

Mike Papantonio Unveils Explosive New Legal Thriller "The Middleman"

Whistleblowers, Big Pharma Corruption, and a Battle for Justice—Inspired by Real Cases

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Renowned trial lawyer and best-selling author [Mike Papantonio](#) is pulling back the curtain on one of the pharmaceutical industry's most shadowy players with the release of his latest legal thriller, *The Middleman*.

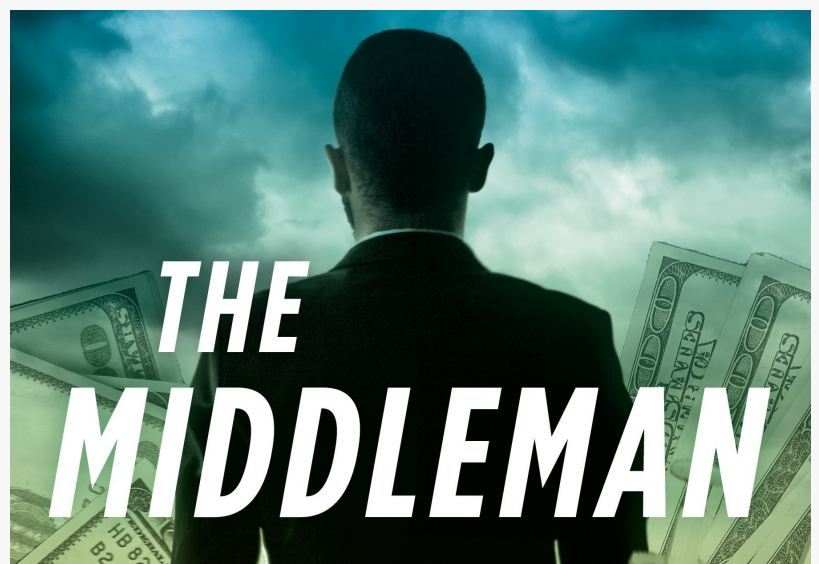
The novel delivers a high-stakes drama of whistleblowers, murder, and legal warfare—ripped straight from today's headlines.

The *Middleman* is available now at major bookstores and online retailers, including [Amazon](#) and [Barnes & Noble](#).

Inspired by 40 Years of Battling Big Pharma in Court

In *The Middleman*, readers follow Nicholas Deketomis, a powerhouse attorney taking on Connor Devlin, the ruthless CEO of a pharmaceutical empire. Devlin, a composite of executives Papantonio has encountered in his decades of courtroom battles, is modeled after a different kind of mobster—the kind wearing designer suits and Ivy League credentials.

Papantonio, a Hall of Fame trial lawyer, has made a career out of exposing corporate corruption. He and his firm, Levin Papantonio, have gone head-to-head with nearly every major drug company, securing victories in landmark cases from Fen-Phen to opioids. Now, his legal sights are set on one of Big Pharma's most insidious players: pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs)—the middlemen of the drug industry.



"The Middleman" villain, Devlin Connor, may be utilizing racketeering practices—and perhaps murder—to raise the prices of insulin and other drugs for his own profit and to the detriment of consumers.

"The concept of Pharmacy Benefit Managers, or PBMs, is not something most people are familiar with," says Papantonio. "They hear the term but have no idea how much it's interfering with healthcare in America."

PBMs, which determine drug pricing and access, have been widely criticized for skyrocketing prescription costs—particularly for life-saving medications like insulin.

Understanding the PBM Villain

PBMs act as middlemen between drug manufacturers, pharmacies, and insurance companies—controlling which medications are covered and how much they cost. According to Papantonio, PBMs operate like corporate extortionists, taking kickbacks from pharmaceutical companies in exchange for placing their drugs on approved insurance lists. This system artificially inflates drug prices, limiting access to cheaper, equally effective alternatives.



Mike Papantonio, attorney and author of multiple legal thriller novels

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*MIKE PAPANTONIO, ATTORNEY
AND AUTHOR, "THE
MIDDLEMAN"*

By manipulating the market for profit, PBMs don't just drive up prescription costs—they also force independent pharmacies out of business.

"Insulin, which costs pharmaceutical companies \$2 to produce, is being sold for \$270," Papantonio says. "There are cases where they mark up pharmaceuticals by 5,000%, and people are left making impossible choices—take insulin or buy groceries?"

The Middleman takes this real-world crisis and transforms it into a gripping, action-packed novel that underscores a stark reality: Corporate greed in the pharmaceutical

industry isn't far removed from organized crime.

"I've been handling pharmaceutical cases for 40 years, and every time I walk away from one, I

ask myself: What's the difference here?" Papantonio says. "Why is a company able to sell opioids the same way mobsters sell cocaine—but the drug dealer on the street goes to prison, while the CEO gets rich?"

With *The Middleman*, Papantonio once again delivers a powerful, fast-paced legal thriller that doesn't just entertain—it exposes.

Plot: Whistleblowers, Insulin Pricing, and Murder

Nicholas "Deke" Deketomis and his law firm take on America's Big Pharma when Deke's college pal, Matt Redmond, presents him with a case of possible fraud involving EirePharma, the Redmond family business and a powerful Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM). PBMs serve as the "middlemen" between drug manufacturers and insurance companies, working in cryptic ways to determine not only the cost of drugs but also placing them on insurers' preferred formularies. EirePharma was recently taken over by the charismatic CEO, Connor Devlin, who has a Rasputin-like influence over Matt's cousin, Amy, the company's current president. Devlin may be utilizing racketeering practices—and perhaps murder—to raise the prices of insulin and other drugs for his own profit and to the detriment of consumers.

Amy, who at first was in love with Devlin, decides—at great peril—to become her company's whistleblower and provide evidence to Deke and his team. When key witnesses and even Redmond family members meet mysterious and violent deaths, Amy finds herself a pawn caught in the center of a frightening and deadly game of wills between a formidable gangster, who in the eyes of the public is a respected businessman, and a law firm that is determined to investigate and uncover the Middleman's crimes.

In the tradition of *Suspicious Activity* and *Inhuman Trafficking*, Papantonio takes Deke and his cohorts on a new and different kind of legal gamble in *The Middleman*, which is chock full of the action and thrills for which he is known.

Where to Buy "The Middleman"

Hardcover copies and Kindle versions of *The Middleman* can be ordered online or purchased in major bookstores across the country.

Individuals who attend Mass Torts Made Perfect, LP's semi-annual legal conference for mass tort attorneys, can stop by the Levin Papantonio booth to meet the author and get a signed copy of the book, as well as other previously published legal thrillers Papantonio has written.

About Author Mike Papantonio

Mike Papantonio, a renowned author, is celebrated for his compelling narratives that blend legal expertise with riveting storytelling. Inspired by a prolific career spanning decades as a senior partner at the Levin Papantonio law firm, Papantonio has penned numerous popular legal thrillers, captivating readers with his insightful exploration of legal thrillers and social justice issues:

- * The Middleman
- * Suspicious Activity
- * Inhuman Trafficking
- * Law and Addiction
- * Law and Vengeance
- * Law and Disorder

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