



The Firm

John Grisham

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When Mitch McDeere signed on with Bendini, Lambert and Locke of Memphis, he thought he and his beautiful wife, Abby, were on their way. The firm leased him a BMW, paid off his school loans, arranged a mortgage, and hired him a decorator. Mitch McDeere should have remembered what his brother Ray--doing fifteen years in a Tennessee jail--already knew. You never get nothing for nothing. Now the FBI has the lowdown on Mitch's firm and needs his help. Mitch is caught between a rock and a hard place, with no choice-- if he wants to live.

The Firm Details

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Author : John Grisham

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Genre : Fiction, Thriller, Mystery, Crime, Legal Thriller, Suspense, Law, Mystery Thriller, Novels, Literature, American

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From Reader Review The Firm for online ebook

Julianne says

I recently realized 1) I've never read any of John Grisham's novels and 2) that's a shame. So I picked this up at the library a couple trips ago, when I found myself browsing in the G's. Why *The Firm* rather than *The Client* or *The Associate*? My grandfather, a former lawyer, happened to mention it in a conversation a couple months ago, so the title was on my mind.

My main impression is that this is the kind of pulp that no one will read 100 years from now (thank goodness). It reminded me very strongly of some bad late Victorian short stories I read for a class in fin de siecle fiction. My, how far we've come since the early '90s (the 1990s, just to be clear, not the 1890s). I mean, really, if you're ever in doubt, just pick up this book. It's definitely a product of its time. Sexism, classism, ageism, consumerism--it's all here, unvarnished and unexamined. I don't think John Grisham is or was especially unenlightened...I think he just faithfully represented the cultural norms and popular attitudes.

(This might be a tangent, but if I really wanted to understand what life was like in a previous era, I would look first at its advertising and its advice columns. I would look at what was ephemeral, not intended to survive. Not just at that, but I certainly wouldn't neglect it. I think there's treasure to be gleaned from scrutinizing what was created purely for the present and not for the eyes of history.)

Aside from what now seems crass and/or naive (the sexism especially so, for me), this is a pretty good story. Gripping. At times seemingly very realistic. At others, less believable. (For example, I find it hard, very hard to believe that Abby would say what she does on the last page, given the limitations she and Mitch must find a way to live within. I'm told the movie ending is more realistic. I haven't seen it yet.) I can understand why this book might have put a whole year's worth of law school graduates off their interviewing. I'm sure someone out there decided at the last second to switch their focus to fashion design or sales.

My favorite bits by far were the scenes that show Mitch's interaction with his secretary. As far as I'm concerned, there weren't enough of them. Maybe because his secretary seems like the kind of woman who would resent being underestimated or labeled.

Dean says

I loved it!!!

Mitchell McDeere is a graduate from Harvard, young and having a lot of offers from every law firm in America as a tax lawyer..

He has a beautiful wife and is hungry for making money!!!

So, he comes across Bendini, Lambert and Locke, a small well respected firm...

He gets a dream offer from them, but the dream job becomes his worst nightmare!!!

Let me say that at the end the mafia and the FBI will be chasing him...

A grandiose plot unfolds that will cost McDeere every ounce of his energy and wit to force successfully through this trial

I loved this novel very much, because of the skill and the way that John Grisham put it in words.. Also the deceptions and the fraud, as how they managed to disguise the firm has capture my attention.

The firm has my full support and every star that I can give...
Recommendations to all of you, a clever and wittingly written thriller!!!
For sure not my last book by John Grisham...

Dean;D

Henry Ozogula says

This is a wonderful novel brimming with a plethora of characters who come to life devastatingly as the story unfolds. Of course there is Mitch the main protagonist ('young lawyer', as we say in Africa) and his beautiful wife, Abby. There is the elderly, sly, unctuous Oliver Lambert who is exposed early as a sick depraved man – also a lawyer. As he is referred to: "he said you were a real nice man. I thought you'd like that". What an irony!

Then there is Nathan Blake, another veteran lawyer introduced deliciously. "It was the eyes, the cold black eyes with layers of black wrinkles around them. Great eyes. Unforgettable eyes. When he spoke, the eyes narrowed ad the black pupils glowed fiercely. Sinister eyes...He had without a doubt, the most ominous evil presence Mitch had ever felt. It was the eyes..."

Yes, we have a gallery of assorted lawyers in this work, also including the rather pathetic Avery, who also reiterates to Mitch the sinister nature of the "legal firm" here: 'The rules never change. They are cast in concrete. Carved in granite. Etched in stone. Violate too many and you are out. Or violate as many as you want, but just don't get caught,'

Then there is "Tammy", the distinctive, resourceful woman whose role/contributions in this work is wonderfully commendable. Kudos to her as she is arguably the real hero(ine) of this excellent novel.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

The Firm, John Grisham

The Firm is a 1991 legal thriller by American writer John Grisham. His second book, it was Grisham's first which gained wide popularity; in 1993, it was made into a film starring Tom Cruise and Gene Hackman. Grisham's first novel, A Time to Kill, came into prominence afterwards due to this novel's success.

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Brooke Hargett says

This book was fantastic! Loved every second of it. A few weeks ago it came on TV and I was saying "this is a great movie!" but within minutes I realized I had NOT seen it! I was thinking of A Few Good Men! Who knew I had never seen The Firm?? My husband said he'd read it years ago and it was one of the best books he'd ever read. So, I DVRd the movie and went to get the book (I didn't watch the movie yet, but I've heard it was a disappointment from the book... of course right???)

I seriously couldn't put it down. The premise drew you in- everyone that works hard wants an offer like the one Mitch McDeere is offered by the Firm. It's intoxicating! I wanted to get that offer! There's no way you could say no. Grisham was a master at pulling you into Mitch's shoes, which is impressive since its written in 3rd person omniscient. You feel his stress as the work is piled onto him, and the expectations he places on himself are enormous. He's treading water, at the expensive of his marriage and trying his best to stay afloat. Then as he starts to question things, you feel that same unease, especially because as the reader, you know there is a huge coverup going on. He is so clever, which is awesome because you think there's no way he can get out of it.

The storyline is gripping. Its like you take a huge breath at the beginning and then hold on... because you won't stop til you're at the end. I see why this book put Grisham on the map. Fantastic. Recommend it to anyone that wants to get sucked into a book!

Rob says

Sorry to say but I found this book overly long and, at times, a bit pedantic.

Mitch McDeere has an IQ that's off the Richter scale and has just finished a law degree at Harvard Uni and managed to come in third in his class.

A small, by New York standards, legal firm in Memphis woes Mitch to join the firm. The money being offered is well above what other bigger and more prestigious firms are offering. So with this carrot in front of him Mitch joins the firm. Mitch obviously hasn't heard the expression "if it sounds too good to be true it most likely is". So much for his high IQ.

After a few months Mitch is approached by the FBI who tell him that the firm is a front for a ruthless Mafia family. Mitch is expected to help the FBI to bring this family to justice or else find himself in a whole lot of trouble.

Mitch is left with no choice but to help. Mitch helps by copying ten thousand documents that reveal the extent of corruption performed by the firm on behalf of the Mafia.

By chance the firm just leaves all of these damning documents in a locked room, in an unguarded condo on Cayman Island.

Ineptitude rules, Mitch is inept for taking the job in the first place, the firm is inept for its lack of security with the documents and the family are inept for putting their trust in the firm.

To be fair, the last 150 pages were exciting to read. But all in all it was just a bit too silly.

This was not my first John Grisham book and it won't be my last but this has been my least favourite so far.

Chris says

Snap! I forgot all about Grisham when I putting in the crap books - thanks Conrad. Summer of '92, we were staying in a cabin off Devil's Lake in Michigan near my aunt's; I finished off the books I'd read and was unable to convince anyone in my family to play "D-Day To the Rhine", the WW2 strategy game I bought in Anarbor, but luckily my aunt had stocked our cabin with a whole slew of Grisham.

I think I read this in a day, and since the last paragraph was pure memoir that has nothing to do with the novel, that should tell you how much I remember of it. It was a page-turner though, and just enough soft-core sex to titilate my young teen-age mind. Beach book extradinaire.

Ann L. says

I don't know why I waited so long to read a John Grisham novel. I've always liked his movies, and one of my favorites was always THE FIRM with Tom Cruise. This is my first novel of his to read, and man, was it intense! It was an awesome mystery.

I wouldn't be surprised if a lot of what happened in the book actually happens in real life either. The last half of the book was so intense, my heart rate went up! No joke.

Anyways, it's a great thriller. I think any adult would like this story. I'm going to read more of his stories for sure.

Dan Martin says

it's not that this book necessarily deserves a 1, being the worst score possible, but... it's just so fucking dumb. I only finished it because I'm stuck in between 4 rice fields in japan, and the only reading I had available in english was. well. the label on my pepsi bottle.

IF you happen to be a 40-50 year old (white)man, and like reading about "6 figures", then I'll understand you liking this book.

Hhere's a taste.

"And, don't worry McDeere (former star college quarterback), The firm will front you a mortgage at NO INTEREST *reader gasps* and the BEAMER?? Consider it a gift *holy shit this book is crazy! Wow! These guys have so much money!* Your house? Yeah.... get this.... INTERIOR DECORATING

uh oh... are you getting nervous yet? Isn't this TOO GOOD?

knock yourself out, white collar, money grubbing, unimaginative suburbanites all over america.

Roya says

DNF at p.64

Whenever I have problems, I resort to reading fiction. This usually seems to assuage the pain that is reality, but sometimes it doesn't work. Sometimes the plot is so banal and unexciting that you just put your book down, stare at the ceiling, and think about every single thing that can possibly go wrong over the next sixty years.

So I only started reading this because I can't handle seeing a movie first if it's based on a book.

And my parents want to see the movie adaptation of this with me because apparently it's amazing. Maybe it's just me, but there was nothing very gripping about any of this. It could have simply been that I was too impatient, but this just felt like extra worry time. The dialogue was sloppy and the plot was nothing great. I can only hope that the movie is better. Two stars because it wasn't *that* bad.

Dawn Michelle says

This was my first taste of John Grisham and for awhile, I would read everything I could get my hands on by him. And then, not so much. But I would return to this over and over to remind myself of how great he had been. I read this over the course of a month and then read "A Time to Kill" at the pool that summer. It was the first time I had ever paced myself in my reading and it was like torture. :-)

I am not sure why this wasn't in my book [glad I saw someone's review so I could add it], but it was truly one of my most favorite books for the longest time [IF you love this book, steer VERY clear of the movie - W T HECK were they thinking?] and even now I love returning to it.

Dawn Quarles says

One of my favorite books ever.

Natalie Vellacott says

Thought I'd never get to the end of this epic Grisham novel. I think this is one of his earlier efforts and I remember watching the film a long time ago.

A rookie tax lawyer is head hunted straight from school and offered a dream job with an extremely wealthy

company. Star struck, *The Firm* dazzles him with money, houses, cars....and all the trimmings. It seems too good to be true....The only slight botheration are the plaques of remembrance in one of the offices. *The Firm* has had a higher than average number of staff deaths....Mitch is faced with the toughest decision of his life. Should he investigate these incidents and risk losing everything, or ask no questions and enjoy the cash!

This was hard to put down and I finished it in a few days despite its length. There was a little too much detail in places but it was definitely gripping reading. It had less than usual profanity but more lewdness/sexual innuendo than I was comfortable with. The choice that Mitch makes along these lines wasn't resolved satisfactorily in my view although I appreciated the fact that he wasn't able to just forget about what he had done.

I found it interesting that all of these people are basically chasing money in one form or another and yet none are able to enjoy it because of the circumstances. Even when they get the wealth they are seeking, they want more and it doesn't satisfy or they have to live in constant fear. This is why the Bible tells us *For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. 1 Timothy 6 vs 10.*

Reading this I was reminded again of the meaninglessness of life without God regardless of status, wealth, job security or anything else....

Recommended for those who enjoy Grisham books. It isn't his best book, but still enjoyable.

Check out my John Grisham Shelf!

Brian says

I loved this book. This book belongs in the same category with the ones you can't put down, and you curl in a corner, shaking with red eyes and a gaunt frame from malnutrition. Grisham developed the characters well and developed the plot with skill of a master storyteller. I noticed some similarities with Stephen King's style, such as using a reference to the object with "the" instead of "a" (the "coffee table sat alone in the room," "the man sat at the bar"), and he refers to people with nicknames, such as, for example, Collar-neck, or Red-nose (not used any books I'm aware of, just examples). King and Grisham had the same agent for a while, I believe, and used to be close, I've heard, so that makes sense.

I appreciated the business humor in dialogues, and the sarcasm. Grisham writes great, down-to-earth dialogue that forms characters into real people. I laughed a lot with the dialogue. For example, the main character, Mitchell McDeere tells his wife she has to do all this stuff to hide from both the Mob and the FBI, run here, change this, do that. He tells her she needs to dye her hair blonde. Instead of freaking out or moving fast in anticipation of being murdered, she says, "Blonde!" This developed her character and made me laugh, made me feel like I knew her, like when you shake your head and smile about someone and say to yourself, "Abby," with affection.

If you don't know the plot, or haven't seen the movie or read the book:

Mitchell McDeere comes out of law school top of his class, and he knows what he wants. He has drive. He lands in with a Firm with promises to make him abnormally rich, faster than usual, as long as he follows certain ethical rules (which I thought Grisham a brilliant writer; as a Christian he made a way around all the sexual and immoral craziness of that kind of lifestyle, a great example for my writing; I'm also a Christian).

He ends up in a conspiracy between the Mob and the FBI, and becomes directly involved with both organizations at the same time. He fights to keep himself and his family alive. A smart guy, Mitch pulls a few brilliant stunts only a good lawyer could conjure.

Grisham has earned a place on my favorite authors list. I want more! I just sold a few books of his to Half Price Books and when I realized I had got rid of them I about screamed. Off to Goodwill I go a-huntin' again.

Sarita says

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