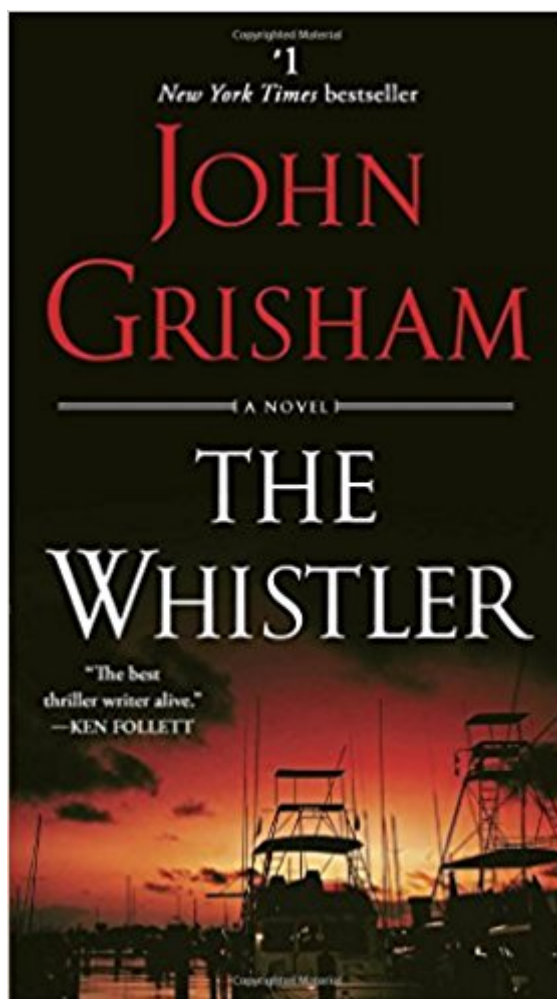


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# The Whistler: A Novel



## Synopsis

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A high-stakes thrill ride through the darkest corners of the Sunshine State, from the author hailed as the best thriller writer alive • by Ken Follett

We expect our judges to be honest and wise. Their integrity is the bedrock of the entire judicial system. We trust them to ensure fair trials, to protect the rights of all litigants, to punish those who do wrong, and to oversee the flow of justice. But what happens when a judge bends the law or takes a bribe? Lacy Stoltz is an investigator for the Florida Board on Judicial Conduct. It is her job to respond to complaints dealing with judicial misconduct. After nine years with the Board, she knows that most problems are caused by incompetence, not corruption. But a corruption case eventually crosses her desk. A previously disbarred lawyer is back in business, and he claims to know of a Florida judge who has stolen more money than all other crooked judges combined. And not just crooked judges in Florida. All judges, from all states, and throughout United States history. And now he wants to put a stop to it. His only client is a person who knows the truth and wants to blow the whistle and collect millions under Florida law. When the case is assigned to Lacy, she immediately suspects that this one could be dangerous. Dangerous is one thing. Deadly is something else.

Praise for *The Whistler* [A] main character [who] a seriously appealing woman . . . a whistle-blower who secretly calls attention to corruption . . . a strong and frightening sense of place . . . [John Grisham] on his game. "Janet Maslin, *The New York Times* [John Grisham is] our guide to the byways and backwaters of our legal system, superb in particular at ferreting out its vulnerabilities and dramatizing their abuse in gripping style. "USA Today "Riveting . . . an elaborate conspiracy." *The New York Times Book Review*

## Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Dell; Reprint edition (July 11, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1101967684

ISBN-13: 978-1101967683

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 1.1 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 6,854 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,125 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Legal #50 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers

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## Customer Reviews

âœRiveting . . . finely drawn . . .” *The Whistler* centers on an elaborate conspiracy involving an Indian reservation, an organized crime syndicate and a crooked judge skimming a small fortune from the tribal casino’s monthly haul. •” *The New York Times Book Review* •”A main character who’s a seriously appealing woman . . . a whistle-blower who secretly calls attention to corruption . . . a strong and frightening sense of place . . . Grisham’s on his game. •” Janet Maslin, *The New York Times* •”A fascinating look at judicial corruption . . . an entirely convincing story and one of Grisham’s best. I can’t think of another major American novelist since Sinclair Lewis who has so effectively targeted social and political ills in our society. In Grisham’s case, it is time at least to recognize that at his best he is not simply the author of entertaining legal thrillers but an important novelistic critic of our society. In more than 30 novels, he has often used his exceptional storytelling skills to take a hard look at injustice and corruption in the legal world and in our society as a whole. •” Patrick Anderson, *The Washington Post* •”Grisham’s latest involves the rich and powerful and an abuse of the justice system. Grisham novels are crowd-pleasers because he knows how to satisfy readers who want to see injustice crushed, and justice truly prevails for those who cannot buy influence. •” *Associated Press* •”Grisham has become an institution. For more than 25 years now he’s been our guide to the byways and backwaters of our legal system, superb in particular at ferreting out its vulnerabilities and dramatizing their abuse in gripping style. He excels at describing injustice and corruption. •” Grisham’s legal knowledge is impressive, and his ability to convey it unparalleled in popular fiction. •” *USA Today*

John Grisham is the author of twenty-nine novels, one work of nonfiction, a collection of stories, and six novels for young readers.

I am a Grisham fan but this is not his best work. If there is such a thing, I would call this a boring page-turner. You keep turning the pages expecting it to get better but then you get to the end and realize---that was it. I mean it has all the nuts and bolts of a solidly written piece of fiction but there is just no spark to it, nothing clever or surprising. After I’d turned all the pages, I blinked several times and turned off my kindle - surprised that it was over because it never quite got off the ground. The

characters are one-dimensional and there is no real connection to them. Like the heroine in *Gray Mountain*, the female lead in this book is totally vanilla. You're not rooting for her or against her as there is little depth or character development.\* some spoilersThe plot is laid out early in the book - there is a corrupt judge colluding with some thugs to skim money at an Indian casino. To expose the corruption, there are a few individuals trying to blow the whistle on the judge to collect cash under the whistle-blower statutes. The whistle-blowers submit a complaint to the agency that investigates rogue judges and an investigation begins. These facts are known early on. The problem is - that's the entire plot. There are no twists or turns it goes in a fairly straight line from corruption complaint to indictments with few surprises along the way. There is also a huge loose end as we never find out what happens to one of the characters who was falsely imprisoned for murders he did not commit. Since this character is a main focus in the prequel, the failure to tie up that loose end is irritating. All in all - it is just an uneven effort. A disappointing novel from an author from whom we all expect better.

In my opinion, as a long time reader of probably all of John Grisham's books, this one just did not measure up to the others. I kept reading it because I had purchased it. It lacked the suspense of the author's other novels. I am sorry to say I did not like it at all.

I am a long time Grisham fan, but was thoroughly disappointed by this new book. I felt no attachment to characters, or the plot. The majority of the book was easily written as a list of everything that transpired after the opening scenes. Even though it was boring to me I trudged through it to the end hoping to find the Grisham I have enjoyed over the years. Total waste of time.

I usually love reading Mr. Grisham. This book was pretty disappointing. There seemed to be 2 different stories. The first was very compelling, the 2nd seemed to be written as a list of things rolling clear up from the first story. Time moved irrationally, and it seemed as if a day rhea a month would randomly pass by. Read at your own risk. You will want a refund for your time.

Somewhat of a disappointment. I kept waiting for something exciting to happen, but it never happened. The ending was just that - abrupt and puzzling. Tedious read and I eventually just wanted it to be over. I have enjoyed Grisham's books in the past - guess there can never be another "The Firm."

It started okay. The story is compelling till about half way in. Then the pace picks up to the point of disbelief and stupidity. The last 10% was like a yada yada yada recitation of this judge did this, the FBI did this, the criminals were sentenced thusly. It was like Mr. Grisham was in a hurry to finish, almost as though he had lost interest in his own story. The biggest disappointment was the ending. There was absolutely NO resolution for the character who appeared to be central to the plot. Junior Mace even had his own prequel. What was the point of the novella *Witness to a Trial*? I guess it sorta set the stage but it was disappointing that it didn't come full circle. I felt like any ol Grisham wannabe could have written this.

In this not altogether convincing story, a Florida district judge has been accepting under the table money for over a decade from a criminal mastermind Vonn Dubose, who has created a rather large criminal enterprise in Florida, well hidden behind phony fronts. The centerpiece of his network is a casino on Indian lands that he has infiltrated which supplies huge amounts of untraceable cash. It appears to be a tightly controlled, impenetrable situation. However, the Florida Board on Judicial Conduct gets a mysterious call concerning a corrupt judge. Lacy Stoltz, a lawyer for the Board, meets a clandestine figure Greg Myers, a lawyer and ex-con, who has discovered a great deal of superficial evidence of this corruption and reveals that there is a mole with inside information. Myers lives on a boat and moves constantly, fully aware of the ruthlessness of this gang. Unfortunately, Lacy is not nearly as cautious. It really is only a foolish act of intimidation by the Dubose gang that gives legs to the investigation. From this point matters proceed almost methodically in revealing the depths of the criminality. Not a whole lot of pizzazz to this story or to the characters.

Another good Grisham piece. Story is interesting and moves along well as layers of corruption and murder in and around our "legal" system abound. At first, it seems to be a fairly straightforward case of a corrupt well placed judge being investigated by an agency that is designed to weed these folks out, but when the partners start to investigate, they find that this judge is seriously "connected" and people who investigate can wind up maimed or dead! The road gets ever twisted as the trail leads to corruption within the huge Indian Gaming Resorts, and the tribal chiefs do not answer to the same laws that govern the rest of America-- good read.

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