Shishani's

actions, but the author does share how he became who he is.

Reader, be prepared to learn about legal procedures and an arcane law that becomes critical to one of Corbin's cases. Acker avoids getting too technical so the read remains exciting, but the reader can understand all of the legal complications and how they affect both the innocent and the guilty. He also takes us into the world of bioterrorism and Russian and Chechen politics as well as the sometimes competing interests of the various law enforcement and investigative agencies in the U.S.

*Dead Man's Rule* is my first experience with Rick Acker's writing, but he has published four more suspenseful books. I can't wait to try another. If it is like *Dead Man's Rule*, I'll have trouble putting it down.

I extend thanks to netgalley.com and to Waterfall Press for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an unbiased review.

---

### **Lynn Elkins says**

#### **Great read!**

Rick Acker's "Dead Man's Rule" was an exciting, terrifying page-turner. It's also timely considering all the plots and threats against society. Glad it was republished and available again. Everyone should read it this time.

---

### **Liz McFadden says**

I had never read any books by this author Rick Acker, but I will definitely read more of his books. The Dead Man's Rule was a great first read, I did not want the book to end. I want to read more books with these characters. Ben Corbin was a great lawyer, but if I say anymore I will surely give away some details that I don't want to. Just please get the book and read this great story. Even though it is fiction this could actually happen.

---

### **Brent Soderstrum says**

I won this book through GoodReads First Read program.

Acker tells a great tale that sadly enough could in the future come true. Ben Corbin is an attorney in Chicago running his own law practice when he gets approached by a Russian doctor about obtaining the contents from a safe in a bank that he claims was sold to him by another Russian for \$5,000. This is denied by the alleged seller of the property. No written contract is involved.

The case is heading to trial when the alleged seller of the property is killed. An Illinois law called the Dead Man's Rule prevents the living party from testifying about what an oral contract involved if the other party dies. Ben's client is insistent that the case proceed because of the contents of the contains a biohazard that if released in the atmosphere would kill millions-kind of an ebola/small pox mix.

As an attorney I enjoyed the courtroom battles. As a Christian I enjoyed how Acker weaved God into the story. I also enjoy books that involve the potential for devastation of the world or at least large sections of the United States.

This was a great story with a great ending. It just didn't flow smoothly at times. That is a very minor critique however. I recommend this book and I am looking forward to reading Ben's next adventure.

---

**Steve Ankrom says**

**Excellent**

I could hardly put the book down. It was well worth the read and very believable considering the crazy world we live in today.

---