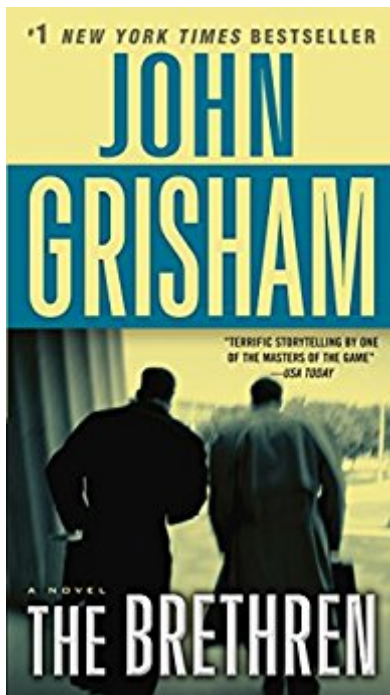


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The Brethren



Synopsis

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER They call themselves the Brethren: three disgraced former judges doing time in a Florida federal prison. One was sent up for tax evasion. Another, for skimming bingo profits. The third for a career-ending drunken joyride. Meeting daily in the prison law library, taking exercise walks in their boxer shorts, these judges-turned-felons can reminisce about old court cases, dispense a little jailhouse justice, and contemplate where their lives went wrong. Or they can use their time in prison to get very rich—very fast. And so they sit, sprawled in the prison library, furiously writing letters, fine-tuning a wickedly brilliant extortion scam—while events outside their prison walls begin to erupt. A bizarre presidential election is holding the nation in its grips, and a powerful government figure is pulling some very hidden strings. For the Brethren, the timing couldn't be better. Because they've just found the perfect victim. **BONUS:** This edition includes an excerpt from John Grisham's *The Litigators*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Brethren was a decent Grisham book. I enjoyed the story line and thought it interesting

however the book was not as intriguing as previous Grisham books and while it had a legal basis for the story it did have as much legal mystery to the it.

Great writing...one of Grisham's best. Storyline is interesting and stimulating with lots of twists. Highly recommend it.

Grisham never disappoints. Always a fast paced, page turner. You want to know the conclusion, but also don't want the book to end

One of the main characters in the book, Teddy Maynard, is a wheelchair-bound CIA director. If any readers see the association to Teddy Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt (who was also in a wheelchair), you'll understand why Grisham picked this name. T. Roosevelt was often quoted as saying, "Speak softly and carry a big stick. . . .", which also appears to be the invocation of Teddy Maynard, whose profound belief the world-is-incorrigible-but-I-am-not is the driving force behind the puppetry he has mastered over the many decades. I think calling him Franklin Maynard would have been too obvious for most people. As a matter of historical perspective, Theodore Roosevelt, whom FDR greatly admired, was also his fifth cousin. Why do I mention this? Because FDR was credited with bringing this country out of the 1930's depression, much the way Teddy Maynard is portrayed as believing he can bring this country (present day) out of its great complacency. So with a galloping plot about our lack of military, a rigged presidential election via money, and three judges who are all inmates at the same federal prison wreaking havoc on the lives of closeted gay men, Grisham is off and running. And believe me, he pulls out every cliché about political solipsism and doesn't stop there. While it is a good read, and not necessarily a good story, I was disappointed that the "bad" guys didn't get their comeuppance in the end as most do in a Grisham novel. Maybe wrecking, exhorting from, and blackmailing gay men just doesn't rank up there with Grisham as something "wrong." In fact, at the end of the novel, the three judges not only get away with all their chicanery, but they get rewarded as well. The only person who gets a shot to the head is the slimy lawyer Trevor, who's biggest crime was being stupid and an alcoholic. I think we can see where Grisham's priorities are when it comes to what's right and wrong (read: gay). And the topper? President Teddy Maynard, excuse me, I mean CIA Director Teddy Maynard, forces our poor closeted presidential hopeful Aaron Lake into a sham marriage, less Teddy reveal Lake's secret homosexual lifestyle! He's just as bad as the three judges he spent most of the book trying to take down. And that's how it ends. Lake gets married, the judges are pardoned with \$2 million each, and Teddy retires with all

his pain pills to the countryside. Isn't the world of Grisham nice and tidy?

Last and certainly least! This is the weakest of all Grisham's books. It took me about 80 pages before I was not forcing myself to continue reading. I usually grab the main character and root for him/her in Grisham's work. Not this time. They were all boring and none were clever. No character development and the plot was poor. Grisham never ends a book well. It is almost like he gets tired and wraps it up to get rid of the project but the ending did not detract from this. It was bad from beginning to end. I am only glad that I read it, so I can say I read it, when everyone that reads Grisham talks about it. It's an easy read. Try it. You may like it and think I am crazy.

Mostly found it boring and not one redeeming character in the book to root for, of course it was about lawyers. I don't like it. !

I love JG novels., specially the legal thrillers. He has a fantastic imagination and his writing style is very pleasant and easy to read, also he does not lack of good humor. I read him with great pleasure and I always know that he will surprise me.

Not your typical suspenseful Grisham. This book was entertaining nonetheless. The story is almost funny; the parts about the judges in the federal prison are so far from believable that you have no choice but to laugh. You can just picture Trevor can't you? The description of a "no security" federal prison with judges gone bad housing with international drug lords is a stretch. You certainly don't think the parts about the CIA are believable but hey who knows what they can do? Grisham seems to be leaning away from the lawyerly dramas that we love and going for full on unbelievable entertainment only fiction.

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