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John grisham books in order printable list

American author "Grisham" redirects here. For other people with the name, see Grisham (surname). For other uses, see Grisham (disambiguation). John Grisham Ir. (1955-02-08) February 8, 1955 (age 66) Jonesboro, Arkansas, U.S. Education Mississippi State University (BS)University of Mississippi (JD)Period1989-presentGenresLegal thrillerCrime fictionSouthern GothicBaseballFootballSpouseRenee Grisham (born 1983)[1]Ty Grisham (born 1983 detailsPolitical partyDemocratic Websitejgrisham.com John Ray Grisham Jr. (/ˈgrɪʃəm/; born February 8, 1955)[2][3] is an American novelist, attorney, politician, and activist, best known for his popular legal thrillers. His books have been translated into 42 languages and published worldwide. Grisham graduated from Mississippi State University and received a J.D. degree from the University of Mississippi House of Representatives from January 1984 to September 1990.[4] His first novel, A Time to Kill, was published in June 1989, four years after he began writing it. According to Academy of Achievement his books have sold 300 million copies and he has written 28 consecutive number one bestsellers. [5] A Galaxy British Book Awards winner, Grisham is one of only three authors to sell two million copies on a first printing, the other two being Tom Clancy[6] and J. K. Rowling.[7] Grisham's first bestseller, The Firm, sold more than seven million copies.[2] The book was adapted into a 1993 feature film of the same name, starring Tom Cruise, and a 2012 TV series which continues the story ten years after the events of the film and novel.[8] Eight of his other novels have also been adapted into films: The Chamber, The Client, A Painted House, The Pelican Brief, The Rainmaker, The Runaway Jury, Skipping Christmas, and A Time to Kill.[9] Grisham's latest book (his 42nd published novel), A Time for Mercy, is his third story involving the characters established in A Time to Kill and further follows the story of Jake Brigance, a Mississippi small town lawyer representing a minor accused of murder. [10] Early life Grisham, the second of five siblings, was born in Jonesboro, Arkansas, to Wanda (née Skidmore) and John Ray Grisham. [4] His father was a construction worker and a cotton farmer, and his mother was a homemaker.[11] When Grisham was four years old, his family settled in Southaven, Mississippi.[4] As a child, he wanted to be a baseball player.[9] In A Painted House, a novel with strong autobiographical elements, the protagonist - a seven-year old farmer boy - manifests a strong wish to become a baseball player. As noted in the foreword to Calico Joe, Grisham gave up playing baseball at the age of 18, after a game in which a hostile pitcher aimed a beanball at him, and narrowly missed doing the young Grisham grave harm. Grisham has been a Christian since he was eight years old, and has described his conversion to Christianity as "the most important event" in his life. After leaving law school, he participated in some missionary work in Brazil, under the First Baptist Church of Oxford.[12] Although Grisham's parents lacked formal education, his mother encouraged him to read and prepare for college.[2] He drew on his childhood experiences for his novel A Painted House.[4] Grisham started working for a plant nursery as a teenager, watering bushes for \$1.00 an hour. He wrote about the job: "there was no future in it". At 16, Grisham took a job with a plumbing contractor but says he "never drew inspiration from that miserable work".[citation needed] Through one of his father's contacts, he managed to find work on a highway asphalt crew in Mississippi at age 17. It was during this time that an unfortunate incident got him "serious" about college. A fight with gunfire broke out among the crew causing Grisham to run to a nearby restroom to find safety. He did not come out until after the police had detained the perpetrators. He hitchhiked home and started thinking about college. His next work was in retail, as a salesclerk in a department store men's underwear section, which he described as "humiliating". By this time, Grisham was halfway through college. Planning to become a tax lawyer, he was soon overcome by "the complexity and lunacy" of it. He decided to return to his hometown as a trial lawyer.[13] He attended the Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia, Mississippi and later attended Delta State University in Cleveland.[4] Grisham changed colleges three times before completing a degree [2] He eventually graduated from Mississippi State University of Mississippi School of Law to become a tax lawyer, but his interest shifted to general civil litigation. He graduated in 1981 with a J.D. degree. [4] Career Law and politics Grisham practiced law for about a decade and won election as a Democrat to the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1984 to 1990, at an annual salary of \$8,000. [4] [14] Grisham represented the seventh district, which included DeSoto County.[15] By his second term in the Mississippi state legislature, he was the vice-chairman of the Apportionment and Elections Committees.[2] Grisham's writing career blossomed with the success of his second book, The Firm, and he gave up practicing law except for returning briefly in 1996 to fight for the family of a railroad worker who was killed on the job.[2] His official website states: "He was honoring a commitment made before he had retired from the law to become a full-time writer. Grisham successfully argued his clients' case, earning them a jury award of \$683,500 — the biggest verdict of his career."[11] Writing career This house in Lepanto, Arkansas, was the house used in the Hallmark Hall of Fame movie A Painted House. Grisham said the big case came in 1984, but it was not his case. As he was hanging around the court, he overheard a 12-year-old girl telling the jury what had happened to her. Her story intrigued Grisham, and he began watching the trial. He saw how the members of the jury cried as she told them about having been raped and beaten. It was then, Grisham later wrote in The New York Times, that a story was born. [13] Musing over "what would have happened if the girl's father had murdered her assailants",[11] took three years to complete his first book, A Time to Kill. Finding a publisher was not easy. The book was rejected by 28 publishers before Wynwood Press, an unknown publisher, agreed to give it a modest 5,000-copy printing. It was published in June 1989.[2][16] The day after Grisham completed A Time to Kill, he began work on his second novel, The Firm. [11] The Firm remained on The New York Times' bestselling novel of 1991.[17] This would begin a streak of having one of the top 10 selling novels of the year for nearly the next two decades. In 1992 and 1993 he had the second bestselling book of the year with The Pelican Brief and The Client and from 1994 to 2000 he had the number one bestselling book every year. In 2001 Grisham did not have the bestselling book of the year but he did have both the second as well as third book on the list with Skipping Christmas and A Painted House. In 1992, The Firm was made into a film starring Tom Cruise and was released in June 1993, grossing \$270 million.[19] Following their success, Regency Enterprises paid Grisham \$2.25 million for the rights to The Client which was released in 1994 starring Susan Sarandon and Tommy Lee Jones and then Universal Pictures paid him the highest amount ever for an unpublished novel, paying \$3.75 million for the rights to The Chamber. In August 1994, New Regency paid a record \$6 million for the rights to A Time to Kill, with Grisham asking for a guarantee that Joel Schumacher, the director of The Client, would direct. [20] Beginning with A Painted House, Grisham broadened his focus from law to the more general rural South but continued to write legal thrillers at the rate of one a year. In 2002 he once again claimed the number one book of the year with The Summons. In 2004, The Last Juror ended the year at number four and in 2005 he overtook The Da Vinci Code and returned to number one of the top selling books of the year, but he returned to number two in 2007, number one in 2008 and number two in 2009. He has also written sports fiction and comedy fiction. He wrote the original screenplay for and produced the 2004 baseball movie Mickey, which starred Harry Connick Jr.[21] In 2005, Grisham received the Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award, which is presented annually by the Tulsa Library Trust.[22] In 2010, Grisham started writing a series of legal thrillers for children aged 9 to 12 years. It features Theodore Boone, a 13-year-old who gives his classmates legal advice ranging from rescuing impounded dogs to helping their parents prevent their house from being repossessed. He said, "I'm hoping primarily to entertain and interest kids, but at the same time I'm quietly hoping that the books will inform them, in a subtle way, about law."[23] He also stated that it was his daughter. Shea, who inspired him to write the Theodore Boone series. "My daughter Shea is a teacher in North Carolina and when she got her fifth grade students to read the book, three or four of them came up afterwards and said they'd like to go into the legal profession."[23] In an October 2006 interview on the Charlie Rose show, Grisham stated that he usually takes only six months to write a book, and his favorite author is John le Carré.[24] In 2011 and 2012 his novels The Litigators and The Racketeer claimed the top spot in The New York Times best seller list. [2] [3] The novels were one of the best selling books of those years spending several weeks atop various best seller lists. [4] [5] In November 2015 his novel Rogue Lawyer was at the top of the New York Times Fiction Best Seller for two weeks.[8] In 2017, Grisham released two legal thrillers. Camino Island was published on June 6, 2017.[25] The book appeared at the top of several best seller lists including USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, and The New York Times. The Rooster Bar, published on October 24, 2017, was called his most original work yet, in The News Herald. [26] Southern settings This section of a biography of a living person does not include any references or sources. Please help by adding reliable sources. Contentious material about living people that is unsourced or poorly sourced must be removed immediately. Find sources: "John Grisham" – news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (July 2018) (Learn how and when to remove this template message) Several of Grisham's legal thrillers are set in the fictional town of Clanton, Mississippi, in the equally fictional Ford County, a northwest Mississippi town still deeply divided by racism. The first novel set in Clanton was A Time to Kill. Other stories set there include The Last Juror, The Summons, The Chamber, The Reckoning, A Time for Mercy and Sycamore Row. The stories in the collection Ford County are also set in and around Clanton. Other Grisham novels have non-fictional Southern settings, for example The Partner and The Runaway Jury are set in Biloxi, and large portions of The Pelican Brief in New Orleans. A Painted House is set in and around the town of Black Oak, Arkansas, where Grisham spent some of his childhood. Personal life Marriage Grisham married Renee Jones on May 8, 1981. The couple have two children together: Shea and Ty.[4] Ty played college baseball for the University of Virginia.[27] Real estate holdings The family splits their time among their Victorian home on a farm outside Oxford, Mississippi,[11] a home in Charlottesville, VA, a home in Destin, Florida[28] and a condominium at McCorkle Place in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, purchased in 2008.[29] Religion As a former-Baptist, [which?] he advocates the separation of church and state.[30] He once said, "I have some very deep religious convictions that I keep to myself, and when I see people using them for political gain it really irritates me."[31] Later in life, Grisham converted to The Presbyterian Church. He cited a preference for a "more dignified" style of worship. [32][failed verification] Baseball Grisham has a lifelong passion for baseball demonstrated partly by his support of Little League activities in both Oxford and in Charlottesville. In 1996, Grisham built a \$3.8 million youth baseball complex. [33] As he notes in the foreword to Calico Joe, Grisham himself stopped playing baseball after a ball thrown by a pitcher nearly caused him a serious injury. This experience left Grisham with an abiding dislike of pitchers. He remains a fan of Mississippi State University (MSU)'s baseball team and wrote about his ties to the university and the Left Field Lounge in the introduction for the book Dudy Noble Field: A Celebration of MSU Baseball. [34] Since moving to the Charlottesville area, Grisham has become a supporter of Virginia Cavaliers athletics and is regularly seen sitting courtside at basketball games. [35] Grisham also contributed to a \$1.2 million donation to the Cavalier baseball team in Charlottesville, Virginia, which was used in the 2002 renovation of Davenport Field. [36] Political activism Grisham is a member of the board of directors of the Innocence Project, which campaigns to free and exonerate unjustly convicted people on the basis of DNA evidence. [37] The Innocence Project contends that wrongful convictions are not isolated or rare events but instead arise from systemic defects. Grisham has testified before Congress on behalf of the Innocence Project.[38] Grisham has appeared on Dateline NBC,[39] Bill Moyers Journal on PBS,[40] and other programs. He wrote for The New York Times in 2013 about an unjustly held prisoner at Guantanamo.[41] Grisham opposes capital punishment, a position very strongly manifested in the plot of The Confession.[42][43][44][45] He believes that prison rates in the United States are excessive, and the justice system is "locking up far too many people". Citing examples including "black teenagers on minor drugs charges" to "those who had viewed child porn online", he controversially added that he believed not all viewers of child pornography are necessarily pedophiles. After hearing from numerous people against this position, he later recanted this statement in a Facebook post. [46][47] He went on to clarify that he was defending a former friend from law school who was caught in a sting thinking he was looking at adult porn but it was in reality sixteen and seventeen year old minors and went on to add, "I have no sympathy for real pedophiles. God, please lock those people up." "Anyone who harms a child for profit or pleasure.... Should be punished to the fullest extent of the law." [48] The Mississippi State University Libraries, Manuscript Division, maintains the John Grisham Room, [49] an archive containing materials generated during the author's tenure as Mississippi State Representative and relating to his writings. [50] In 2012, the Law Library at the University of Mississippi School of Law was renamed in his honor. It had been named for more than a decade after the late Senator James Eastland. In 2015, Grisham, along with about 60 others, signed a letter published in the Clarion-Ledger urging that an inset within the flag of Mississippi containing a Confederate flag be removed.[51] He co-authored the letter with author Greg Iles; the pair contacted various public figures from Mississippi for support. [52] Awards and honors 1993 Golden Plate Award of the American Academy of Achievement Award 2009 Library of Congress Creative Achievement Award for Fiction 2011 The inaugural Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction for The Confession[54] 2014 Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction for Sycamore Row[55] Bibliography A complete listing of works by John Grisham: [56] † Denotes stories not in the legal genre Novels A Time to Kill (1989) The Firm (1991) The Pelican Brief (1992) The Client (1993) The Chamber (1994) The Rainmaker (1995) The Runaway Jury (1996) The Partner (1997) The Street Lawyer (1998) The Testament (1999) The Broker (2001) Skipping Christmas† (2001) The Summons (2002) The King of Torts (2003) Bleachers† (2003) The Last Juror (2004) The Broker (2005) Playing for Pizza† (2007) The Appeal (2008) The Associate (2010) The Rocketeer (2011) Calico Joe† (2012) The Rocketeer (2012) The Rocketeer (2013) The Rocketeer (2013) The Rocketeer (2013) The Rocketeer (2013) The Rocketeer (2014) The Rocketeer (2015) The Rocketeer (2016) The Rocketeer (2016) The Rocketeer (2017) The Rocketeer (2018) (2019) Camino Winds† (2020) A Time for Mercy (2020) Sooley (2021) Untitled Legal Thriller (2021) Children's legal thrillers Theodore Boone: The Abduction (2011) Theodore Boone: The Accused (2012) Theodore Boone: The Activist (2013) Theodore Boone: The Fugitive (2015) Theodore Boone: The Scandal (2016) Theodore Boone: The Accomplice (2019) Short stories "Ford County" (2009) "The Tumor" (2016) "Witness to a Trial" (2016) Audiobooks Bleachers (Audible, 2003, read by John Grisham) Ford County: Stories (Audible, 2009, read by John Grisham) Non-fiction The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town (1999) — story of Ronald "Ron" Keith Williamson The Wavedancer Benefit: A Tribute to Frank Muller (2002) — with Pat Conroy, Stephen King, and Peter Straub Don't Quit Your Day Job: Acclaimed Authors and the Day Jobs they Quit (2010) — with various authors Adaptations Feature films The Firm (1993)[57] The Pelican Brief (1993)[57] The Client (1994)[57] A Time to Kill (1996)[57] The Gingerbread Man (1998) A Painted House (2003) television film Runaway Jury (2003)[57] Mickey (2004) Christmas with the Kranks (2004) [57] Television The Client (1995–1996) 1 season, 20 episodes The Innocent Man (2018) 1 season, 20 episodes The Innocent Man (2018) 1 season, 6 episodes See also List of bestselling novels in the United States References ^ a b "John Grisham Biography". 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