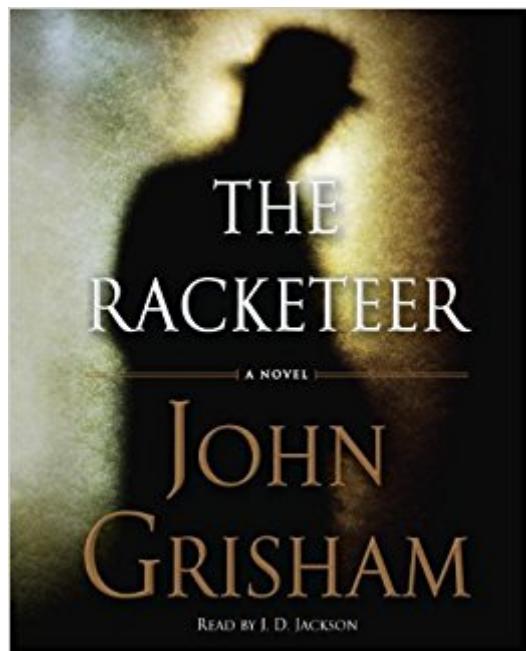


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The Racketeer



Synopsis

Given the importance of what they do, and the controversies that often surround them, and the violent people they sometimes confront, it is remarkable that in the history of this country only four active federal judges have been murdered. Judge Raymond Fawcett has just become number five. Who is the Racketeer? And what does he have to do with the judge's untimely demise? His name, for the moment, is Malcolm Bannister. Job status? Former attorney. Current residence? The Federal Prison Camp near Frostburg, Maryland. On paper, Malcolm's situation isn't looking too good these days, but he's got an ace up his sleeve. He knows who killed Judge Fawcett, and he knows why. The judge's body was found in his remote lakeside cabin. There was no forced entry, no struggle, just two dead bodies: Judge Fawcett and his young secretary. And one large, state-of-the-art, extremely secure safe, opened and emptied. What was in the safe? The FBI would love to know. And Malcolm Bannister would love to tell them. But everything has a price—especially information as explosive as the sequence of events that led to Judge Fawcett's death. And the Racketeer wasn't born yesterday . . . Nothing is as it seems and everything's fair game in this wickedly clever new novel from John Grisham, the undisputed master of the legal thriller.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Racketeer was one of 's mystery/thriller Best Books of the Month picks for October. A Q&A with the author: Describe The Racketeer in one sentence. A federal judge is murdered, and our hero in prison knows who did it, and why. What's on your nightstand/bedside table/Kindle? Ian

McEwan's latest novel, *Sweet Tooth*; a friend's manuscript; and a Kindle Fire loaded with daily newspapers, magazines, and about three dozen books. Top 3-5 favorite books of all time? *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*; *A Confederacy of Dunces*; *The Grapes of Wrath*; *Little Drummer Girl* Important book you never read? There are so many. *Atlas Shrugged*, though I've been told for the past 30 years that it's unreadable. Book that made you want to become a writer? *To Kill a Mockingbird* made me question race for the first time in my young, insulated, white life. It also inspired me to try and write something great. Memorable author moment? I received a note from Harper Lee, along with an autographed first edition of *To Kill A Mockingbird*. What's your most prized/treasured possession? A first edition of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, signed by the author. Pen envy - book you wish you'd written? Harry Potter is the only dude I can't outsell. Author crush - who's your current author crush? I'm 57 years old. Crushes are for sophomores. What's favorite method of procrastination? Temptation? Vice? Don't get me started. I can waste enormous amounts of time, and with no guilt whatsoever. Currently, I'm doing so on the golf course, playing a game that I took up only four years ago and is driving me nuts. What do you collect? First editions, primarily Faulkner, Hemingway, and Steinbeck. Best piece of fan mail you ever got? The letter began: "As the newly elected President of the Arkansas Bar Association, it is incumbent upon me to suggest various topics for your future novels." I don't think I finished reading the letter. What's next for you? I'm hard at work on *Theo 4* - "Theodore Boone, The Activist." >See all of John Grisham's books. >Read a New York Times review of *The Racketeer* (author photo by Bob Krasner) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Critical Acclaim for the Undisputed Master of the Legal Thriller "With every new book I appreciate John Grisham a little more, for his feisty critiques of the legal system, his compassion for the underdog, and his willingness to strike out in new directions." •Entertainment Weekly "John Grisham is exceptionally good at what he does •indeed, right now in this country, nobody does it better . . . Grisham's books are also smart, imaginative, and funny, populated by complex interesting people, written by a man who is driven not merely by the desire to entertain but also by genuine (if understated) outrage at human cupidity and venality." •Jonathan Yardley, *The Washington Post* "The secrets of Grisham's success are no secret at all. There are two of them: his pacing, which ranges from fast to breakneck, and his theme •little guy takes on big conspiracy with the little guy

getting the win in the end. *Time* "The law, by its nature, creates drama, and a new Grisham promises us an inside look at the dirty machineries of process and power, with plenty of an entertainment." *Los Angeles Times* "John Grisham is about as good a storyteller as we've got in the United States these days." *The New York Times Book Review* "Grisham is a marvelous storyteller who works readers the way a good trial lawyer works a jury." *The Philadelphia Inquirer* "John Grisham owns the legal thriller." *The Denver Post* "John Grisham is not just popular, he is one of the most popular novelists of our time. He is a craftsman and he writes good stories, engaging characters, and clever plots." *The Seattle Times* "A mighty narrative talent and an unerring eye for hot-button issues." *Chicago Sun-Times* "A legal literary legend." *USA Today*

My fist Grisham and a bit of a disappointment. It started out great. I really enjoyed the book till about half way through and then it fell flat. I did not like any character and for me to like a book there has to be someone, any one, with some redeeming qualities. There has to be a hero. There has to be someone I can root for. I didn't find a single person, or in-fact institution, that I can support. That was my biggest problem with it. I was hoping the protagonist Mal/Max can be that be it really took a turn for the worst. The way that the actual killer was set up and framed, even though far fetched (I'm actually okay with things being far fetched), was just so cold that it left me thinking "yeah this guy has done it but he hasn't really done anything to deserve being treated like this by Max when he hasn't done anything wrong with Max". This just made me dislike everyone else even more. The appearance of the girlfriend from the middle of no where was just ridiculous. Mal didn't even think of her till about 50% of the book! She felt a little forced to me. I think the only thing that kept me reading this book till the end is the first half. It was intriguing till that point then just got tedious. I hope my next Grisham is better than this one.

So far unbelievable. I don't know if I can continue to read this. I cannot believe that an attorney, even a small town attorney would not have any sense at all in receiving a wrong payment of several million dollars. First of all, the attorney says that after a gazillion changes in the name of the client (why doesn't that ring a bell? Why don't you know who you are representing?) the client was supposed to send him \$450,000, \$400,000 of which was supposed to pay the first 2 months rent. Now, first of all, why would the client pay rental for 2 months and then buy the property? Second, why send the rental to the attorney to pay the rental? Then he receives millions of dollars. And the

book doesn't even say that these millions are put into an escrow account for the benefit of the client (but then of course, he doesn't know who the client is!). He doesn't contact the IRS, because I guess he never figures out that he could be liable for the taxes on several million dollars and that maybe, of course, the money is being laundered. Of course he is a small time lawyer and never heard of laundering money -- LOL! Then he finally instructs his banker to send the money back (although he still should have contacted the IRS), but the banker can't make up his mind what to do for 2 days..... HUH? THEN, he is offered a deal to plead guilty, but says he wouldn't accept it because he was innocent. He was NOT innocent. He accepted several hundred million dollars, put it into his attorney account (NOT an escrow account) and never contacted the IRS or any other governmental agency. Then, he writes to the FBI and says he knows who is the killer of the judge, and wants the FBI to release him (on his own recognizance) because he says he knows who the killer is. But, at the point in the story that I am, he gives no guarantees, gives no hints, gives no assurances that he would be returned to prison if he is wrong. BUT the FBI is interested.....? Why? Because the warden says he has been a good inmate. I am not an attorney (although was a real estate broker) and certainly know more than this dumb bum. I'll write more if the story gets any more believable. Otherwise I give up.

First Sentence: I am a lawyer, and I am in prison. The opening line not only captures our attention, but is a great hook. How could one not read one from there? One of the things that makes reading Grisham so interesting is not only his obvious knowledge of the law, but inclusion of factual people, events and cases. However, Grisham can also infuriate one, not by his writing, but by the facts he includes. "An audit last year revealed that the Bureau of prisons had purchased, for "administrative use," four thousands chairs at \$800 per chair. The same manufacturer sold the same chair at wholesale for \$79. Reading Grisham provides an eye-opening look at our justice system, and it is not pretty. One quickly realizes that is no "justice" in our justice system. Malcolm is such a well-constructed character. He is bright, clever, and takes the reader on a very twisty ride. What is especially interesting is that he is really neither a good- or bad-guy, and neither are those chasing him. Malcolm is someone who knows how the system worked and played it like a Stradivarius. However, he is not a character one particularly likes even though, in essence, he hasn't done anything wrong. "The Racketeer" is very a cleverly written puzzle. One must pay attention to the details,

particularly toward the end. It may not be Grisham's best book, but it is one that keeps you reading. THE RACKETEER (Legal Thriller-Malcolm Bannister-Contemp)
Okay Grisham, John
Standalone Doubleday
Oct 2012

Its a fun read but if youve read at least two Grisham books before you'll recognize the recycled plot devices and character traits that he uses in almost every book:1) This book take place in the south which is full of racist conservatives2) The plot involves a large sum of money and a dead federal judge3) The protagonist knows he is being followed4) The protagonist doesnt like the federal government5) The protagonist is a young male lawyer (although this one is black..so that SOMETHING different).6) The protagonist likes girls with long legs7) The government convicted an innocent person8) The cops use shady tactics to get a "confession" for a suspected killer.9) The protagonist visits and wishes to live in the Caribbean islands.10) The female accomplice has little to no depth. That being said, I wanted to see how it ended because the guy can flat-out write.

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