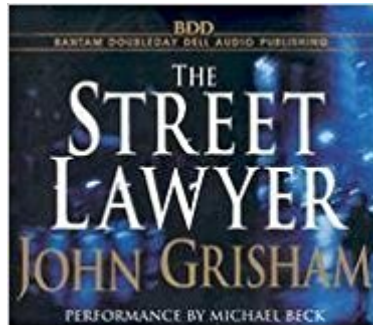




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The Street Lawyer



Synopsis

Michael was in a hurry. He was scrambling up the ladder at Drake & Sweeney, a giant D.C. law firm with eight hundred lawyers. The money was good and getting better; a partnership was three years away. He was a rising star with no time to waste, no time to stop, no time to toss a few coins into the cups of panhandlers. No time for a conscience. But a violent encounter with a homeless man stopped him cold. Michael survived; his assailant did not. Who was this man? Michael did some digging, and learned that he was a mentally ill veteran who'd been in and out of shelters for many years. Then Michael dug a little deeper, and found a dirty secret, and the secret involved Drake & Sweeney. The fast track derailed; the ladder collapsed. Michael bolted the firm and took a top-secret file with him. He landed in the streets, an advocate for the homeless, a street lawyer. And a thief.

Book Information

Series: John Grisham

Audio CD

Publisher: Random House Audio; Abridged edition (February 4, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0553455710

ISBN-13: 978-0553455717

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 0.9 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.5 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 1,512 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #305,829 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \(G \) > Grisham, John](#) #254 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged](#) #290 in [Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers](#)

Customer Reviews

Looking for a romantic, hardboiled legal drama with a social conscience? Look no further. This audio version of John Grisham's blockbuster *The Street Lawyer* is narrated by Michael Beck (The Golden Seal, Xanadu), whose portrayal of the similarly named Michael Brock, with his squeaky-clean voice and crisp annunciation, is in perfect pitch with the corporate attorney's Ivy League image. Beck's believable, engaging performance is compelling, drawing the listener into Brock's charmed life and his decision to quit the firm after being held hostage by a disgruntled homeless man. Moved by a crisis of conscience, Brock seeks out the gravel-throated, streetwise legal aid counselor Mordecai Green. Green shows him the ropes, and Brock soon becomes part of

the scenery he used to look down on from his plush 14th-floor office. Meanwhile, our hero is on the lam for stealing an important file that holds the secret to an illegal eviction--one that may lead to a murder charge. Faced with a failing marriage, a client on crack, and the threat of disbarment, Michael has plenty to think about as he and Mordecai negotiate a fair settlement for the victims of an inexcusable crime. (Running time: 360 minutes; 4 cassettes)

America's most popular author is arguably its most popular crusader as well, tilting his pen against myriad targets, including big law (The Firm, etc.), big tobacco (The Runaway Jury), big insurance (The Rainmaker) and now, in perhaps his sweetest, shortest novel, against anyone, big or little, who treats the homeless as less than human. The expected powerhouse opening involves the hostage-taking by an armed, homeless man who calls himself Mister of nine attorneys of a huge law firm headquartered in D.C. Among the nine is narrator Michael Brock, an antitrust lawyer who receives a faceful of blood when a police sniper blows away Mister's head. "I'm alive! I'm alive," Michael cries like Ebenezer Scrooge, but, like Scrooge, this greedy hotshot is ripe for a moral awakening. The next day, Michael visits the shabby offices of Mister's attorney, Mordecai Green, who explains that Mister and others had been illegally evicted from makeshift housing on orders from a real-estate development company represented by Michael's firm. Inspired by Green and shaken by his firm's complicity, Michael volunteers at a homeless shelter. When a family he meets there dies on the street, and turns out to have been among the evictees, Michael quits his job, goes to work for Green and, using as evidence a file he steals from the firm, aims to sue his former employer on behalf of the evictees. In turn, the firm places Michael in its crosshairs, pressuring him to give up the file through legal maneuvers, having him arrested and hints of darker means. The cat-and-mouse between Michael and the firm is vintage Grisham, intricately plotted, but the emphasis in this smoothly told, baldly manipulative tale is less on action and suspense, which are moderate, than on Michael's change of heart and moving exploration of the world of the homeless. Dickens would be well pleased, and so will Grisham's fans. 2.8 million first printing. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Nice, easy read. Typical John Grisham novel but that's a good thing. Worth reading for view of what homeless people go through EVERY DAY.

I feel as though I have gained knowledge and insight from Grisham's work and the research behind it. Not to mention the enjoyability of the conflict of the just resolution.

Not all homeless are capable of advanced studies and contributing to the less fortunate. They do not understand the differences in social standing.

This JG offering should be required reading by the 5%. Those with resources to affect change for the less fortunate. Not simply write a check to offset a sudden windfall that would balance an unexpected gain that the IRS would be happy to snatch in excess of 50%. Instead of mingling with upper crust seek out the many dedicated public servants that work daily with the many problems the poverty stricken have to deal with everyday.. The front line soldiers of social services that know precisely where to direct your contributions so that they will have the most direct impact on today's unbalanced haves and have nots. I'd be willing to bet that you may find a genuine life long real friend that does not judge you for your success. Possibly your first real friend of your entire life. Ed, Colorado

This novel had me struggling to stop reading. The more I read the more I realized that this was more about corporate greed and the ills of our society which correlates with that personal and corporate greed. Certainly we take for granted so much of our middle, upper middle and upper social class outlook on life and what's good for us and how this view may not match that of the less educated and fortunate. A storyline which invoked much soul searching and food for thought on what is the truth and doing the right thing really worth to me personally and any institution that I may represent as a finance professional. I found the writing style crisp, pointed and enlightening. A good read to awaken your social conscience

I had just finished, and thoroughly enjoyed Grisham's "The Litigators" and was deciding which of his books would be my next read. I was totally enthralled with "The Street Lawyer." I have to admit that the first-person narration distracted me at first, but once I became engaged with the story, I didn't notice it as much. I very much enjoy Grisham's male characters who are fed up with the corporate system and take courageous steps to break away. I rate this book at the top of my Grisham favorites, only second to the "The Firm." Highly recommended.

Very well written. what did I expect, right? The best part is that this book has me looking inward. Thank you!

An eye and heart opening book. Impossible not to feel pain and sadness. Perhaps somewhat politically slanted. But undoubtedly an insight into the real and sad world that, fortunately, so few of us who read these books have any personal experience.

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