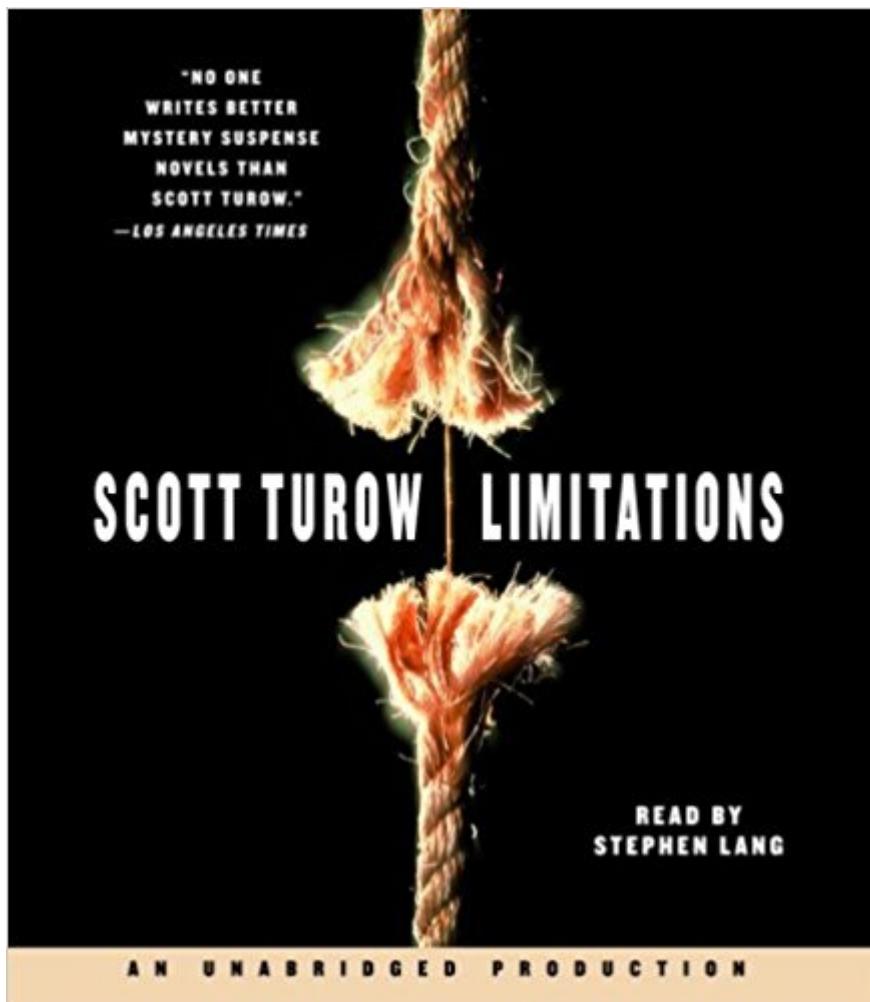


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# Limitations



## **Synopsis**

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Presumed Innocent* comes a compelling new legal mystery featuring George Mason from *Personal Injuries*. Originally commissioned and published by The New York Times Magazine, this edition contains additional material. Life would seem to have gone well for George Mason. His days as a criminal defense lawyer are long behind him. At fifty-nine, he has sat as a judge on the Court of Appeals in Kindle County for nearly a decade. Yet, when a disturbing rape case is brought before him, the judge begins to question the very nature of the law and his role within it. What is troubling George Mason so deeply? Is it his wife's recent diagnosis? Or the strange and threatening e-mails he has started to receive? And what is it about this horrific case of sexual assault, now on trial in his courtroom, that has led him to question his fitness to judge? In *LIMITATIONS*, Scott Turow, the master of the legal thriller, returns to Kindle County with a suspenseful entertainment that asks the biggest questions of all. Ingeniously, and with great economy of style, Turow probes the limitations not only of the law but of human understanding itself.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The latest offering from legal thriller master Turow began life as a serial story in the Sunday New York Times Magazine and won't be mistaken, even by devoted fans, for his finest work. As with his previous novels, the action centers on the fictional Kindle County in Illinois, and he revives some familiar characters, including George Mason from *Personal Injuries* and Rusty Sabich, the hero of his acclaimed fiction debut, *Presumed Innocent*. Mason is now an appellate judge, faced with the

challenge of crafting the decision in a high-profile case involving a sexual assault that reawakens his long-suppressed guilt over his role in a similar incident decades before. To compound his inner turmoil, Mason finds himself the object of threatening e-mails from an unknown source. While Turow's writing is assured as ever, the plot and the legal dilemmas interwoven into it aren't up to his usual high standards, and whodunit fans who loved the brilliant twist that highlighted his debut are likely to be disappointed by the mystery's resolution. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This slim volume appeared in the New York Times as a magazine serial in 2006. Although some new material has been added, it still lacks the heft and depth of a full-fledged Turow novel. Even as a novella, it's top-heavy with legal procedure and courtroom scheduling minutiae that would better fit the scope and pacing of a much longer work. However, even Turow Lite delivers a fairly good read. Former criminal defense attorney George Mason (readers will recognize him, as well as the Kindle County setting, from *Personal Injuries*, 1999) has been comfortably ensconced for almost a decade as a judge on the Court of Appeals. But a case is resurrected that disturbs him in ways that are both perfectly explicable and unfathomable to him. In 1999, four high-school ice-hockey players, all white, videotaped their gang rape of a drugged 15-year-old black girl at a party. The videotape didn't come to light until 2003; a conviction followed, which is now under appeal. The case is horrific in itself; it becomes more frightening to Mason as long-buried shards from his past start troubling him. Add to this a psychotic who keeps threatening him and the fact that his wife has been diagnosed with cancer, and you have one very fragile judge. An intriguing premise, buried under legal procedure that seems tacked on. Connie FletcherCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Scott Throw normally crafts a spellbinding tale. This effort lacks that aspect. Some prior characters from the past are resurrected. George Mason is an Appeals Court judge who has a guilty conscious about participating in pulling a train with an inebriated young lady while in college. The case to be decided before the court hinges on similar circumstances but first he has to come to terms with his guilty conscious. Some side action gets inserted and so it goes. Disappointing.

This story is a departure from Turow's style and subject treatment as presented in the "Rusty Sabich" duo of novels ('*Presumed Innocent*' and '*Innocent*'). The style is much looser, more chatty,

and initially more engaging, but the story suffers somewhat from relative shallowness. The whodunit mystery is confined as compared to the Sabich stories, more like a roller derby than a steeplechase: very narrow in focus, until the rather sudden "reveal" at the very end. That reveal is hardly developed at all during the book, and doesn't come across as a legitimate twist so much as an almost completely disconnected surprise. A bit like a deus ex machina conclusion. And frankly, although admittedly perhaps somewhat shallow myself, I found myself scratching my head over the villain's motive. The author attempts to explain it through the protagonist's eyes, but the absence of previous groundwork makes the explanation murky and unsatisfying in my view. It's as though Mr. Turow started out with an incomplete storyboard, and changed his mind at the last minute. Still, a pretty good read, where style compensates for diminished substance.

No thanks

I read more than half of this book and nothing happened. I've read one or two of his books and was very entertained by them. This one had really no iota of either legal action or criminal action. What was he thinking? or what was he not thinking? There are a lot of accolades on the book cover such as The Washington Post, The London Times, the Boston Globe but I feel certain that they all applied to his other books. I finally gave up after about 100 pages.

The story was ok. I went and saw the tree in Florida, it is by my daughter's house. I thought it would be fun to read a fictional story about it.

As usual Turow writes beautifully with descriptions that capture the frailties of being human, but this one seems a bit underdeveloped. It doesn't have all the plot twists of most of his novels and the relationships between the characters are not fully fleshed out due to the novel's length (or vice versa). Nonetheless, this is Turow who writes with an ease most crime writers can't match.

Disappointed. Plot shallow and predictable. Character development shallow.

This was an ok book. I had to read it for a class and it is similar to a John Grisham novel, but lacks the plot development. It was not terrible, but after reading it once, I doubt I would read it again. The main issue is addressed but could have been developed further.

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