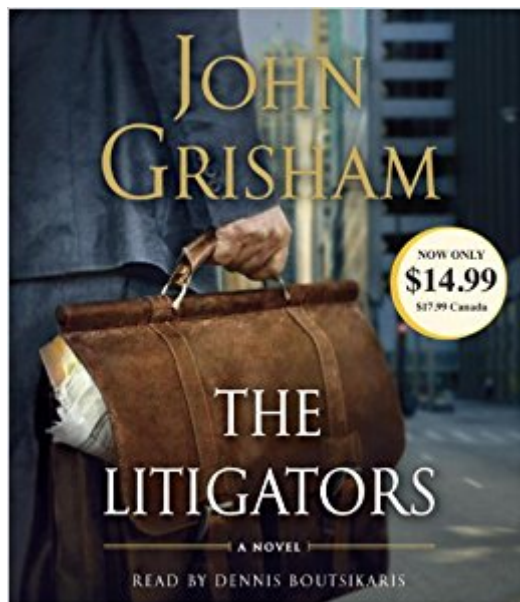


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The Litigators



Synopsis

The partners at Finley & Figg often refer to themselves as a "boutique law firm." Boutique, as in chic, selective, and prosperous. Oscar Finley and Wally Figg are none of these things. They are a two-bit operation of ambulance chasers who bicker like an old married couple. Until change comes their way—or, more accurately, stumbles in. After leaving a fast-track career and going on a serious bender, David Zinc is sober, unemployed, and desperate enough to take a job at Finley & Figg. Now the firm is ready to tackle a case that could make the partners rich—without requiring them to actually practice much law. A class action suit has been brought against Varrick Labs, a pharmaceutical giant with annual sales of \$25 billion, alleging that Krayoxx, its most popular drug, causes heart attacks. Wally smells money. All Finley & Figg has to do is find a handful of Krayoxx users to join the suit. It almost seems too good to be true . . . and it is. Includes an excerpt of John Grisham's Calico Joe and a special preview of his upcoming novel The Racketeer. From the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Random House Audio; Abridged edition (September 11, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 044980691X

ISBN-13: 978-0449806913

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.1 x 6 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 3,921 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #108,967 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > (G) > Grisham, John #27 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction >

Unabridged #64 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

Customer Reviews

PRAISE FOR THE CONFESSION "Brilliant . . . Superb . . . the kind of grab-a-reader-by-the-shoulders suspense story that demands to be inhaled as quickly as possible." "Washington Post" "One of Grisham's best efforts in many seasons . . . a rousing return to his dexterous good-guy-faces-corrupt-system storytelling." "People magazine" "Packed with tension, legal roadblocks, and shocking revelations." "USA Today

JOHN GRISHAM is the author of twenty-three novels, one work of nonfiction, a collection of stories, and two novels for young readers. He lives in Virginia and Mississippi.

Early on in Grisham's career, he wrote with fire. He went off against the ills of the legal and political systems, kicked greed between the legs, and did it all with some memorable, believable characters. His success was not surprising. Then, he stumbled. He lost the fire. I barely hung on through books like "The Brethren" and "The Broker." But last year's "The Confession" showed him kindling some new heat over a subject he is passionate about, and I applauded it, even if it was a bit stale at times. "The Litigators" is the first Grisham book I've had fun reading in a long time. I get the feeling he had fun writing this one. We meet grouchy Oscar Finley and plucky, unethical Wally Figg, partners at Finley & Figg. These are some humorous, annoying, even likable guys scraping to make a living through any client and situation possible. They're propped up by the tough secretary. They're bottom feeders. Along comes David Zinc, who can no longer stomach the hundred-hour work weeks at a legal firm where 600 other lawyers are employed. He goes off the rails, decides to check out one fine morning, and ends up drunk hours later on the steps at the ignoble Finley & Figg. Despite his recent bender, he's actually a guy who loves his wife, albeit not always well, and still retains some ethical and legal standards, since he's not yet stepped foot into a court or heard the way things go down between a rascally attorney and a leering judge. With Finley & Figg adding Zinc to their recipe, the mixture bubbles over. Figg stumbles into a potentially huge torts lawsuit against a pharmaceutical manufacturer (while scraping for clients at a funeral home, no less), and he starts signing up other clients (ones who are alive, thank goodness). In his enthusiasm, he drags along Zinc and senior partner Finley, eventually landing their tiny firm in court against a formidable armada of attorneys. As I whipped through the pages, I found myself laughing out loud on more than one occasion--and for all the right reasons this time. Grisham gives us some great characters, three-dimensional, likable, understandable, despicable, and everything in between. This is the Grisham I remember, one who was passionate, even fiery, but who also loved people and never forgot they were the driving force in his stories. Something has shifted. That fire is back. And this is easily my favorite Grisham in years.

John Grisham will always be one of my favorite authors. "The Firm" is one of the top 5 books I have ever read, and a fictional book like "Bleachers" showed his incredible versatility as a writer. But based on his last two books, "The Confession" and "The Litigators" (the latter of which I just finished), I believe he has maxed out on legal thrillers. It's like a star athlete who has lost a step and

can't compete at the highest level any more. In TV terms, in my opinion, he has "Jumped the Shark." This book starts out slow, picks up a little steam during the trial, but never came close to getting to the point where I "couldn't put it down." In fact, my only interest in reading it quickly was so I could get through it and move on to something else. The characters are generally lackluster in terms of generating interest, and the story line is predictable and anticlimactic. All in all, a second straight disappointing effort by a terrific writer. I would take a pass.

Attorney David Zinc left his high powered job one day, went to a bar where he stayed all day vowing to never return. By chance, he eventually arrived drunkenly at the offices of Finley and Figg, street lawyers who chased ambulances and divorces and were always on the brink of financial ruin. He signed on with them, attracted by their laid back style. However, life changed when Wally Figg found a potential law suit that could change their fortune. Nothing went as expected as all three lawyers were over their heads, not being Tort lawyers for starters. Grisham gives the reader good insight into the challenges of lawyers who struggle to make a living, and Oscar Finley, Wally, and David are well defined, not just through their work, but who they are as men. A really good read that is hard to put down.

A must read. I think this is one of the best books Grisham has written in a long while. I really enjoy his writing and this book was a fun page turner. I suspect Grisham had lots of fun himself telling this story. I was sad when it ended but hope to read another courtroom drama with David at the podium. Enjoy!

I really enjoyed this Grisham read. He added a twist or two halfway through the book, that kept me engaged as a reader. In spite of Finley and Figgs quirks, you liked them. When David Zinc stumbled onto the scene he turned things around at the firm. David, who really is the hero of the book, was a lawyer who was more interested in doing what was right than the bottom line, though the bottom line was plentiful.

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