



Ford County: Stories

By John Grisham

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BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from John Grisham's *The Litigators*.

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

New York Times bestselling author John Grisham takes us back to Ford County, Mississippi, the setting of his first novel, *A Time to Kill*. This riveting collection of short stories features an unforgettable cast of characters: Wheelchair-bound Inez Graney and her two older sons embark on a bizarre road trip through the Mississippi Delta to visit Inez's youngest son, Raymond—on death row. A hard-drinking, low-grossing divorce lawyer fed up with his wife, his life, and the law plans a drastic escape after an unexpected phone call. A quiet, unassuming data collector sets out to bring down a flashy casino owner with his skill at blackjack—as payback for the theft of his wife. A stalker hunts victims in a retirement home, a lawyer confronts a vengeful adversary from the past, and a young man from a prominent family is driven off by scandal and fear—but finds unexpected redemption on the wrong side of the tracks. Often hilarious, frequently moving, and always entertaining, this collection makes it abundantly clear why John Grisham is our most popular storyteller.

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Ford County: Stories By John Grisham Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Exclusive: Pat Conroy Reviews *Ford County*

Pat Conroy is most recently the author of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *South of Broad*, as well as eight previous books: *The Boo*, *The Water Is Wide*, *The Great Santini*, *The Lords of Discipline*, *The Prince of Tides*, *Beach Music*, *My Losing Season*, and *The Pat Conroy Cookbook: Recipes of My Life*. He lives on Fripp Island, South Carolina. Read his exclusive Amazon guest review of *Ford County*:



In the mail last week, I received a copy of John Grisham's latest fiction. It surprised me that the book was comprised of seven short stories. From the time I first began publishing at Doubleday, they have always made sure that I received a copy of a Grisham book long before it went on sale in the bookstores. He has written 22 books, and I've read them all as soon as they were available in crisp review copies.

I have loved the Grisham books for the same reason that I love the works of John Irving, Richard Russo, or Anne Rivers Siddons: I get hooked by an early page, and pure habit forces me to read until I am issued my walking papers and can return to my normal life. These writers are all wish-bringers who cast spells with the bright enchantment of their stories, and the power of story has retained its glamour and necessity for me. I've always liked it when Grisham took a sabbatical from his impressive fiction to romp in the field of sports or non-fiction.

John surprised me by entering the ring of danger that the short story represents for all writers. In the world of writing, the poets come first as they finger the language like worry beads and wonder where their next meal is coming from. The art of the short story writer is one of economy, concision, and the genius of trying to craft a whole world inside a mason jar. The modern world punishes the short story writer with inattention. The literary reviews keep the short story alive and finger-popping in America today, while the *New Yorker* tries to strangle the form with its bare hands. But a great short story is a source of joy, and the reading of Chekhov, de Maupassant, Flannery O'Connor and others offer pleasures unmatched by any other form. Since I'm incapable of writing the short story form, I wanted to see how Grisham fared, knowing the critics would sharpen their swords against him no matter how accomplished his stories might be.

Ford County is the best writing that John Grisham has ever done. One of the many things I've admired about his books is his intimate chronicle of Mississippi life in the generations following William Faulkner and Eudora Welty. Grisham writes equally well about the plantation south, the black south, and white-cracker south. Over the years he has used the legal system as an instrument to illuminate the world of mansions and sharecroppers and everything in between as he not only defined Mississippi but also staked it out as his home fictional territory. His short stories were a surprise to me. All of them are very good; three of them, I believe, are great. Grisham has always had a rare gift for breaking hearts when he invokes unforgettable images of the broken, hopeless South. Some of the stories are hilarious, and Grisham's gift of humor has never found a showcase like this. One of these stories should find its way into the anthologies of the best short stories of 2009. It might not happen, but I for one think the stories in *Ford County* are that damned good.--Pat Conroy

(Photo © David G. Spielman)

From Publishers Weekly

Returning to the setting of his first novel, *A Time to Kill*, longtime bestseller Grisham presents seven short stories about the residents of Ford County, Miss. Each story explores different themes—mourning, revenge, justice, acceptance, evolution—but all flirt with the legal profession, the staple of (former attorney) Grisham's oeuvre. Fans will be excited to settle back into Grisham's world, and these easily digestible stories don't disappoint, despite their brevity. Full of strong characters, simple but resonant plotlines, and charming Southern accents, this collection is solid throughout; though his literary aspirations may seem quaint, Grisham succeeds admirably in his crowd-pleasing craft while avoiding pat endings or oversimplifying (perhaps best exemplified in "Michael's Room," which finds a lawyer facing the consequences of successfully defending a doctor against a malpractice suit). As always, Grisham balances his lawyerly preoccupations with a deep respect for his undereducated and overlooked characters.

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Review

"Grisham shows off his literary chops: He can do wry, emotional, funny, serious."

—*USA Today*

"The best writing John Grisham has ever done."

—Pat Conroy

"Terrifically charming . . . You absolutely can't stop reading."

—*The Washington Post*

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Ehlers:

The book Ford County: Stories can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Why must we leave a very important thing like a book Ford County: Stories? A few of you have a different opinion about guide. But one aim in which book can give many details for us. It is absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or data that you take for that, you may give for each other; you could share all of these. Book Ford County: Stories has simple shape but the truth is know: it has great and massive function for you. You can search the enormous world by wide open and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

Susan Metcalf:

Ford County: Stories can be one of your basic books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into joy arrangement in writing Ford County: Stories although doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can easily drawn you into fresh stage of crucial thinking.

Luz Davis:

In this era which is the greater man or who has ability in doing something more are more special than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you are related is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. On the list of books in the top list in your reading list is actually Ford County: Stories. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking upward and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

Omar Stewart:

That book can make you to feel relax. This book Ford County: Stories was multi-colored and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book Ford County: Stories has many kinds or type. Start from kids until teens. For example Naruto or Investigation company Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book tend to be make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and rest. Try to choose the best book for you personally and try to like reading in which.

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