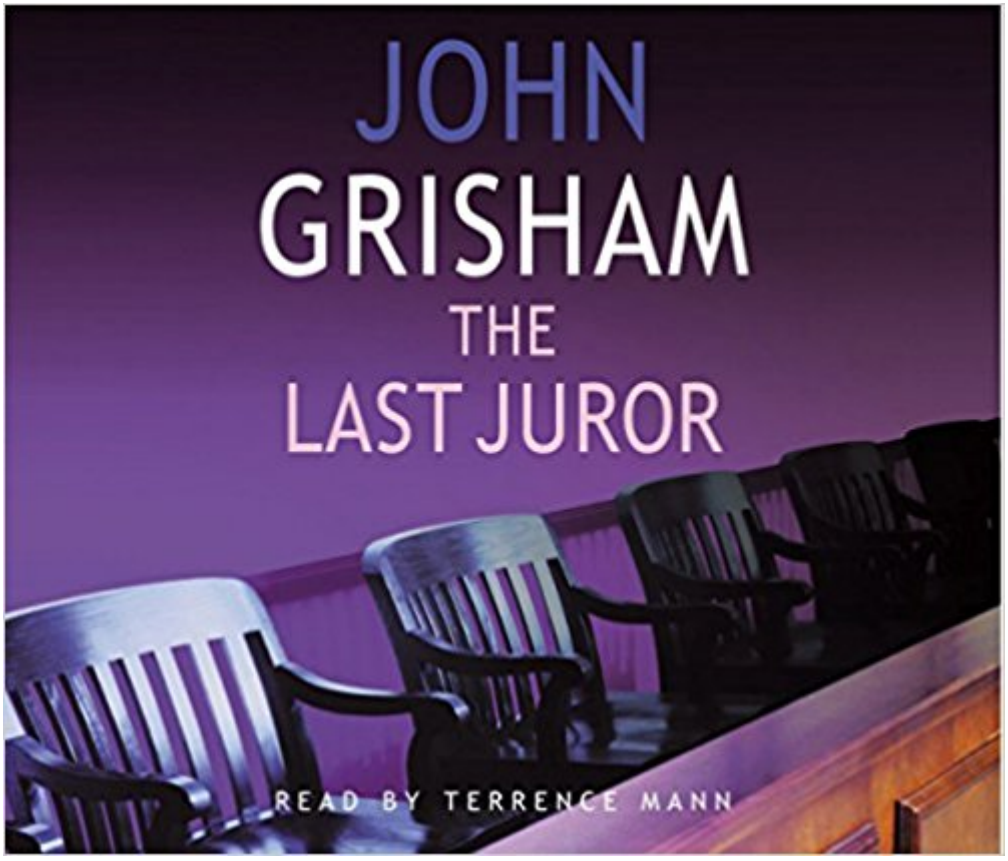
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Last Juror, The - CD



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Synopsis

Danny Padgitt was tried, found guilty, and sentenced to ’life’ for a murder in Clanton, Mississippi. Nine years later, his sentence complete, he returns to Ford County, and the promised retribution against the jurors begins.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In 1970, small town newspaper The Clanton Times went belly up. With financial assistance from a rich relative, it’s purchased by 23-year-old Willie Traynor, formerly the paper’s cub reporter. Soon afterward, his new business receives the readership boost it needs thanks to his editorial efforts and coverage of a particularly brutal rape and murder committed by the scion of the town’s reclusive bootlegger family. Rather than shy from reporting on the subsequent open-and-shut trial (those who oppose the Padgitt family tend to turn up dead in the area’s swampland), Traynor launches a crusade to ensure the unrepentant murderer is brought to justice. When a guilty verdict is returned, the town is relieved to find the Padgitt family’s grip on the town did not sway the jury, though Danny Padgitt is sentenced to life in prison rather than death. But, when Padgitt is released after serving less than a decade in jail and members of the jury are murdered, Clanton once again finds itself at the mercy of its renegade family. When it comes, the dÃƒÂ©nouement is no surprise; The Last Juror is less a story of suspense than a study of the often idyllic southern town of Clanton, Mississippi (the setting for Grisham’s first novel, A Time to Kill). Throughout the nine years between Padgitt’s trial and release, Traynor finds acceptance in Clanton, where the people "don’t really trust

you unless they trusted your grandfather." He grows from a long-haired idealist into another of the town's colorful characters--renovating an old house, sporting a bowtie, beloved on both sides of the color line, and the only person to have attended each of the town's 88 churches at least once. The Last Juror returns Grisham to the courtroom where he made his name, but those who enjoyed the warm sentiment of his recent novels (Bleachers, A Painted House) will still find much to love here. --Benjamin Reese --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Grisham has spent the last few years stretching his creative muscles through a number of genres: his usual legal thrillers (The Summons, The King of Torts, etc.), a literary novel (The Painted House), a Christmas book (Skipping Christmas) and a high school football elegy (Bleachers). This experimentation seems to have imbued his writing with a new strength, giving exuberant life to this compassionate, compulsively readable story of a young man's growth from callowness to something approaching wisdom. Willie Traynor, 23 and a college dropout, is working as a reporter on a small-town newspaper, the Ford County Times, in Clanton, Miss. When the paper goes bankrupt, Willie turns to his wealthy grandmother, who loans him $50,000 to buy it. Backed by a stalwart staff, Willie labors to bring the newspaper back to health. A month after his first issue, he gets the story of a lifetime, the murder of beautiful young widow Rhoda Kasselaw. After being raped and knifed, the nude Rhoda staggered next door and whispered to her neighbor as she was dying, "Danny Padgitt. It was Danny Padgitt." The killer belongs to an infamous clan of crooked highway contractors, killers and drug smugglers who live on impregnable Padgitt Island. Willie splashes the murder all over the Times, making him both an instant success and a marked man. The town is up in arms, demanding Danny's head. After a near miss (the Padgitts are known for buying themselves out of trouble), Danny is convicted and sentenced to life in prison. As he's dragged out of the courtroom, he vows revenge on the jurors. Willie finds, to his consternation, that in Mississippi life doesn't necessarily mean life, so in nine years Danny is back outÃƒÂ¢€"and jurors begin to die. Around and through this plot Grisham tells the sad, heroic, moving stories of the eccentric inhabitants of Clanton, a small town balanced between the pleasures and perils of the old and the new South. The novel is heartfelt, wise, suspenseful and funny, one of the best Grishams ever. Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Life in Clanton, Ford County, MS seen through the eyes of Willie Traynor, a young man who buys the 'Times' the local weekly newspaper. A town still divided by race facing up to the oncoming

desegregation of schools - into this steps Willie from ’up north’ like a breath of fresh air.Using a gruesome rape & murder, the ensuing trial and it’s far reaching consequences as the main plot, Grisham, in this tale of ’The last Juror’ paints a panorama of life in Clanton with fully fleshed characters who draw you into their lives.A great read.

Best Grisham book I’ve read in a while, but still lacks the bite of the first one or two. The main character, a journalist, is quite developed as a character - at least for this form of literature - but most of the others are caricatures. Pity, because the story was interesting and could have been better told by understanding more of the victim and of the accused - but all we learned was bits and pieces of the lives of not-at-all-involved onlookers and jurors. Even the accused’s family, whom our journalist narrator blamed for all the ill doings, hardly made an appearance. Still, it was better than last time. When is the real John Grisham going to show up?

In The Last Juror, Grisham provides us with a decade long slice of life in Clanton Mississippi. Told through a narrative of the new owner of "the Times," Clanton’s weekly newspaper, we are introduced to the town Clanton and Ford County.Through endearing new characters, Grisham gives us another dramatic story unfolding in the stew of racial prejudices, economic disparity, and corruption. The local folks are trying to live out otherwise simple lives while clinging to their patriotism and their individual and collective faith in God. But, the folks in Clanton keep buzzing with opinions and concern as their little community is influenced by ever evolving events and citizens.Though Grisham’s skilled story telling, we get to know the citizens of this southern community and the colorful characters who will later interact with young lawyer Jake Brigance. Its folksy, its drmagic, and its enjoyable. We find new people to like and some to not like. Despite all its flaws, we root for Clanton and hope it survives itself. And, looking through the lens of that small community, Grisham allows us to examine our own thoughts on many subjects which permeate America. But, the introspection invited is far less demanding than what erupts in A Time to Kill.The Last Juror is further enjoyable proof that Grisham can write American life and when doing so, we feel subtle connections to another great American author: Mark Twain.

I have always enjoyed how John Grisham could tell a story. Before the end of the book you felt like you knew the characters personally. The Last Juror certainly felt like that. He placed you so firmly in the mix that you felt like you grew up in Ford County and saw these people on a regular basis. Great read!

John Grisham is at the top of his game. I just sit and wait for him to write his next novel.In this one, you get to follow the storyline of Willie Traynor, newspaper editor, from his unfortunate beginnings to his final great success. The legal twists and turns we find him encounter along the way are mesmerizing. (I have two lawyers in my family.) I love the way Grisham likes to throw in his real feelings about the law as it's too often practiced, as with David Zinc, an attorney who's just had enough, in The Litigators. And finally, Grisham's being from Mississippi allows him to include in the novel his knowledge of the plight of the African-American people, as in my favorite, A Time To Kill. In fact, I think these three points that we see in so many of his novels, are what draws me to him. But in all of Grisham's novels, it's the constant suspense, the "watch the sun come up" mark of a superior story-teller. (I always read in bed.) There have been only two or three authors in my adult lifetime who have affected me this way. Jeanette

A Grisham novel that we missed when it was first published, but we are happy to have caught it now 12 years later! Interesting dynamics within a small Mississippi town in the 70's with respect to just about everything, including: crime; criminal justice; official corruption; organized crime; race relations racial tension; racial history; economics, poverty, "corporate invasion

Once again, Grisham tells a story that rings true to its time and locale--his home state of Mississippi. As usual, he brings his characters to life with such vivid detail that the reader feels as if she knows them. Indeed, with my own southern roots, many seem familiar in one way or another. I am always sorry when Grisham's books come to an end and I don't rush through them as a result. I savor each turn of phrase and every word choice. But they inevitably do end and I feel fortunate that he is such a prolific writer because of that.

gift , sent me thank you, he says , 'good read, read it again after a week so good"I love that i can get large print , it was hard to tell if book was large print before when ordering but now seems it is marked better.

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