



Playing for Pizza

By John Grisham

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Playing for Pizza By John Grisham

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Rick Dockery is the third-string quarterback for the Cleveland Browns. In the AFC Championship game, to the surprise and dismay of virtually everyone, Rick actually gets into the game. With a seventeen-point lead and just minutes to go, Rick provides what is arguably the worst single performance in the history of the NFL. Overnight, he becomes a national laughingstock—and is immediately cut by the Browns and shunned by all other teams.

But all Rick knows is football, and he insists that his agent find a team that needs him. Against enormous odds, Rick finally gets a job—as the *starting* quarterback for the Mighty Panthers . . . of Parma, Italy. The Parma Panthers desperately want a former NFL player—any former NFL player—at their helm. And now they've got Rick, who knows nothing about Parma (not even where it is) and doesn't speak a word of Italian. To say that Italy—the land of fine wines, extremely small cars, and *football americano*—holds a few surprises for Rick Dockery would be something of an understatement.

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

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Playing for Pizza By John Grisham Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

***Playing for Pizza*: A Q&A with John Grisham** **Q:** American football in Italy seems like an unlikely subject for a John Grisham novel. What was the inspiration for *Playing for Pizza*? **A:** Three years ago when I was in Bologna researching "The Broker", I discovered American football. One of my guides in the area played football for the Bologna Warriors for 10 years. I couldn't believe that American football actually existed there, but the more I heard about it the more intrigued I became. **Q:** There is some great football writing in this novel. What kind of research was involved in capturing how this American institution is played in small town Italy? **A:** The only way to research the book was to go to Parma and watch a game. The coach is an American who played at Illinois State, and he proved to be extremely valuable. I met many of the Italian players and the story simply unfolded. **Q:** Speaking of research, you write lovingly of Italian food and wine in this book. What's your idea of the perfect Italian meal? **A:** First course: prosciutto and melon; second course: stuffed tortellini; third course: roasted stuffed capon, all served with a great Barolo wine. **Q:** Without giving away too much of the plot, your protagonist falls in love by the novel's end. Did you know when you started writing that Rick would get the girl? **A:** Of course. **Q:** You have a new legal thriller coming in January 2008. Can you give us any hints about what to expect? **A:** I really don't like to talk about a book until it's finished. Sorry. But it will not be another work of non-fiction, nor will it be about football. Lots of lawyers in the next one.

From Publishers Weekly

Christopher Evan Welch kicks and scores with his engaging narration of Grisham's charming tale of touchdowns and tortellini. Rick Dockery, a 28-year-old third-string NFL quarterback, is playing for the Cleveland Browns. In the final minutes of a decisive game, Rick is brought off the bench to disastrous results. The Browns lose the game and a chance at going to the Super Bowl. After he is unceremoniously dumped by the team, the quarterback agrees to play for a small but tenacious team called the Parma Panthers—whose playing field is in Parma, Italy. Welch perfectly captures the tone for this humorous and often touching fish-out-of-water story. Welch brings the listener along with Rick, as the young quarterback painfully adjusts to the strange new world he's thrust into. He brings to life Rick's discovery of Italy, with all its history and colorful characters. Especially delicious are the descriptions of the rich Italian foods that Rick and his teammates seem to constantly consume. By the end of the book, listeners will be seeking out the nearest Italian trattoria.

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Review

"Fans of John Grisham live for his legal thrillers, but now and then he serves up something unexpected. That's exactly what he does, with great success, in ***Playing for Pizza***." —*USA Today*

"Enthralling." —*People*

"Score another one for Grisham...This is a fish-out-of-water tale that perfectly suits his strengths as a storyteller." —*USA Today*

"A light-hearted story of football, food and love." —*Richmond Times-Dispatch*

“Football in Italy? Who knew? Grisham means to have a sweet time with this story of a fallen NFL quarterback. And he does.” —*Daily News* (New York)

“Delightfully comic...a deeply satisfying story.” —*The Boston Globe*

“Charming...the author's love letter to Italy.” —*Publishers Weekly*

From the Paperback edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nicholas Hess:

What do you think about book? It is just for students because they're still students or the idea for all people in the world, the actual best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has several personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be compelled someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great and also important the book *Playing for Pizza*. All type of book could you see on many options. You can look for the internet sources or other social media.

Myron Abbott:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for all of us. The book *Playing for Pizza* ended up being making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The e-book *Playing for Pizza* is not only giving you much more new information but also to get your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship using the book *Playing for Pizza*. You never truly feel lose out for everything in case you read some books.

George Conner:

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John Wilson:

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