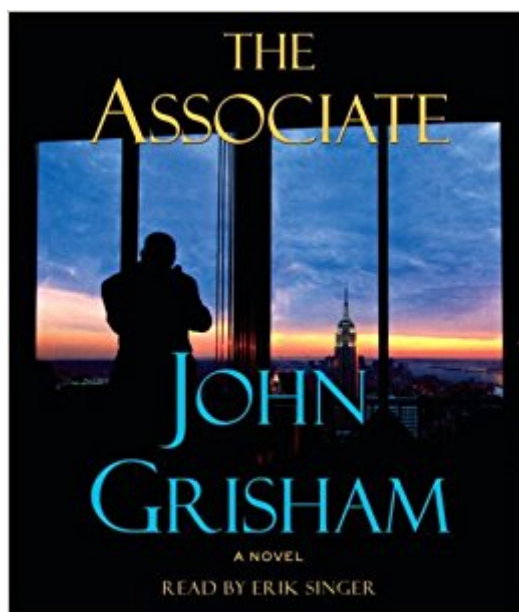


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# The Associate



## Synopsis

If you thought Mitch McDeere was in trouble in *The Firm*, wait until you meet Kyle McAvoy, *The Associate*. Kyle McAvoy grew up in his father's small-town law office in York, Pennsylvania. He excelled in college, was elected editor-in-chief of *The Yale Law Journal*, and his future has limitless potential. But Kyle has a secret, a dark one, an episode from college that he has tried to forget. The secret, though, falls into the hands of the wrong people, and Kyle is forced to take a job he doesn't want—even though it's a job most law students can only dream about. Three months after leaving Yale, Kyle becomes an associate at the largest law firm in the world, where, in addition to practicing law, he is expected to lie, steal, and take part in a scheme that could send him to prison, if not get him killed. With an unforgettable cast of characters and villains—from Baxter Tate, a drug-addled trust fund kid and possible rapist, to Dale, a pretty but seemingly quiet former math teacher who shares Kyle's office at the law firm, to two of the most powerful and fiercely competitive defense contractors in the country—and featuring all the twists and turns that have made John Grisham the most popular storyteller in the world, *The Associate* is vintage Grisham. From the Hardcover edition.

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## Customer Reviews

Bestseller Grisham's contemporary legal thriller offers an action-and-suspense plot reminiscent of that of his breakout book, 1991's *The Firm*, in contrast to 2008's didactic *The Appeal*, which served as a platform for his concerns about the corrupting effects of judicial elections. Kyle McAvoy, a callow Yale Law School student, dreams of a public service gig on graduation, until shadowy figures

blackmail him with a videotape that could revive a five-year-old rape accusation. Instead of helping those in need, McAvoy accepts a position at a huge Wall Street firm, Scully & Pershing, whose clients include a military contractor enmeshed in a \$800 billion lawsuit concerning a newly-designed aircraft. McAvoy can avoid exposure of his past if he feeds his new masters inside information on the case. Readers should be prepared for some predictable twists, an ending with some unwarranted ambiguity and some unconvincing details (the idea that a secret file room in a high stakes litigation case would be closed from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. every night stretches credulity to the breaking point). Still, Grisham devotees should be satisfied, even if this is one of his lesser works. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Critics agree with Entertainment Weekly that *The Associate* "is vintage Grisham, for better or worse, made timely with its sorry portrait of what passes for everyday ethics on Wall Street." Like his previous novels, *The Associate* is heavy on readability, predictability, and pace, and lighter on character development, scene setting, and style. "no surprises here. Fans of Grisham cited masterfully drawn characters and page-turning subplots, but less enthusiastic reviewers faulted stock villains, a rather mysterious Kyle, and implausible storylines. Time even claimed that unlike Michael Crichton or Scott Turow, who "wrestle with actual issues," Grisham deals with, well, nothing. Still, you know what you're getting into with *The Associate*, for better or for worse. Copyright 2009 Bookmarks Publishing LLC --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I'm never sure which John Grisham I'm getting when I start one of his books. *The Associate* is an example of Grisham's occasional lapses that result in a book that is almost an excellent read. Grisham the great story teller and Grisham the master of the spellbinding, complex plot both took time off from this book. Nonetheless, the novel is well written, as always, contains graphic character development and reads quickly.

As a long time John Grisham fan, I have eagerly looked forward to each new release. So much so that I accumulated books long before I had the opportunity to read them. So when I finally had a chance to read this book it was with great anticipation. My disappointment was not long in coming, when I found that the underlying premise reminded me a great deal of "The Firm" a much earlier work. In fact I had to go back and reread the dust jacket of *The Firm* to make sure they weren't the same book. They are not; *The Firm* deals with a young lawyer's recent indiscretion and *The*

Associate deals with a young lawyer's possible indiscretion in college. As the book progressed I found that the possible involvement of some super secret quasi government organization to be reminiscent of Tom Clancy or Robert Ludlum. Not exactly what I would have expected from Mr. Grisham.

True to form, Grisham kept my interest from beginning to end. Good book with surprising ending. I highly recommend this book.

I enjoyed the Grisham tale because it got me from the beginning. The protagonist was at the jumping off place of years of education while being controlled by corporate operatives that kept me captivate. Regarding the ending, I much prefer more finality than this book offered. However, that was less significant than what the novel delivered. It was also reminiscent of The Firm...

Grisham is a very good writer, I like authors that put some great one lines that are amusing.

This story is an education on the workings of big-time lawyers. It is fascinating and suspenseful and never talks down to the reader. The protagonist, Kyle, is a likable guy that I could easily relate to. The ending leaves the reader a bit up in the air, as is common in most of Grisham's novels. Thanks John for another wonderful vacation from my regular life!

The plot is so far beyond implausible it is truly inane. They go thru all this low probability of success action (blackmail/threats) to get a guy into the "right" law firm and then they need to get the guy onto the "right" case. How do they get the guy on the right case? They let firm know one of the associates ALREADY on the case is a druggie. WHY DIDN'T THEY JUST BLACKMAIL THIS GUY and forget all the other rigamarole.....! But the most telling thing about the quality of this book comes (in my addition) on Pg 177 where two characters are present (Manny and Baxter) and talking and there is a line that says "....after fifteen minutes together, Kyle felt as though he could chat for hours and tell him everything." KYLE ISN'T EVEN IN THE SAME STATE MUCH LESS same room for the "chat". Kind of hard to fault "just an editing oversight" when you place your main character in the wrong scene. In sum- Just awful.

Another older find from kindle. Thought I had read all Grisham's work and found this one. Great storyline and ending.

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