John Grisham Books in Order

By Checklist.com

- [ ] A Time to Kill

  Jake Brigance defends a Mississippi father accused of killing the men who attacked his daughter. Grisham's debut begins the Jake Brigance sequence and puts a racially divided community, as well as the defendant, under scrutiny.

- [ ] The Firm

  A lucrative job at a Memphis law firm gives young attorney Mitch McDeere the life he wanted, then raises questions he cannot safely ignore. Start here before following Mitch into The Exchange.

- [ ] The Pelican Brief

  Law student Darby Shaw develops a theory linking the murders of two Supreme Court justices and discovers that someone wants her silenced. This standalone follows an investigation through politics, journalism and a legal conspiracy.

- [ ] The Client

  Eleven-year-old Mark Sway learns a dangerous secret from a dying lawyer and needs attorney Reggie Love to protect him. The suspense comes from a child caught between federal investigators and organized crime.

- [ ] The Chamber

  Young lawyer Adam Hall takes on the death-row case of his grandfather, a former Klansman convicted of a bombing. The approaching execution forces him to confront both the legal case and his family's history.

- [ ] The Rainmaker

  Newly qualified lawyer Rudy Baylor challenges an insurance company over its refusal to pay a gravely ill young man's claim. It is an underdog courtroom story about learning to practice law against a much better-funded opponent.

- [ ] The Runaway Jury

  A tobacco-liability trial becomes a contest over who can influence the jurors, including a juror with plans of his own. Much of the legal struggle unfolds through jury selection, surveillance and pressure outside the courtroom.

- [ ] The Partner

  Former attorney Patrick Lanigan is found in Brazil after disappearing with millions from his Mississippi firm. His return sets up a legal battle in which understanding the theft matters as much as finding the money.

- [ ] The Street Lawyer

  A hostage incident sends corporate lawyer Michael Brock toward the lives of Washington's homeless residents. His change of direction pits legal-aid work against the interests of the powerful firm he has served.

- [ ] The Testament

  An unexpected heir to a vast fortune sends recovering lawyer Nate O'Riley into Brazil to find a missionary. The inheritance dispute runs alongside a journey through the Pantanal and a search for a different way to live.

- [ ] The Brethren

  Three imprisoned former judges run an extortion scheme that reaches far beyond their Florida prison. Their operation collides with national politics in a standalone thriller built around manipulation rather than a single courtroom case.

- [ ] A Painted House

  Seven-year-old Luke Chandler watches his Arkansas farming family struggle through the cotton harvest of 1952. This coming-of-age novel follows rural work, family secrets and adult conflicts through a child's eyes.

- [ ] Skipping Christmas

  Luther and Nora Krank decide to spend Christmas on a cruise instead of joining their neighborhood's festivities. Their attempt to opt out turns into a short comic story about family expectations and holiday pressure.

- [ ] The Summons

  Law professor Ray Atlee returns to Mississippi at his father's request and finds a death and a troubling cache of cash. Sorting out the money's origins becomes inseparable from the secrets of his family.

- [ ] The King of Torts

  Public defender Clay Carter's ordinary murder case leads him into the lucrative world of mass litigation. The novel follows the temptations of sudden wealth and the distance that can grow between a lawyer and his clients.

- [ ] Bleachers

  Former football star Neely Crenshaw returns to his hometown as his old coach is dying. Conversations in the stadium bring out the loyalty, resentment and memories left behind by a winning high-school team.

- [ ] The Last Juror

  Young newspaper owner Willie Traynor reports on a murder trial in 1970s Mississippi and becomes part of the town's long aftermath. Journalism and community life give this Ford County story a different perspective from Grisham's lawyer-led novels.

- [ ] The Broker

  A presidential pardon sends imprisoned Washington dealmaker Joel Backman into hiding in Italy. Learning to live under a new identity is only part of his problem when intelligence agencies have reasons to pursue him.

- [ ] The Innocent Man

  Grisham's first nonfiction book examines the wrongful conviction of former baseball prospect Ron Williamson in Ada, Oklahoma. It follows the investigation, prosecution and consequences of a real murder case.

- [ ] Playing for Pizza

  After a disastrous NFL appearance, quarterback Rick Dockery takes a job with an American-football team in Parma, Italy. The change brings a different sporting culture, new teammates and a life outside the American professional game.

- [ ] The Appeal

  A chemical company appeals a major verdict, and the struggle moves from the courtroom toward an election for the state's highest court. This standalone examines the relationship between money, judicial campaigns and access to justice.

- [ ] The Associate

  A compromising secret makes law graduate Kyle McAvoy vulnerable to people who want inside access to a major firm. His first legal job becomes an espionage assignment he never chose.

- [ ] Ford County: Stories

  Seven stories return to the Mississippi county familiar from A Time to Kill, following residents whose ambitions and predicaments extend well beyond the courthouse. This volume includes Fetching Raymond, which has also been sold separately.

- [ ] Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer

  Thirteen-year-old Theo Boone knows his town's courts and hopes to become a lawyer, but a murder trial gives him a responsibility far beyond schoolwork. This is the starting point for Grisham's seven-book series for younger readers.

- [ ] The Confession

  A man's late admission of guilt creates a race to stop another man's execution. The story follows the people trying to make the justice system respond before its deadline becomes irreversible.

- [ ] Theodore Boone: The Abduction

  Theo's friend April disappears from her bedroom, leaving her family and the police searching for answers. The second Theodore Boone adventure shifts the young investigator's attention to someone close to him.

- [ ] The Litigators

  Burned-out corporate lawyer David Zinc joins a small, disorderly practice chasing a potentially lucrative drug lawsuit. The mix of courtroom maneuvering and mismatched colleagues makes this a comic take on legal ambition.

- [ ] Calico Joe

  A son looks back at the collision between a celebrated young baseball player and his own pitcher father. The story connects a remarkable 1973 season with family damage and the possibility of reconciliation.

- [ ] Theodore Boone: The Accused

  When a robbery accusation points toward Theo, the aspiring lawyer must defend his own reputation. The third book tests his judgment as evidence and threats begin to build around him.

- [ ] The Racketeer

  Imprisoned former lawyer Malcolm Bannister believes he has information that could solve a federal judge's murder. His dealings with investigators turn knowledge into a bargaining tool in a carefully plotted standalone thriller.

- [ ] Theodore Boone: The Activist

  A proposed development divides Strattenburg, and Theo's objections draw him into a dispute involving local power and corruption. The fourth adventure broadens his idea of justice beyond criminal trials.

- [ ] Sycamore Row

  A wealthy man's handwritten will disrupts expectations in Clanton and brings Jake Brigance back to court. Read after A Time to Kill for the continuing relationships around Jake and the Mississippi town.

- [ ] Gray Mountain

  After losing her Wall Street position during the financial crisis, Samantha Kofer works at an Appalachian legal-aid clinic. Cases involving coal mining and local families bring her into a very different kind of legal practice.

- [ ] Theodore Boone: The Fugitive

  A school trip gives Theo an unexpected chance to recognize a fugitive connected to an earlier case. The fifth book returns to a continuing thread from the series, so the earlier adventures provide useful context.

- [ ] Rogue Lawyer

  Sebastian Rudd works from a heavily protected van and represents clients other lawyers would rather avoid. Linked cases introduce a defense attorney prepared to challenge both public opinion and the conduct of law enforcement.

- [ ] The Tumor

  This short fictional account contrasts two possible courses of treatment for a man with a brain tumor. Written to raise awareness of focused ultrasound research, it belongs with Grisham's short works rather than his courtroom thrillers; its medical scenario reflects the publication's context.

- [ ] Partners

  This short prequel explains how Sebastian Rudd acquired the driver and bodyguard who becomes his trusted partner. Read it alongside Rogue Lawyer for more of the relationship behind Rudd's unconventional practice.

- [ ] Theodore Boone: The Scandal

  Suspicious school test results pull Theo into a dispute about cheating and fairness. The sixth adventure brings his legal instincts into the pressures of education and his own community.

- [ ] Witness to a Trial

  A murder trial sets the background for the corruption story explored in The Whistler. This short prequel offers an additional entry into that setting before the main Lacy Stoltz novels.

- [ ] The Whistler

  Florida investigator Lacy Stoltz receives allegations of judicial corruption that reach well beyond ordinary misconduct. This begins her main novel sequence, followed by The Judge's List.

- [ ] Camino Island

  Stolen literary manuscripts lead toward bookseller Bruce Cable and the Florida island where writer Mercer Mann has family ties. It opens the Camino sequence with rare books, a theft investigation and a coastal literary community.

- [ ] The Rooster Bar

  Three indebted law students begin to question the school that promised them a future. Their response to a predatory system leads them toward risky legal improvisation and a plan that could unravel.

- [ ] The Reckoning

  A respected Mississippi war veteran commits a shocking killing in 1946 and refuses to explain himself. The novel moves between the trial, his family and wartime experience to explore the history behind the silence.

- [ ] Theodore Boone: The Accomplice

  Theo tries to help his friend Woody after an arrest for involvement in an armed robbery. The seventh adventure focuses on what happens when a young person enters a system shaped by unequal resources.

- [ ] The Guardians

  Lawyer and minister Cullen Post works to overturn wrongful convictions and takes up the case of a man imprisoned for a lawyer's murder. His investigation threatens people who still have reasons to keep the original verdict intact.

- [ ] Camino Winds

  A hurricane strikes Camino Island, and the death of a local thriller writer raises questions beyond storm damage. Bookseller Bruce Cable returns in the second Camino novel as the island's residents try to understand what happened.

- [ ] A Time for Mercy

  Jake Brigance is appointed to defend a teenager accused of killing a local deputy. The third Jake novel follows a divisive case that reaches into the boy's home life and Jake's own professional survival.

- [ ] Sooley

  Young South Sudanese basketball player Samuel Sooleymon travels to the United States with hopes of attracting college coaches. His sporting opportunity unfolds alongside upheaval affecting the family he has left behind.

- [ ] The Judge's List

  A woman's long investigation into her father's death brings Lacy Stoltz allegations against a sitting judge. Read after The Whistler for the background to Lacy's work and relationships.

- [ ] Sparring Partners

  Three novellas explore a lawyer's return to Ford County, a prisoner's final hours and conflict inside a family law firm. The opening story, Homecoming, features Jake Brigance; mark this collection once for all three pieces.

- [ ] The Boys from Biloxi

  Two boys from immigrant families grow up together on Mississippi's Gulf Coast before their lives move toward opposite sides of the law. The novel follows their families through organized crime, prosecution and a changing Biloxi.

- [ ] The Exchange

  Mitch McDeere returns fifteen years after the events of The Firm, now working at an international law firm. A foreign assignment develops into a kidnapping crisis with consequences far beyond his office.

- [ ] Camino Ghosts

  Writer Mercer Mann becomes involved in Lovely Jackson's fight to protect Dark Isle from development. The third Camino book brings the island's history and a contested inheritance into a contemporary legal struggle.

- [ ] Framed

  John Grisham and innocence advocate Jim McCloskey recount ten real wrongful-conviction cases. The accounts examine how convictions are built, why errors persist and what it takes to challenge them.

- [ ] The Widow

  Virginia lawyer Simon Latch takes on a widow's will and finds that her apparent fortune comes with dangerous uncertainties. The case turns personal when he must defend himself against a murder accusation.

- [ ] The Law Student

  College football player Stuart Nash's encounter with a family's struggle for justice helps set him on the path to law school. This short prequel introduces the young man whose story continues in The French Illusion.

- [ ] The French Illusion

  The kidnapping of American honeymooners in France draws investigators into an international operation. A young lawyer becomes part of the attempt to uncover the people behind the disappearances.