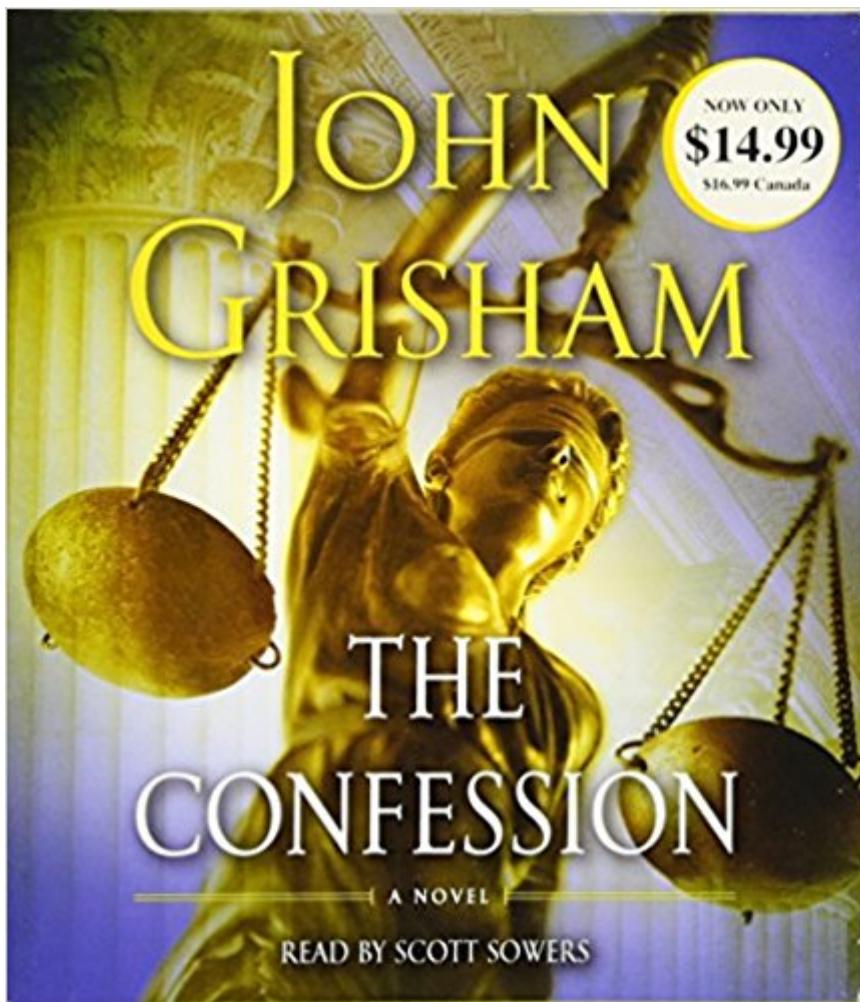


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# The Confession: A Novel



## Synopsis

An innocent man is about to be executed. Only a guilty man can save him. For every innocent man sent to prison, there is a guilty one left on the outside. He doesn't understand how the police and prosecutors got the wrong man, and he certainly doesn't care. He just can't believe his good luck. Time passes and he realizes that the mistake will not be corrected: the authorities believe in their case and are determined to get a conviction. He may even watch the trial of the person wrongly accused of his crime. He is relieved when the verdict is guilty. He laughs when the police and prosecutors congratulate themselves. He is content to allow an innocent person to go to prison, to serve hard time, even to be executed. Travis Boyette is such a man. In 1998, in the small East Texas city of Sloan, he abducted, raped, and strangled a popular high school cheerleader. He buried her body so that it would never be found, then watched in amazement as police and prosecutors arrested and convicted Dontif Drumm, a local football star, and marched him off to death row. Now nine years have passed. Travis has just been paroled in Kansas for a different crime; Dontif is four days away from his execution. Travis suffers from an inoperable brain tumor. For the first time in his miserable life, he decides to do what's right and confess. But how can a guilty man convince lawyers, judges, and politicians that they're about to execute an innocent man? From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grisham's recent slump continues with another subpar effort whose plot and characters, none of whom are painted in shades of gray, aren't able to support an earnest protest against the death

penalty. In 2007, almost on the eve of the execution of Dont<sup>Af</sup> Drumm, an African-American college football star, for the 1998 murder of a white cheerleader whose body was never found, Travis Boyette, a creepy multiple sex offender, confesses that he's guilty of the crime to Kansas minister Keith Schroeder. With Drumm's legal options dwindling fast and with the threat of civil unrest in his Texas hometown if the execution proceeds, Schroeder battles to convince Boyette to go public with the truth--and to persuade the condemned man's attorney that Boyette's story needs to be taken seriously. While the action progresses with a certain grim realism, Schroeder's superficial responses to the issues raised undercut the impact. As with *The Appeal*, the author's passionate views on serious flaws in the justice system don't translate well into fiction. (Oct.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"The Confession" is the kind of grab-a-reader-by-the-shoulders suspense story that demands to be inhaled as quickly as possible. But it's also a superb work of social criticism in the literary troublemaker tradition of Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle....Brilliant"--Washington Post"Grisham is the master of the legal thriller."--USA TodayNO ONE KEEPS YOU IN SUSPENSE LIKE AMERICA's FAVORITE STORYTELLER "The secrets of Grisham's success are no secret at all. There are two of them: his pacing, which ranges from fast to breakneck, and his Theme--little guy takes on big conspiracy with the little guy getting the win in the end."--Time magazine "The law, by its nature, creates drama, and a new Grisham promises us an inside look at the dirty machineries of process and power, with plenty of entertainment"--Los Angeles Times "With every new book I appreciate John Grisham a little more, for his feisty critiques of the legal system, his compassion for the underdog, and his willingness to strike out in new directions."--Entertainment Weekly "John Grisham is about as good a storyteller as we've got in the United States these days."--The New York Times Book Review"Grisham is a marvelous storyteller who works readers the way a good trial lawyer works a jury."--Philadelphia Inquirer "A mighty narrative talent and an unerring eye for hot-button issues."--Chicago Sun-Times" A legal literary legend."--USA TodayFrom the Hardcover edition.

Without using one excessive word anywhere, Grisham tells a story designed to prove beyond doubt

that at least one execution in the state of Texas was applied to an innocent man. The premise in this fiction worked perfectly for me: What if a man is scheduled to die in a few days; and what if a man shows up to announce that he knows where the pretty cheerleader's body is because he is the one who buried her in that distant state? Thus, from Chapter One onward, the reader is kept aroused by the possibility of finding the corpse in time to prevent the killing of innocent man by lethal injection. For those readers who always want a satisfactory ending, there may be real disappointment in the way this tale turns out. John Grisham is famous for letting down readers who hope for "Close call but we made it in the nick of time" type of mentality. I REALLY LIKED the search for the girl's gravesite and the suspense -- right up until the shovel hits the metal box -- about whether the ex-con may have been lying the entire time. Grisham just does not let us down through the entire length of this fiction story.

Timely, terrifying, realistic and gripping, "The Confession" takes the reader through the often questionable processes of the criminal and judicial systems, aptly demonstrating that "criminal justice" is often a misnomer and an oxymoron. Grisham deftly weaves current events and recognizable characters into this tale of process and people sacrificed on the altar of expediency, ambition, politics, and personal gain. Literally and figuratively, "ripped from the headlines," the story provides thought-provoking questions to those who struggle with issues of good and evil, retribution and understanding, and the ethics of state-sanctioned murder. A good read, I recommend this book.

Grisham, in his Author's Notes, says that if you find inaccuracies, don't bother to write to him about them. I can see why. Now, I could be wrong, but an important point of the story is that Nicole's drivers license and other I.D. were found on a sand bar in the Red River, yet they end-up later having been buried with her. Huh? I enjoyed this Grisham novel as much as any before it...I kept turning (swiping) the pages constantly, even while I was getting a haircut, being irritated at every interruption that came along to tear me away. The only reason I did not rate it with five stars is because of this egregious error that had me thinking, throughout the book, that there was going to be some plot twist based on this incongruity. But that never happened.

The Confession is another Grisham stunning and consciousness-raising great read. If there is a fault in the writing it is the constant flow of details given. And yet without these details the reader would be left with an overwhelming list of questions. For those readers who have never had a family member or friend living on death row you now get to experience the entire ordeal and pain of it all.

Thank you Mr. Grisham for enlightening us. It was a rocky ride but one that we (society) desperately needed!

Never read a Grisham before but after finishing Unbroken I wanted to read something mindless. At about 50 percent the book isn't bad but it isn't great either. I have to force myself to read it on metro even though I have nothing else to do. The story is contrived and I agree with the other posts this book has no soul - it's written like a stereotypical TV movie about Texas. That said it's not terrible I just should've started with one of his earlier books.

I have read all of John Grisham's books. I will give many an A, some a B, and some a C! I give this one a B-. It was a little slow at times, but still interesting. However, I almost put the book down at the beginning with intentions not to finish it due to credibility issues and lack of research on one point. Mr. Grisham spoke of a young woman using her cell phone to talk to her mom six times a day and texting four times a day in 1998. If one looks back to 1998, the time period this supposedly happened, there were not many teens with cell phones let alone texting in 1998 - especially in a small town like Slone, Texas. The year 1998 was when pagers were popular with high school students - NOT cells and texts. Now, if he would have put 2004 or so, at least that would have been a little more credible. But, I did enjoy the book and would recommend it.

Some reviewers have bashed this book because of the negative portrayal of FOX news and other media outlets. Politically, I am a dyed-in-the wool conservative, and I have long been a proponent of the death penalty. Who knew that I could question the beliefs that I have held for so long and so fervently! The negative portrayal of FOX news is called "point of view," and the purpose of a novel is not to present both sides of an issue. I have a sincere appreciation of what Grisham accomplished in this novel. John Grisham is one of my favorite authors. I am impressed by the diversity of his works; from his legal thrillers to A Painted House to Theodore Bone to Calico Joe to The Innocent Man, he shows he is not afraid to tackle new styles and new subject matter. While I am not normally greatly affected by emotional writing, I have to admit that the tears were flowing as I read parts of the book. Not since reading John Steinbeck have I found myself rereading passages just because the writing touched me deeply. I finished reading this book over a week ago, and I still find my thoughts returning. I can't say that my viewpoint has changed regarding the death penalty, but I can say that I am re-examining beliefs that I had previously thought were unyielding. I loved this book!

Born & raised in Texas & a supporter of the death penalty. I cried my heart out , this book gave me opportunity to rethink things & see it from another point of view. I still support the death penalty, but there are things in the system that must be changed. A person sits way too long on death row & in cases like this the defense should have the opportunity to introduce evidence until the last minute & this is where the process breaks down. I have no solutions but there has to be a better way, they are given more opportunities. than their victims. This is a conversation that must be had folks

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