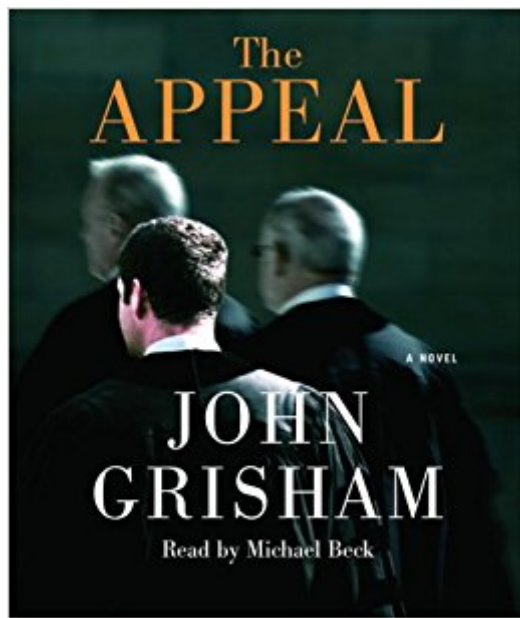


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# The Appeal (John Grisham)



## Synopsis

In a crowded courtroom in Mississippi, a jury returns a shocking verdict against a chemical company accused of dumping toxic waste into a small town's water supply, causing the worst "cancer cluster" in history. The company appeals to the Mississippi Supreme Court, whose nine justices will one day either approve the verdict or reverse it. Who are the nine? How will they vote? Can one be replaced before the case is ultimately decided? The chemical company is owned by a Wall Street predator named Carl Trudeau, and Mr. Trudeau is convinced the Court is not friendly enough. With judicial elections looming, he decides to try to purchase himself a seat on the Court. The cost is a few million dollars, a drop in the bucket for a billionaire like Mr. Trudeau. Through an intricate web of conspiracy and deceit, his political operatives recruit a young, unsuspecting candidate. They finance him, manipulate him, market him, and mold him into a potential Supreme Court justice. The Appeal is a powerful, timely, and shocking story of political and legal intrigue, a story that will leave listeners unable to think about our electoral process or judicial system in quite the same way ever again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As the author of twenty bestselling books, John Grisham has set the standard for legal thrillers since the debut of *The Firm* in 1991. Enjoy this Q&A--as well as a personal note to readers--from John Grisham.

1. Your new novel starts off where most courtroom dramas end--with the verdict. Where did you get the idea to reverse the usual order of events this time around? The actual trial is not a

terribly significant part of the story. Most all of the action and intrigue begins after the trial is over, with the verdict and the subsequent appeal. 2. The Appeal overtly suggests that elected judges can be bought. If the novel is meant as a cautionary tale, what's next--the Presidential primaries? Why not? Over one billion dollars will be spent next year in the Presidential primaries and general election. With that kind of money floating around, anything can be bought. 3. Speaking of electoral politics, you've been more vocal recently about your political views ... first supporting Jim Webb for Senate and now endorsing Hillary Clinton for the White House. Have you given any thought to running for office yourself? No. I made that mistake 25 years ago, and promised myself I would never do it again. I enjoy watching and participating in politics from the sidelines, but it's best to keep some distance. 4. This is your first legal thriller in three years. How did it feel to get back to the genre that started it all, and can fans expect another thriller from you next year? I still enjoy writing the legal thrillers, and don't plan to get too far away from them. Obviously, they have been very good to me, and they remain popular. I plan to write one a year for the next several years. 5. Your nonfiction book *The Innocent Man* continues to be a bestseller in paperback. In your ongoing work with The Innocence Project, have you come across another story of the wrongfully convicted that begs to be written as nonfiction? There are literally hundreds of great stories out there about wrongfully convicted defendants. I am continually astounded by these stories, and I resist the temptation to take the plunge again into non-fiction. 6. What's on your bedside reading list at the moment? 1. *The Nine* by Jeffrey Toobin 2. Eric Clapton's autobiography 3. *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

A Mississippi jury returns a \$41-million verdict against a chemical company accused of dumping carcinogenic waste into a small town's water supply. The company's ruthless billionaire CEO is thwarted and the good guys (a courageous young woman who lost her husband and child and her two lawyers who've gone half a million dollars in debt preparing her case) receives its just reward. This sounds like the end of a Grisham legal thriller, but instead it's the beginning of a book-length lesson in how greed and big business have corrupted our electoral and judicial systems. Grisham's characters are over-the-top. The CEO and the other equally overdone villains—his venal trophy wife, a self-serving senator and a pair of smarmy political fixers—as well as the unbelievably good-hearted, self-sacrificing lawyers and an honorable state judge, are one dimensional. Michael Beck, with his natural Southern drawl, does a fine job of adding credibility and nuance to the large cast. But his efforts are for naught. In fact, the more he makes us feel for these characters, the less apt we are to be satisfied with the sourball moral of Grisham's downbeat

discourse. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Though this novel dwells on a state judicial election being hijacked by the money of one man, I wish everyone who supports our more conservative party would read this. In this novel, the powers that be use religion, abortion, and patriotism to wrest votes from "the common man" so that the financial priorities of a few could be assured. Everyone should be capable of comparing the plot of this novel with our current reality. Unfortunately, I'll probably just get a bunch of "George Soros..." replies.

The Appeal is masterfully written and terrifying in its content. The Appeal is basically about gross corruption in the election process of State Supreme Court justices. While the story is a work of fiction, it illustrates the use of all manner of dirty tricks and huge amounts of illegal money devoted by big business, insurance companies, drug companies, etc. to buy seats on all levels of the courts to serve their own interests. That leaves the average citizen no relief in personal injury cases, product liability OK cases, etc. It is a very timely subject and should be a "must read" for every citizen.

This novel has more character names than an old Russian novel and that's hard to remember. Ended up highlighting most all the book to remember who was a key player and who was not. This book got more and more intense, in a very negative way. Every time I got my hopes up..this might be a good/optimistic book-No! Something else terrible happens. Another good family gets screwed. Then ending..Just hated this book.

Like most John Grisham novels, this one is principally set in a small town in the South. A company, the Krane Chemical Corporation, is alleged to have so badly contaminated the ground water so that it is undrinkable. A number of locals have died, allegedly from drinking the local water, which apparently causes cancer. A husband and wife law partnership, Mary and Wes Payton, has prosecuted Krane, in the name of one client, a black woman named Jennifer Baker. The Paytons have lost their house, cars, and life in pursuit of justice for her. They have also signed up about 30 other plaintiffs. Jarid Kurtin and his team of defense lawyers are defending. Krane Chemical has packed up and moved to Mexico, leaving a legal mess behind them. The judge is Harrison. The financing of the prosecution team has been Huffy, a local banker who has gotten his bank to have

loaned money to the prosecution team. Mary and Wes Payton won a fabulous victory at the trial, obtaining an unheard-of award of \$41 million against Krane Chemical. In NYC, Karl Trudeau, a wealthy owner of much of Krane, will decide to fight the verdict on appeal. The ins and outs of the appeal process are fascinating. I highly recommend this book to anyone who believes in justice and that chemical companies may behave awfully. I plan to read it again, even though I know how it comes out. .

Not on the class with Grisham's "Sycamore Row" but better than most of what passes as fiction novels today. A good story though I felt the author left the reader hanging by not bringing the story to a definite end.

As I am sitting here thinking about what I am going to say I must remember not to say too much as to give away the ending. This is a story about justice and politics and corporate influence. John Grisham certainly has created a venue to make people think about how corporate influence can impact politics and individuals. I happened to read this just prior to our state primaries. I found myself wanting to know more about the candidates and who or what might have been behind them .

I tried to think of this book as a learning experience for me. However, this was like the time I learned what a septic system was because the house I bought had one. I had to pay to have it cleaned out, a more disgusting time I can't remember but now I equate it with the ending of this book.

Disappointing!! I turned the last page looking for more - maybe a little redemption. But storyline is left hanging. Hopefully there's a sequel because if not, this book is a total bust. Grisham has had some amazing can't-put-down-books but this one wasn't one of them. Don't spend money on it...wait to pick it up at a garage sale.

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