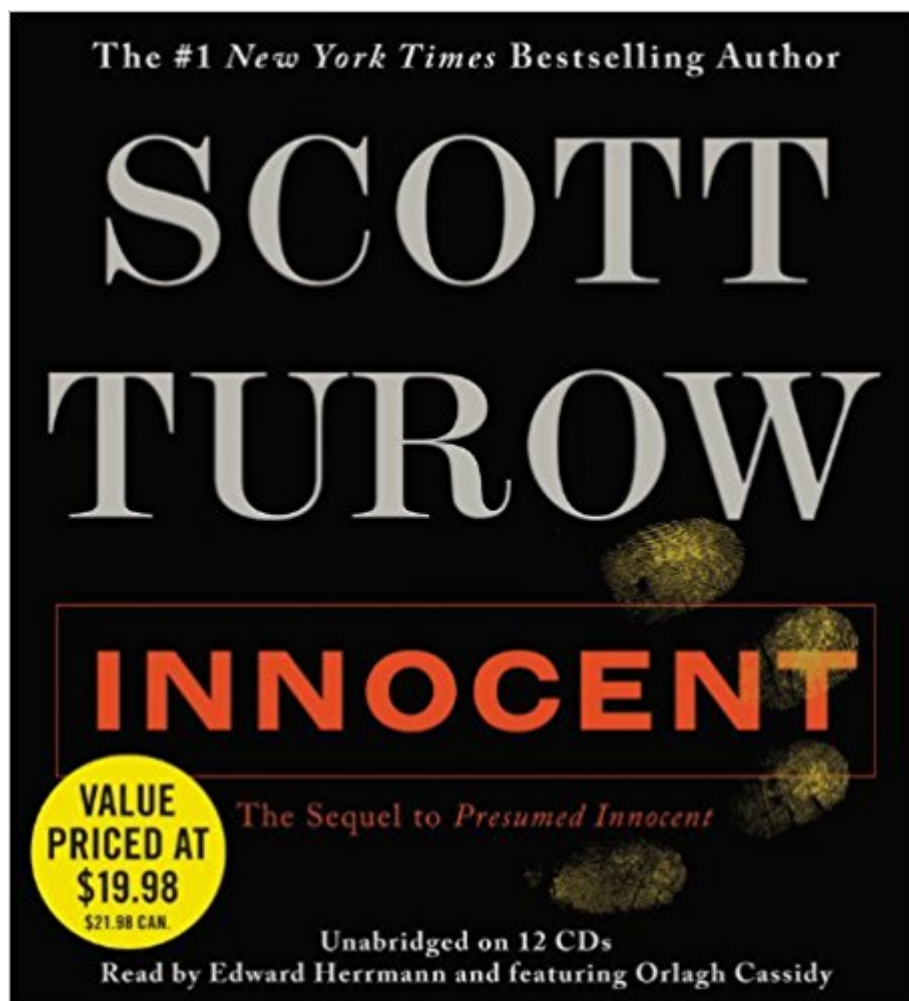




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Innocent (Kindle County)



Synopsis

The sequel to the genre-defining, landmark bestseller "Presumed Innocent," "Innocent" continues the story of Rusty Sabich and Tommy Molto who are, once again, twenty years later, pitted against each other in a riveting psychological match after the mysterious death of Rusty's wife. Rusty is the prime suspect. Reunited with his charismatic lawyer Sandy Stern, he will do anything to convince his beloved son, Nat, of his innocence. But what is he hiding? In an explosive trial that will expose lies, jealousy, revenge, corruption, and the darker side of human nature, Rusty Sabich and Tommy Molto will battle it out to finally discover the real meaning of truth and of justice."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

How did I miss this one? I'm sorry to be so late to the party but I just read Innocent and I devoured it in two days. I loved Presumed Innocent, the book and the movie, but I was always wondering what happened after. Now I know! I'm not about to drop spoilers here but I will say that Turow answered some of my questions about the family but I now I have a hundred more. Besides the fabulous court room scenes and plot, I loved the character development and the "what would you do" scenarios. Talk about rock and a hard place! I do have a few bones to pick but I can't discuss them here without spoilers but I need to find a discussion board on this story so I can get it off my chest. I will do that now. In the meantime, by all means, buy this book and save it for a long weekend read!

My take on this book's origin: this was never Turow's book. He didn't own it or take responsibility for it. The publisher invented it, paid off Turow and kept hounding him until he delivered. When they demanded another chapter, he'd hammer it out like an overdue term paper in high school. Turow knows in his heart he betrayed us. After writing *Presumed Innocent*, which earned the hard way its place at the giddy heights few writers ever experience, one has to wonder how he could allow himself to deliver this book to our table. He betrayed our faith in him. Once again, we are reminded that even the best of us can be bought at the right price. Okay, we admit that even superb writers are human, with fatal flaws. *damnit*. Money wins again. So the book.....like many other readers I found the character Nat was well named. He was precisely like a gnat that continually annoys you with his childish behavior, vocabulary, being reduced to tears at every turn.....a twerp, a gnat. We KNOW what that Turow is capable of creating not just characters, but actual people. He had this rare gift. We know he has extraordinary skills, imagination and the ability to take his readers to a place they long to be, with characters who exude credibility, unpredictability and intense intelligence. Stern came closest in this book to being that character, the one with whom I found myself wishing I could spend an evening in conversation. Disappointment isn't the feeling I have. I've felt this before and remember it too well. It's betrayal. And I can't forgive it.

Unfortunately, "*Innocent*" looks more like a writing exercise than a real novel, with its horribly complex structure, but some of the individual sections do show Scott Turow's wonderful talent. His courtroom scenes are still splendid, except when they are spoiled by sentimentality about the perpetually adolescent Nat. Tommy Molto's new life is exciting, and Turow's brand new character Judge Yee is a triumph: "No, no, Mr. Molto, not in America," said the judge. "No prison for what in man's head." Somehow this novel seems to cheapen Turow's "*Presumed Innocent*." There was a sense of cosmic mystery in that first novel, particularly surrounding Rusty's relationship with Carolyn, which is completely lacking in this sequel. The glimpses we got of Rusty in other novels indicated he was changing, but not to the simple-minded philanderer and ordinary, troubled husband we see here. The Nat we saw in "*Presumed Innocent*" could never have become the trendy, shallow youth who mouths contemporary clichés in this novel. The freshness of "*Presumed Innocent*" is rotting in "*Innocent*." One final complaint. I was slightly bothered in "*Presumed Innocent*" by the stupidity of the whole cast of characters. It seemed impossible that no one would even consider the real murderer as a suspect. In "*Innocent*" it is totally absurd that even twenty years later, with all the new evidence available, not even the supposedly brilliant Anna even thinks for a moment who the real killer of Carolyn might have been. I gave "*Innocent*" three stars for its courtroom

scenes, and for the new look at Sandy Stern and Tommy Molto, but you might prefer to imagine the sixty-year-old Rusty rather than to read the novel and see how he and others around him have deteriorated.

I enjoyed this book but was disappointed by the ending. As other reviewers have noted, there are no characters to root for. I would also like to note that you should definitely read (or see the excellent movie) Presumed Innocent before reading this book. I would imagine anybody who picked up Innocent without knowledge of Presumed Innocent will make some incorrect assumptions regarding the history of Rusty, Barbara and Tommy. There are new characters in this book. . . none of them particularly likeable or interesting. I didn't hate this book - but in the end it was not as good as I had hoped it would be.

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