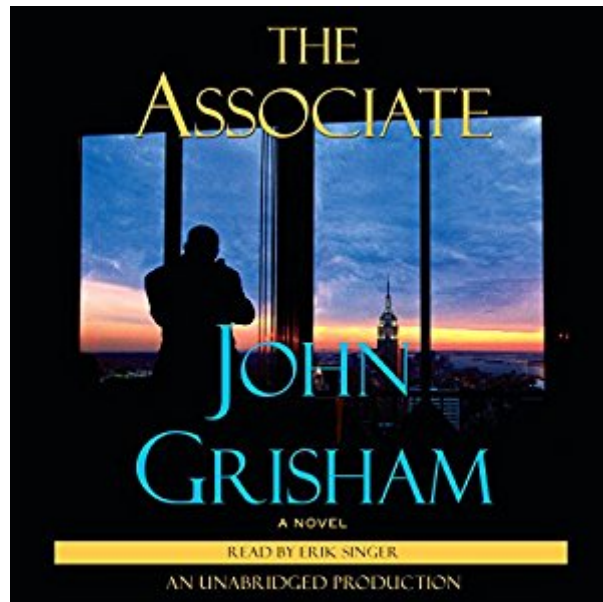


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The Associate: A Novel



Synopsis

If you thought Mitch McDeere was in trouble in *The Firm*, wait until you meet Kyle McAvoy, *The Associate*. Kyle McAvoy grew up in his father's small-town law office in York, Pennsylvania. He excelled in college, was elected editor-in-chief of *The Yale Law Journal*, and his future has limitless potential. But Kyle has a secret, a dark one, an episode from college that he has tried to forget. The secret, though, falls into the hands of the wrong people, and Kyle is forced to take a job he doesn't want even though it's a job most law students can only dream about. Three months after leaving Yale, Kyle becomes an associate at the largest law firm in the world, where, in addition to practicing law, he is expected to lie, steal, and take part in a scheme that could send him to prison, if not get him killed. With an unforgettable cast of characters and villains from Baxter Tate, a drug-addled trust fund kid and possible rapist, to Dale, a pretty but seemingly quiet former math teacher who shares Kyle's office at the law firm, to two of the most powerful and fiercely competitive defense contractors in the country and featuring all the twists and turns that have made John Grisham the most popular storyteller in the world, *The Associate* is vintage Grisham. From the Hardcover edition. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

John Grisham can be one heck of a novelist when he sets his mind to it. But "The Associate" comes across as a bit lazy and unfocused. This story of a young and bright law student who is the victim of a blackmail scheme just wanders for a while and then kind of plops down in the end. I will admit that

I found much of the writing interesting but it seems that Grisham wants to tell the reader the difficulties and detail of working for a massive law firm without adding any suspense or proper conclusion to the tale. Maybe he plans a sequel (?) which could be fairly dynamic but this book can be summed up fairly simply. 1. Kyle wants to work in the law. 2. Bad guy threatens Kyle with video and blackmails him to steal information from major legal firm. (Who is the bad guy? You'll never know.) 3. Kyle reluctantly cooperates. 4. Lots of meetings with bad guy and hero going over dull details. 5. Kyle agonizes. 6. One moment of horror when a character dies (Who killed him? You'll never know). 7. Will Kyle execute plan of bad guy? 8. Then a completely deflating climax. (Believe me, you'll be sorely disappointed.) There is a comparison on the book jacket to "The Firm" a previous Grisham hit novel. My advice, read "The Firm". If you must read this book, wait for the paperback to be on sale at the used bookstore near you.

Mr. Grisham is padding his billing sheet with *The Associate*, which seems almost to have been ghost-written. It reflects little of the talent behind *The Partner*, my favorite Grisham novel and, frankly, it made me somewhat upset to have spent 27 bucks. I would have been disappointed to buy this one in paperback. Time was that you started a Grisham novel and couldn't put it down. Had I not been stuck in an airport en route from a deposition I would not have had the patience to finish. This book was like my sixth grade term paper; we all had them, you would count the words until you got to the end. Likewise, although there was some great potential in this story it was not realized. Sure, there were half-hearted attempts to bring other characters to life, but they were all just that, half-hearted. The ending was among the most disappointing that I have ever come across--in any genre. Nobody learns anything. There is no character progression--just a slow moving train wreck from which nobody emerges having been enlightened. In fact, the reader feels much like our protagonist--forced to endure a journey that was expected to be something completely different and not entirely sure how to escape. Heavens, big law firms are such a deliciously evil mix of stunningly warped personalities and distorted goals that any number of excellent thrillers could be drawn from facts known to just about any lawyer. I do hope that Mr. Grisham rediscovers the joy of telling a story--he is very good at it; however, I cannot recommend this book.

I have read every one of John Grisham's books and was looking forward to this one, however, after finishing it last night, I must say I was very disappointed. The ending (which, of course, I won't give away) was very lame. He spent a lot of time on the big bad law firms abusing the associates and not enough on the real story of Kyle and who were these people who were ruining his life. I would

definitely not recommend it.

I've been a longtime fan of Grisham and this novel was utterly terrible. There was no connection with the characters, it dragged on and on with no point, and then ended so spectacularly badly that I was searching for a missing page or something, unable to believe that was the end. He has written many good books, and no doubt will again, but don't waste your time with this one.

This novel grabbed me on the first page. Why is this bright young law grad doing community service? Why is the FBI stalking him? And why is he so nervous? The plot reminded me of *The Firm*, which I enjoyed. The writing is competent, the story initially engrossing. A large law firm blackmails its own members for a nefarious agenda. The hero is a not so innocent, but sympathetic hero... Grisham used to write novels that kept me on the edge of my seat. I recall *The Pelican Brief*, and *A Time To Kill*. Perhaps if I read them again, I would find them dated and boring, but I remember them as fast paced and enjoyable thrillers. His recent novels, like *The Broker*, were disappointing. I hoped for more in *The Associate*. Unfortunately I did not find it. Maybe Grisham has lost his edge, or maybe I have moved on to other things. Perhaps the legal thriller has had its run, and now shows signs of age. My attention began to lag after about 100 pages. I could not believe in the characters deeply enough to care about them. When routine tasks like cleaning the kitchen take precedence over a book, it is time to seek out another book! I am sorry to write this. I really liked Grisham, and I was hoping for more. I cannot recommend this novel to lovers of true adventure. This is not a terrible book, but it is not great. It will pass the time during a long flight, or on vacation, but there are better novels out there to discover.

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