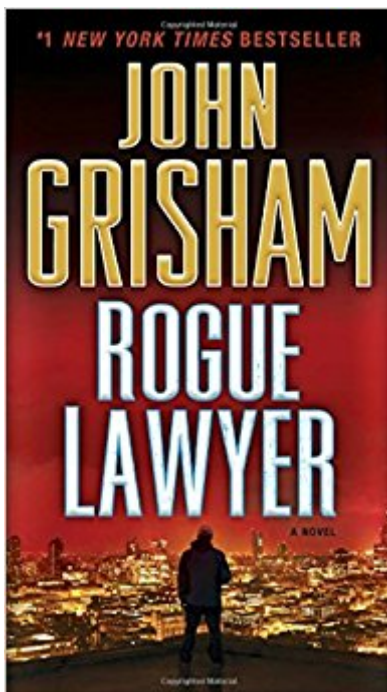


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# Rogue Lawyer: A Novel



## Synopsis

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE WASHINGTON POST AND NPR • Featuring one of John Grisham's most colorful, outrageous, and vividly drawn characters yet, *Rogue Lawyer* showcases the master of the legal thriller at his very best. On the right side of the law "sort of" Sebastian Rudd is not your typical street lawyer. His office is a customized bulletproof van, complete with Wi-Fi, a bar, a small fridge, and fine leather chairs. He has no firm, no partners, and only one employee: his heavily armed driver, who also so happens to be his bodyguard, law clerk, confidant, and golf caddie. Sebastian drinks small-batch bourbon and carries a gun. He defends people other lawyers won't go near: a drug-addled, tattooed kid rumored to be in a satanic cult; a vicious crime lord on death row; a homeowner arrested for shooting at a SWAT team that mistakenly invaded his house. Why these clients? Because Sebastian believes everyone is entitled to a fair trial—even if he has to bend the law to secure one. Praise for *Rogue Lawyer* • "Terrific . . . inventive . . . Grisham still makes it look easy." • "Maureen Corrigan, *The Washington Post* • "Sebastian Rudd is . . . a kind of twenty-first-century Philip Marlowe . . . with a blunt, rude, gravelly poetic wiseguy voice." • "Benjamin Percy, *The New York Times Book Review* • "Deeply engaging and entertaining . . . [Grisham finds] intense drama in the little skirmishes that play out across our legal system every day." • "Charles Finch, *USA Today* • "Grisham has taken a step in an intriguing new direction." • "Janet Maslin, *The New York Times*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

• "Terrific . . . inventive . . . John Grisham still makes it look easy." • "Maureen Corrigan, The Washington Post" • "Sebastian Rudd is . . . a kind of twenty-first-century Philip Marlowe . . . with a blunt, rude, gravelly poetic wiseguy voice." • "Benjamin Percy, The New York Times Book Review" • "Deeply engaging and entertaining . . . [Grisham finds] intense drama in the little skirmishes that play out across our legal system every day." • "Charles Finch, USA Today" • "Grisham has taken a step in an intriguing new direction." • "Janet Maslin, The New York Times"

John Grisham is the author of twenty-eight novels, one work of nonfiction, a collection of stories, and six novels for young readers.

This most recent effort by John Grisham follows an attorney who practices in the Fifteenth Circuit of the United States in federal and state court. His name is Sebastian Rudd and what makes Rudd unique compared to most attorneys is his willingness to accept clients no other attorney would take. These range for an accused child molester/murderer, a rage prone boxer, a crime don eager to escape death row, and a man with ties to human trafficking. His most important client, however, is himself for the often acrimonious custody hearings he faces against his ex-wife. Accompanying him at all times are his silent bodyguard Partner and a heavily armored van that serves as both office and transportation. The novel unfortunately often felt like a collection of short stories pasted together, with Rudd as the only figure who maintains a continuous narrative. Rather than focus on one trial throughout the entire book, every thirty to forty pages Rudd will win or lose a particular case and then move on. While this may accurately reflect the life of defense attorneys, it unfortunately does little to flesh out the characters into ones the reader can actively sympathize with or despise. Similarly, despite Rudd's repeated proclamations that he is a rogue lawyer, he actually is a pretty honest one. While he is willing to pay cops for information and occasionally represents bad characters, about the only sanction-worthy act he commits throughout the course of the novel is bribing a court clerk to get a particular judge to hear his civil suit. Despite these flaws, Grisham clearly displays that he was (and still is) an attorney. He has a good handle on the minutiae of courtroom criminal procedure and paints a portrait of an attorney whose character, while exaggerated, is believable. He also creates an interesting series of cases for the attorney to handle. The ending comes somewhat abruptly, but it is in such a manner that I suspect Mr. Grisham has a sequel possibly in mind. If he eventually does write one, I will be sure to read it.

I liked the Sebastian Rudd character-- a street lawyer who works with those people deemed by most to be on the lowest social rung, who lives life on the fringes and is not afraid to bend some rules to favor his clients. I was reminded of Michael Connelly's *The Lincoln Lawyer*-- both lawyers target clients that other lawyers would likely snub, and they primarily operate from an office on wheels rather than a desk in some stuffy office. Grisham intertwined a few storylines that explored Rudd's personal and professional lives-- e.g., love life, child, cage fighting enthusiast, legal wranglings with cops and prosecutors. All in all, I found this book to be "good," but as I read, I found myself thinking this book felt somewhat flat in comparison to earlier novels. Where was the amazement, the mind-blowing and delicious twists and turns, and the feeling that I was experiencing the adventures along with the characters, which are typical with a Grisham novel? Again, the book is good, but I have come to expect and experience a much bigger fireworks show from Grisham, so it is somewhat disappointing if a book does not put on such a show for me. Despite this, I remain a Grisham fan and look forward to the next novel.

I enjoy Grisham's stories, but this was disappointing. It felt like he had a number of story ideas which didn't warrant development as novels. Instead of a series of short stories (which I would have enjoyed more), Grisham created a novel that jumps from story to story. It is not a cohesive whole as his other novels. While Rudd is an interesting, but not very likeable, character, I hoped to find some positive characters somewhere along the way. Not to be found. There are a couple of OK characters (Naomi and Partner and the Go Slow), but these are secondary and not fully developed.. "Rogue" was not worth my money or my time unlike Grishman's other novels.

Book is ok if you have nothing else read. It's as though he stitched together a brunch of ideas he'd had for other books and tired to create a complete novel. Might have worked better as short stories. Main character never becomes complete or believable. Compare with John Sanford protagonists. You May not like them, but you know who they are.

Who am I to review John Grisham? He is one of my most beloved authors. However, after much anticipation, I was disappointed in "Rogue Lawyer". The main character, the rogue, was a little too roguish for me. I didn't trust him. I wasn't sure of his moral character. I didn't care so much about him. I am so sorry to say anything less than "Yea!" "Wonderful!" "Write On!". The style jumped back and forth between several stories, always coming back to that rogue. I'm used to a more traditional approach from this author. He is the creator. He can tell his story any way he wants. And as an

author myself, I support that right wholeheartedly. But I was a little under-impressed on this one. YET I'll buy the next one anyway. A loyal fan.

I like John Grisham's writing - his early books (e.g. The Firm) were gripping page turners. I respect John Grisham too because he obviously no longer writes for financial gain (he must be as rich as King Solomon by now or pretty close), so he obviously writes because he enjoys it and still has some challenging things to say about the state of the U.S. legal system and society in general. For me Rogue Lawyer read like a series of short stories loosely merged into one book. The main protagonist (lawyer Sebastian Rudd) is a bit slimy but ultimately his heart is in the right place (for the most part). If even half of what Grisham uses this book to say about the integrity of the U.S. legal system (and the police force) is true then we all have a reason to feel a bit bleak and apprehensive about the modern incarnation of 'justice.' I wouldn't rank Rogue Lawyer as one of Grisham's best works - but it's still an engaging read. Let me just say that I originally read The Firm in the space of one night, whereas Rogue Lawyer was rationed out over a week or so if that gives you a better indication...

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