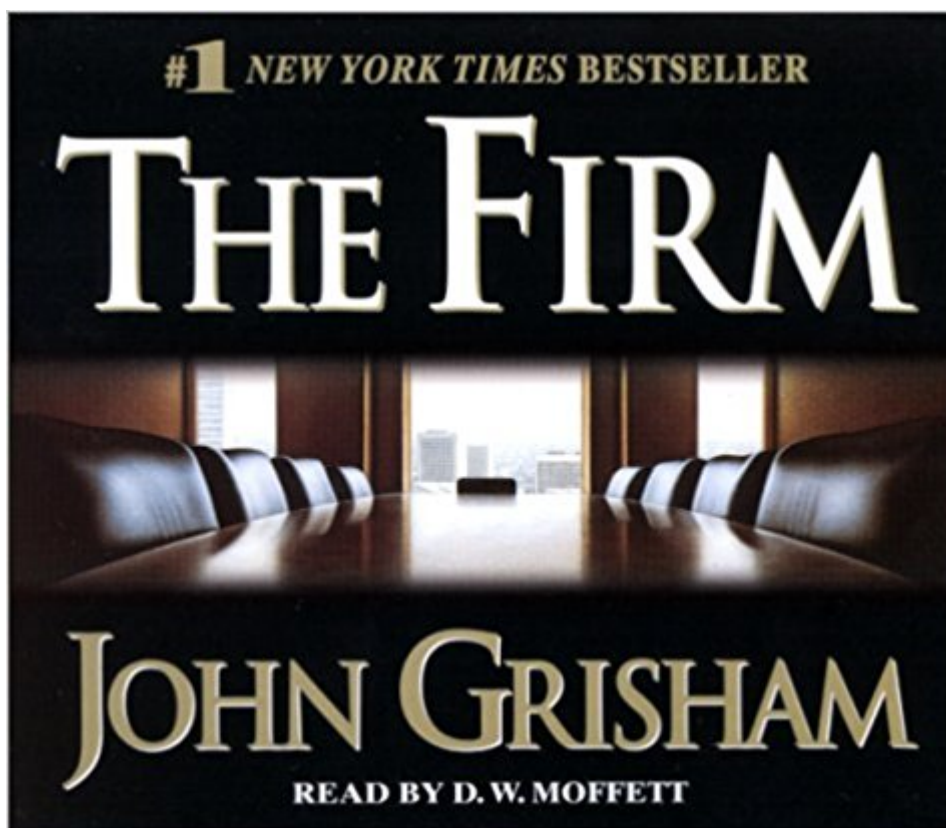




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The Firm (John Grisham)



Synopsis

Three CDs, 3 hrs. performance by D.W. Moffett Mitchell McDeere, raised in the coal-mining region of rural Kentucky, has worked hard to get where he is: third in his class at Harvard Law. He's young. He's bright. He's ambitious. Mitch could have the pick of the big firms in New York and Chicago, but he's chosen the Memphis tax firm of Bendini, Lambert & Locke. They're selective. They pay outrageous salaries. They have a turnover rate of zero. And Mitch is about to find out why. Several events fuel Mitch's growing suspicions: two of the partners die in a suspicious diving accident off Grand Cayman; the senior partners seem unduly proud of the fact that no one has ever resigned; and security measures at the office are, even for a company with billionaire clients, more than a little extreme. Then Mitch makes an explosive discovery: The firm is owned and operated by the most powerful organized crime family in Chicago. Even as Mitch discovers the truth, he finds himself caught between the FBI, who wants an informant inside the firm, and the firm itself, which will make him a very rich man or a very dead one.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Hard to believe, but there was a time when the word "lawyer" wasn't synonymous with "criminal," and the idea of a law firm controlled by the Mafia was an outlandish proposition. This intelligent, ensnaring story came out of nowhere--Oxford, Mississippi, where Grisham was a small-town lawyer--and quickly catapulted to the top of the bestseller list, with good reason. Mitch McDeere, the appealing hero, is a poor kid whose only assets are a first-class mind, a Harvard law degree, and a

beautiful, loving wife. When a Memphis law firm makes him an offer he really can't refuse, he trades his old Nissan for a new BMW, his cramped apartment for a house in the best part of town, and puts in long hours finding tax shelters for Texans who'd rather pay a lawyer than the IRS. Nothing criminal about that. He'd be set for life, if only associates at the firm didn't have a funny habit of dying, and the FBI wasn't trying to get Mitch to turn his colleagues in. The tempo and pacing are brilliant, the thrills keep coming, and the finish has a wonderful ironic flourish. It's not hard to see why Grisham changed the genre permanently with this one, and few of his colleagues in a very crowded field come close to equaling him. --Jane Adams --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grisham's gripping fiction debut describes the inner workings of a law firm set up by the Mafia to launder money and concoct tax evasions. Mitchell McDeere, third in his class at Harvard Law, is wooed relentlessly by the prestigious Memphis tax firm of Bendini, Lambert and Locke. Succumbing to the firm's high-powered salesmanship, he rejects some of the country's best-known firms to join the group, where he is awed by the opulent lifestyle pressed upon him. But the company has ruthless, underhanded methods of gathering information (they wire the homes of all associates) and ensuring loyalty (social situations are severely monitored). The firm's mania for security and secrecy, combined with the fact that the only lawyers who have ever left did so in coffins--five in 15 years--arouse Mitch and wife Abby's curiosity, and they rapidly find themselves in a labyrinth of intrigue and danger. Grisham, a criminal defense attorney, lucidly describes law office procedures at the highest levels, smoothly meshing them with the criminal events of the narrative. Mitch and Abby are appealing characters, though a suspension of disbelief may be required to accept their super-cool behavior while they are on the run from both the FBI and the Mafia. Nonetheless, readers will be totally hooked by this unusual and absorbing story. 50,000 first printing; Literary Guild main selection; movie rights to Paramount. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is one of the best books I've read this year. This story began simply enough: Mitch, a young man who grew up poor in the south without much family was very smart. He finished graduate school for his law degree in the top ten of his class and married his high school sweet heart. Although he'd intended to make the rounds of all the top places for attorneys, he quickly accepted The Firm's offer - partly because he and they seemed to click and partly because they said family was important to them. When he accepted their generous offer, they also told him they'd pay off his

school debts so that it wasn't hanging over him. They leased him a BMW that he'd need to pay them back after he made partner in a few years. Mitch did indeed work very hard for the firm, putting in longer hours than anyone. However, little by little, Mitch began trying to make sense of certain events - how and why were two of the firm's lawyers found dead in the Caribbean in the last year or so? Relatively soon, Mitch was approached by an FBI person who hoped to entice Mitch to turn over documents that they could use against the firm. Mitch was leery about that. The story continued unfolding with lots of ups and downs. We readers could guess but not really know how it would turn out until near the end of the final chapters.

I simply love John Grisham however, I think this book went on and on. I probably felt that way because I was so anxious to see how the plan played out. I think it was brilliant how Mitch uncovered the crime and corruptions of The Firm. I saw the movie and it was really intense but the book was so much better and I also felt the intensity in the book as well. I love going to the movies but I think the book is always better..

Good quick, light read. Like many novels of this type, starts out really good, then flares off. It goes from believable to very unrealistic. I did like the reading, it kept me drawn in and I finished the 500 pages in about 3 days, but I wouldn't say it's thought provoking. Also don't bother watching the movie after you read this, doesn't come close.

Couldn't put it down. First John Grisham book I've read, and I've gotta say the guy really knows how to make you forget you are even reading a book. I found myself mad when I had to put the book down to drive home from work XD. The first half is an awesome slow burn, with all of the firms strange actions and unanswered questions about them. The second half is pure thriller. I'd recommend.

Slightly different from the film and just as fun. Not the sort of book of normally read, but the copy I started on was the only thing available to read I had. A happy happenstance as it turns out.

Liked this book a lot. Lots of twists and turns. The main character started out sounding conceited and self centered. He soon took a turn that I did not see coming. Great character development and lots of thoughtful insight into nature of people and the greed that is prevalent in our society. 'I was a bit disappointed in the final couple of pages.... would have liked to see the main character's

rehashing of the events and such. It left me rather flat on the last couple of pages.

Just as great now as it was 30(?) years ago, but this time I did not have to race frantically through it to find out what would happen next. I could slooowly savor the build up of the story. Of course, *knowing* that McDeere = Cruise, Tolar = Hackman, and Tammy = Hunter only helped my mind picture everything.

I have recently begun rereading John Grisham's novels. I had read John Grisham's first novel "A Time to Kill" right after it came out just over 20 years ago and thoroughly enjoyed it. I went on to read many of his novels. When I learned that he had just released a sequel to "A Time to Kill," I decided to reread that novel before reading "Sycamore Row." After "Sycamore Row," I was once more thoroughly hooked on his novels and decided to read "The Firm." I found "The Firm" to be totally engaging and a real page-turner. I have only a few minor criticisms. I was more than a little surprised when Tammy made that phone call from the condo. Surely, they should have known that calls might be monitored. Also, it was not clear to me when Mitch had been able to cobble together the transfer of money and the series of motels during their escape. Even so, I enjoyed the book and would recommend it to anyone interested in legal thrillers.

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