



# Reign in Hell

*By William Diehl*

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William Diehl stunned readers with *Primal Fear* and *Show of Evil*, the national bestsellers featuring Chicago lawyer Martin Vail. Now, in his gripping new novel of suspense, Diehl enters uncharted territory, pushing Vail and the legal system he represents to the brink of destruction.

After an ultra-right-wing militia seizes truckloads of highly volatile weapons, the president turns to Illinois attorney general Martin Vail. His job: nail the terrorists in their tracks. Vail plunges into his new, near-impossible mission, one that soon explodes into a personal nightmare as his most chilling adversary, Aaron Stampler, returns--seemingly from the dead--to exact a vengeance that could bring Vail to his knees. . . .

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## **Reign in Hell** By William Diehl Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

From Library Journal

" 'So Pennington trades his war years for a ticket to the White House and Engstrom plans the second American Revolution,' Vail said." This is the premise behind Diehl's (Show of Evil, LJ 4/15/95) new Martin Vail novel. Illinois state attorney general Vail is called upon by President Lawrence Pennington to seek a trial case against one of the largest militia outfits in the country. The leader of this outfit, Gen. Joshua Engstrom, just happens to be an old adversary of the president, putting Vail in the middle of a dangerous situation. Vail must also relive the past when unwillingly faced with his nemesis from years ago, serial killer Aaron Stamper, who has now become blind Brother Transgression. The meshing of these storylines is intricate yet easily followed as the tension mounts. Diehl's exciting mystery teaches the reader never to think that it is over?until it is really over. Recommended for all public libraries.

-?Stacey Reasor, *ITT Technical Inst. Lib., Tampa, Fla.*

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From Kirkus Reviews

Veteran thriller writer Diehl pits scrappy Chicago lawyer Martin Vail against Bible-thumping militia maniacs and Vail's old adversary, psychokiller Aaron Stamper, in a mindless plotboiler that never fails to please. Having succeeded fabulously as a defense attorney (*Primal Fear*, 1993) and then as a district attorney (*Show of Evil*, 1995), crusading, street-smart Vail is now promoted to the lofty, politically turbulent office of Illinois State Attorney General. Between passionate trysts with his previous courtroom opponent, Jane Venable, Vail can't keep his paws (speaking of same) off corrupt politicians. Having committed his too-good-to-be-billable talents to the public weal, he effortlessly sends a pack of scalawags to jail using the RICO statute. He then finds himself tapped by US Attorney General Margaret Castaigne to draw up a RICO indictment against General Joshua Engstrom, a right-wing militia commander whose wacko religious order, the Sanctuary, may have been behind a terrorist attack on an Army convoy in Montana. Vail rapidly learns of Engstrom's hatred for his former Army buddy Lawrence Pennington, now President of the United States. Before you can say Ruby Ridge all over again, Diehl tosses in Arnold Stamper, Vail's homicidal former client and nemesis, as a fundamentalist preacher who feigns blindness and spouts marginally comprehensible hate sermons on Engstrom's radio station. From here on, Diehl's forced and foolish story hurtles on at full throttle, never stopping to question itself or the preposterousness of its plot. Vail staggers from one contrived cliffhanger to another until almost everyone is blown up except Stamper and Vail himself, who takes a bullet through his heart but has enough chutzpa to insult the President and thumb his nose at a federal judgeship. What a guy! Fizzy male wish-fulfillment that bulges with Clancyesque histrionics, frothing fundamentalist foment, and more than you want to know about hate groups and RICO indictments. (Literary Guild main selection/Mystery Guild selection; author tour) -- *Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review

"*Primal Fear* was a brilliant thriller that most readers considered to be William Diehl's best novel and impossible to top. *Reign in Hell*, shockingly, is even better". -- BookPage

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Kathryn Sheffield:**

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open as well as read a book eligible Reign in Hell? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have various other opinion?

**Stephanie Sellers:**

Reign in Hell can be one of your starter books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Reign in Hell although doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can certainly drawn you into new stage of crucial considering.

**Eddie Bussell:**

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