

LEGAL FICTION. Reported by A. Laurence Polak and illustrated by Diana Pullinger. Delhi : Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., Second Indian Reprint, 1998. Pp. 127, Rs. 125/-, ISBN 81-7534-096-9.

MORE LEGAL FICTIONS. Reported By A. Laurence Polak and illustrated by Diana Pullinger. Delhi : Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., Second Indian Reprint, 1998. Pp. 134, Rs. 125/-, ISBN 81-7534-096-7.

FINAL LEGAL FICTION. Reported By A. Laurence Polak and illustrated by Diana Pullinger. Delhi : Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., Second Indian Reprint, 1998. Pp. 117, Rs. 125/-, ISBN 81-7534-097-5.

These three books of legal fiction are a novel and amusing collection of the well known stories of ancient mythology brought into courts and are imaginary law cases founded on well known stories of operas and folk lore cases culled from the plays of Shakespeare whose familiar characters make their appearance in the modern courts.

The first book of Legal Fiction is a novel and amusing collection of the well known stories of ancient mythology brought into court and dressed in the garb of a modern trial. The book contains ten fictions of law and forms a happy blend of the real and the imaginary, in which ancient and modern conditions are brought together with the most discerning results. The drawings catch the spirit of the author's humour with telling effect. These imaginary cases present a vortex of legal system in which opportunities of observing the vagaries of actors upon the human stage in their most diverse activities so that an edifying and satisfactory solutions are found to human problems.

The imaginary cases in the book represent variety of human interface with the law and legal system from the question of paternity, negligence, service contract, winding up of a company to breach of promise to marriage etc.

The second book, More Legal Fictions, the fictions relate to legal cases which are essentially drawn and culled from the plays of Shakespeare, whose familiar characters make their appearance in the modern cases and courts. In the judgments the author neatly parodies the modern judicial idiom and reproduces features which made the original work such a success. Some of the parodies in these cases are amusing such as, a bond involving payments in flesh whether contrary to public policy; offences committed when in course of transit by broomstick whether triable; Ass's head placed on plaintiff's head whether amounting to libel or slander; survivorship of parties to suicide pact; and ghost subpoenaed as witness in murder trial.

The fictions relate to ex-parte Shakespeare, nuisance, survivorship, defamation, mistake etc. and the whole thrust is to weave humorous literature around these fictitious cases.

In the book, the *Final Legal Fiction*, the author weaves imaginary law cases founded on well-known stories of operas and folk-lore. Among the operas, the author has chosen Faust, Hausel, Don Giovanni, Madame Butterfly and the Flying Dutchman. The other tales are: Jack and the Beanstalk (an action for nuisance caused by excessive growth of a bean plant), Cupid and Psyche (petition by wife for divorce on the ground of desertion, she having disobeyed her husband's orders not to enquire into his identity); and the Siege of Troy, where a fifth columnist escaping from a war like object in the form of a horse, injures Cassandra by a blow on the head causing her to lose her prophetic powers.

All the three books taken together are wonderful books which can prove a wonderful gift to the discriminating readers. The cases are imaginary but relate to real life situations giving information of how the law unfolds itself. The books are legal and literary in value and will no doubt make a strong appeal to the lovers of humorous literature. The books are also of great importance to students of law and others interested in law as they can be a store house of knowledge in the shape of parody. }

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