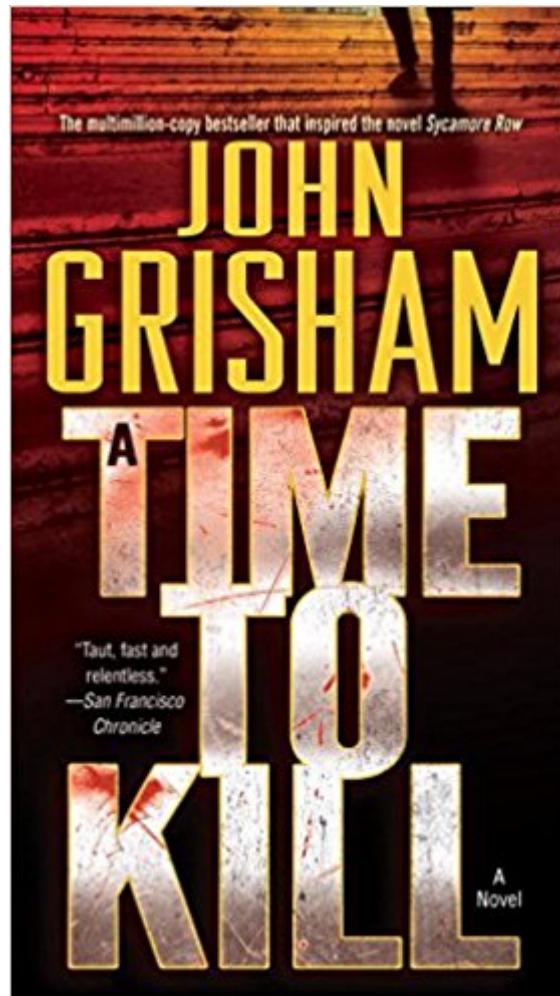




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A Time To Kill: A Novel



Synopsis

Don't miss a sneak peek of Sycamore Row, John Grisham's new novel inspired by A Time to Kill, in the back of the book. The life of a ten-year-old girl is shattered by two drunken and remorseless young men. The mostly white town of Clanton in Ford County, Mississippi, reacts with shock and horror at the inhuman crime. Until her black father acquires an assault rifle and takes justice into his own outraged hands. For ten days, as burning crosses and the crack of sniper fire spread through the streets of Clanton, the nation sits spellbound as young defense attorney Jake Brigance struggles to save his client's life "and then his own."

Book Information

Paperback: 672 pages

Publisher: Dell (June 23, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0440245915

ISBN-13: 978-0440245919

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 1.5 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 2,490 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

With a chillingly calm, even delivery, Michael Beck, a regular Grisham reader (The Rainmaker, The Runaway Jury), turns the narrative of this disturbing tale of racism, ignorance, and brutality into an almost visceral experience. "Cobb strung a length of quarter inch ski rope over a limb ... he grabbed her and put the noose around her head." The story is frighteningly believable and expertly crafted around a horrible crime and the tragic consequences that follow. At times, Beck's character voices can be distracting, but his efforts are generally applied to good effect, adding another level of tension to this already suspenseful look at a small Mississippi town's struggle for justice. (Running time: 17 hours, 12 cassettes) --George Laney --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In this lively novel, Grisham explores the uneasy relationship of blacks and whites in the rural South. His treatment is balanced and humane, if not particularly profound, slighting neither blacks nor whites. Life becomes complicated in the backwoods town of Clanton, Mississippi, when a black worker is brought to trial for the murder of the two whites who raped and tortured his young daughter. Everyone gets involved, from Klan to NAACP. Grisham's pleasure in relating the byzantine complexities of Clanton politics is contagious, and he tells a good story. There are touches of humor in the dialogue; the characters are salty and down-to-earth. An enjoyable book, which displays a respect for Mississippi ways and for the contrary people who live there. Recommended.- David Keymer, SUNY Coll. of Technology, UticaCopyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Overall, I enjoyed this book but at times it did seem to drag on. Carl Lee Hailey has taken the law into his own hands. His ten year old daughter was raped and let to die by two white men. This story is set decades ago when racial tensions were very high in the south. There is repeated use of the N word which people can find offensive but based on the time period of this book it is something that was said frequently and people not give it a second thought. Jake Brigance is an attorney who has agreed to represent Carl Lee who is a poor black man in the South. Jake took the case with less than a \$1000 given to represent him. Carl Lee was upset when he learned that Billy Ray Cobb and Pete Wilard took his daughter and repeated raped her and disgraced her and left her for dead. Carl wanted justice and did not think he would get it for 2 white men abusing a little black girl. Carl took matters into his own hand and served his own justice by killing those two. Now Carl is on trial. This book follows the tensions in the South and the KKK and Carl planning to kill them and then also how Jake had to deal with the outlash from the community for representing a black man. It was an interesting read in that this is how things were common back in the day with names said and threats. It also has Ellen, Jake assistant, a 'yankee' from up North who views things differently than those who live in the South. I admit it was refreshing to see Jake tease Rufus Buckley, the opposing counsel and he get so mad when called the governor. Harry Rex who is in other John Grisham novels also shows up in this story as well. The verdict at the end of the trial could go either way. I won't spoil it for you. The book could have been a bit shorter as no need to repeat about the national guard being out and the groups gathering for support but, still a good read and one of my favorite authors

I've read most of John Grisham's early novels. I'm a sucker for a good legal

drama or thriller and his stuff is usually pretty entertaining and an easy read. This one was the first one I read and still stands out as my favorite. It draws the reader in by focusing on their feelings of sympathy and empathy and the human emotional need for a satisfying conclusion. The story surrounds a young southern lawyer (Jake Brigance) who has tasked himself with freeing a man (Carl Lee) who killed the unredeemable rednecks who raped his ten year old daughter. The court room drama and intrigue that ensues will keep you turning the pages. The racial division that this incident causes the town is also front and center. I think Grisham does a great job of pulling you in different directions. As a mother, I want Carl Lee to go free. It's something that every parent envisions themselves doing to the person who hurts their child and we feel it's justifiable. As someone who believes in the law, Carl Lee murdered those men in cold blood without a doubt and should be punished. I think that push and pull between your emotions is why this book is hard to put down. Of course, there are some things of this book that I don't particularly care for. The obsession with drinking heavily seems to be prevalent and is really just kind of distracting and unnecessary. The portrayal of all white southerners as being sweaty, foul mouthed bigots is also a bit annoying. Even though this book was written in 1989 and is set in 1984, John Grisham is telling a story that could have been written today. The way the racial tension has skyrocketed in this country and the way recent incidents have divided the nation, this book is really a lesson that nothing has changed in the past 30 years and that's pretty sad.

I was prepared to love the book, as I'd read most of Grisham's later work and loved it. My problem with the book is that I have watched the movie and found the main characters very sympathetic, the storyline absorbing, and the ending satisfying. The scene in the movie of Jake's closing arguments to the jurors never fails to evoke emotion, his humility makes him likeable. Harry Rex and Lucien are both people who amuse and intrigue in the movie. None of this is true in the book. I like my main characters to be people I find engaging, if not likeable, and the book failed totally in this regard. I found too many pages with lengthy and unnecessary descriptions of irrelevant scenes in the book. Parts were plodding and downright boring. The ending? Totally anticlimactic with too many loose ends. I can see why the book wasn't well received when it was first published. I'm thankful the author improved; if he hadn't, I wouldn't be a Grisham fan.

I watch the movie first but the book is so much better. Sad to say the black/white issue is still prevalent not just in the south. I agree with Carl Lee if the father were white and two black raped and brutally beat his daughter we would cheer him on. I personally agree with what Carl Lee did.

Had they gone to jail they would no doubt be raped and beaten, as I understand even criminals have no tolerance for child rapists, but for them this wouldn't be enough in my book. Knowing how the system works, they would be out in no time. Jake to me in the book was just an attention driven seeker of fame and fortune to come. Time to Kill had me gripped. I yearn to read more.

I kept putting off reading this book because I have seen the movie several times. In fact, we have the DVD. Well, if you think you know the story from the movie, you need to rethink it! I couldn't put the book down. I think this is one of John Grisham's best work I always liked the movie. The book is so much better!

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