

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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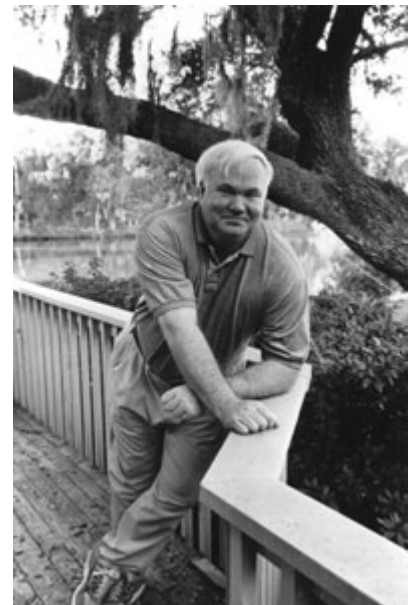
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Editorial Review

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:

John Tillery:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled Ford County: Stories. Try to face the book Ford County: Stories as your buddy. It means that it can for being your friend when you really feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunated for yourself. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , we need to make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

Willie McCorkle:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book specially book entitled Ford County: Stories your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a e-book then become one form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get before. The Ford County: Stories giving you another experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful info for your better life in this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

Cindi Russell:

That e-book can make you to feel relax. That book Ford County: Stories was bright colored and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book Ford County: Stories has many kinds or variety. Start from kids until teenagers. For example Naruto or Detective Conan you can read and think you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book are usually make you bored, any it offers up you feel happy, fun and chill out. Try to choose the best book for yourself and try to like reading this.

Bonnie Thorp:

Reading a reserve make you to get more knowledge from that. You can take knowledge and information from a book. Book is composed or printed or created from each source this filled update of news. Within this modern era like currently, many ways to get information are available for you actually. From media social just like newspaper, magazines, science e-book, encyclopedia, reference book, book and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Do you want to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just trying to find the Ford County: Stories when you essential it?

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