

BROKEN TRUST

The Murder of Basketball Star Jack Molinas

A Novel by Jerry Marcus

An explosion of gunshots rocked the peaceful evening. Five bullets — one after another — ended the life of basketball star Jack Molinas. Wounded by one of the bullets was Jack's old sweetheart, Shirley Marcus. Shirley's wounds were not life threatening, but her life was changed forever.

Marcus asks, "Was it really a bullet that killed Jack Molinas?
Or was it a cruel joke society plays on its sports heroes?"

JACK MOLINAS — As an All-American at Columbia University, Jack Molinas was chosen in the first round of the NBA draft by the Fort Wayne Pistons. He was intelligent, handsome and talented, with the ability to take control over a game. In his first season for the Pistons, Jack was named to the All-Star team. This would be his only season as an NBA star. In 1954, Molinas was suspended from the Pistons and tossed out of the NBA by Commissioner Maurice Podoloff for gambling on games. He was later considered to be the lead figure in the 1961 college basketball scandals that rocked the NCAA. According to Marcus, "*Jack's story epitomizes a hypocrisy seen not only in sports, but throughout society. Some sportswriters and columnists vilified Jack on the same newspaper pages that also carried the point spreads and gambling odds on college and professional games.*"

The public may never really know what drove Jack Molinas to live on the edge — to always try to beat the system. In **BROKEN TRUST**, Marcus takes an original and creative look at the person Jack might have been and the circumstances that might have caused this complex, talented athlete to laugh at the rules, and toss fame and fortune out the window — all for the thrill of beating the odds.

LARRY BERNARDI, Jack's best friend from New York, is the narrator of the book. Larry is never involved in Jack's gambling and remains his confidante. He and Jack share an important common bond: a distrust of authority, especially attorneys. Larry's father, a salesman, was swindled by the owners of a company he represented — with the aid of their devious attorneys. Larry actually becomes a lawyer, but one who concentrates on helping the disadvantaged — trying to prevent them from falling victim to insincere people like Rabbi Sid who hide behind their cloaks of respectability while destroying other peoples' lives.

ED RYAN is a Washington attorney whose name is on the short list for a Supreme Court nomination. Ryan was involved with Jack in one of his gambling operations. He wonders if going on the national stage will bring out rumors and innuendoes about his former involvement with Molinas.

MAGGIE RYAN is Ed's wife. Before Maggie married Ed, she had a brief sexual encounter with Jack that she would prefer remain a secret. Years later, while living in Los Angeles, Jack "accidentally" meets and is attracted to Alicia Ferris — at first, not realizing she is Maggie's sister.

BILL O'MALLEY is a frustrated attorney who reviews manuscripts for a publishing company. He is vetting *Broken Trust*, a tell-all book about sports and gambling, religion and politics, that Molinas is co-authoring. When O'Malley recognizes his old classmate, Ed Ryan, in the book — he sees an opportunity to make some fast money.

RABBI SID is an Orthodox Rabbi who works as a fundraiser for several charities. He is also a devious character who swindles the unwary, among them Jack Molinas' father. Rabbi Sid basically stole the family's entire savings. He is also under Federal scrutiny for his financial transactions. He makes a deal with the Feds: If Rabbi Sid helps them get key evidence that will send Molinas back to prison, the Feds will drop pending fraud charges against the Rabbi.



Over...

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BARUCH and NAOMI PINCUS are Jack's closest friends in Los Angeles. A Lubavitch Rabbi, Baruch helps Jack return to his Sephardic Jewish roots, put his life on track — and encourages Jack to plan a trip to Israel where he can continue to give meaning to his life, help others, and grow closer to his Jewish heritage. Baruch and Naomi have two young daughters, Shoshana and Rachel, who adore Jack — and he is crazy about them. Shoshana and Rachel bring out a whole new dimension to Jack's personality.

YERUCHAM REICHLER is Molinas' co-author on *Broken Trust*. Reichler lives in Los Angeles with his girlfriend Miriam Silver. They become good friends with Jack. Will their lives be in danger, too?

BUDDY COLLINS is a sportswriter working on a book and movie script about the *Life of Jack Molinas*. Following Jack's murder, Collins' badly beaten body is found in a New York alley, just behind Madison Square Garden. His unfinished manuscript on Jack's life was never found.

SHIRLEY MARCUS was an old flame of Jack's who was with him the night he was murdered. Although she was wounded during the shooting, Shirley was able to call the police.

JOHN CHATTERTON first met Jack in New York's Union Square. Jack credits Chatterton with opening his eyes to see the "faceless people," the homeless and others who need help — but are so often ignored or victimized by the rich and powerful of an uncaring society.

SARAH POTHOVEN is a disciple of John Chatterton, who meets Jack during one of his frequent visits to Union Square. Although they don't spend much time together, Sarah is a great influence on Jack as he tries to redirect his life.

The LAUGHING ANGELS are evil spirits who haunt Jack day and night. Their goal is to bring Jack down, to keep him from realizing his new goals. The Laughing Angels observe Rabbi Sid and Ed Ryan with joy, as they perpetuate evil under the guise of holiness and justice.

THE RIGHTEOUS ONES are gentle spirits who sit at God's throne, but have little influence. Even the Righteous Ones are at the mercy of free will, and God's apparent choice not to intervene.

The Laughing Angels and the Righteous Ones made their first appearance in Marcus' 1982 debut novel,
— **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Zev** —
This controversial book was hailed by The Chicago Tribune as "*Original and compelling...*,"
and was recommended by the American Jewish Congress as
"*An important addition to books about the Holocaust
and Jewish people.*"

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