



The Pardon

James Grippando

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Jack Swytek, a brilliant Miami defense attorney has spent years rebelling against his father, Harry, now Florida's governor. Their estrangement seems complete when Harry allows one of Jack's clients -- a man Jack believes is innocent -- to die in the electric chair.

But when a psychopath bent on serving his own twisted version of justice places both Jack and Harry in extreme jeopardy, the two have nowhere to turn but to each other. Together they must find a way to overcome their cunning tormentor's manipulation . . . even as the stakes are being raised to far more perilous heights.

The Pardon Details

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From Reader Review The Pardon for online ebook

Marti says

This is James Grippando's debut novel. It starts out with an account of how the book came to be. What follows next is at times quite action filled, as our boy, Jack Swytek defends a man and is then accused and indicted for murder. His father is governor of Florida, running for reelection, so the situation is compounded. His girl friend gets kidnapped by bad guys. Mr. Grippando, I did not appreciate you having THursday, the family dog, get stabbed to death by the baddies! Surely you could have left that out! I dock you one star for that--

Carrie says

Fantastic and attention holding. A wonderful start to for this series. I mist definitely will be continuing on. Fast paste from the first page.

Dan says

The debut novel from an author named as being the next John Grisham. While "The Pardon"'s storyline and quick reading are similar to most of Grisham's work, it's the delivery of the material that reminded me not of Grisham, but of the book "Needful Things" by Stephen King.

James Patterson was quoted as saying that he read this book, all 400 pages, in one sitting; it took me three. All-in-all, I am impressed with this author and I'm looking forward to reading his next.

Eric_W says

An innocent man is executed, and a guilty man is set free. Grippando gets things off to a fast start.

Jack Swytek is estranged from his father, now the governor, who had been elected on a law-and-order platform, promising to expedite executions. Barely two hours before the electrocution of Fernandez, Jack is visited by a man in a ski mask who, insisting on lawyer-client confidentiality, shows him proof that Fernandez is innocent because he, himself, is the killer.

Jack heads for the governor's mansion where he and his father face off about the impending execution. Insisting he cannot provide proof of the man's innocence because of client confidentiality (personally, I would have broken it immediately, self-serving lawyer ethics be damned) Jack is unable to convince his father to call it off.

Shift to a few years later as Jack manages to get a killer's confession thrown out and the jury releases Goss, a vicious killer. Then Goss is killed and the governor and Jack are being setup for his murder. Usually, in a case like this, the premise is undermined by illogical actions of the characters. Grippando has avoided that by

making the rationale for why Jack and his father can't communicate, quite plausible.

The best legal dramas have great courtroom scenes. Unfortunately, the courtroom scenes were but a small portion of the book. The plot is ingenious and tricky, although how the killer manages to be in some of those places had me buffaloed. And I knocked off a star for a ludicrous ending. I had hoped for something much more subtle and intelligent.

Brian says

Some people say that this author is similar to John Grisham. I don't. I think he is better. This is the fastest I have read a book in a long time. Really good! There are a few unrealistic parts to the story but I believe some of them are made simple just for the readers. All in all a very good read.

Mike French says

Good but not exceptional. John Grisham has nothing to worry about readers not buying his books, but buying James Grippando's instead!

MomIsReading says

I love the "Jack Swytek" series. I've read all the books and loved them all. Author is great about getting you to care about Jack and his best friend Theo. They are an unlikely team. I always recommend this series to friends looking for a new series to follow.

Cindy says

Excellent plot and characterizations. Like series. Well narrated and recommended.

Mary JL says

I had previously read some of the "Jack Swytek" mysteries; but not in order.

So reading the first book in the series gave me some background on the character. The characterization between Jack and his father is well developed. The action is fast paced and well written. The courtroom scenes were well done.

Imho only, this is the strongest of Grippando's "Jack Swytek" series. Later volumes, while still good, were not as gripping. So if you do not have enough time for a new entire series, if you wish to try v this series, this is the best so far of those I have read.

Recommended for any adult reader of thrillers; mysteries and action-adventure stories..

Hapzydeco says

This first book in the series establishes the background of the characters. While several of the twists and turns may seem unbelieveable, the courtroom drama plus the ending should keep a reader fully engrossed.

Mike says

Well, somewhere between three and four stars. I'm going to cut the author some slack and forgive him the oldest hackneyed plot development in the book. You know, the one where in an interview the witness blows the case out of the water and is due to testify in court the following day but, surprise! surprise! witness is killed that night. Howsoever, Grippando is a good writer, keeps the story moving along, does a reasonable job of character development so I will give the series another chance.

William says

abridged 5 hour audio book....this did not do much for me. Does his character get better?

Tea Jovanovi? says

Za ljubitelje Grišama, Patersona, sjajan autor koji se guta u dahu, nekoliko naslova objavila je Narodna knjiga i kasnije je jedan naslov radio Evro Giunti...

Chazzle says

I enjoyed it. Strength: Strong, driving plot. Weakness: A little predictable at certain moments. Writing: I liked the writing style. You could really get caught up in the story, and the pages would just fly.

Kelly says

I have a four month old infant who still gets up in the middle of the night to eat. I have recently read a few books that would almost instantly put me back to sleep. This one however kept my attention even at 4 AM!

I loved the Jack and Harry conflict throughout this book. It is sad to think that a father and son would have such a poor relationship for so long and over such a "silly" thing. However, it really made the story that much more gripping when the "bad guy" played on the damaged relationship. I liked it.

I also liked the love story/triangle between Jack, Gina and Cindy on the side. It kept the characters more realistic and impulsive because all of love triangles make fore interesting stories. OK, maybe not all but this one did.

The "killer" was ruthless! I loved that he was so cold and heartless. The author kept his identity a mystery until the very end. I was so glad he ended up not being any of the characters I liked because I would have cried.

The ending had a little twist at the end that I found a little cheesy. It was just a little too far fetched for me to believe.

Still a great book.

Quite a lot of me least favorite word. Some sexual innuendo.
