

## APPENDIX

### Summary of *A Time to Kill*

One May in the early 1980s in northern Mississippi, two white good-for-nothings are repeatedly raping the young black girl they have kidnapped. Beaten and bloody, the girl hallucinates that her daddy is coming to save her. When finished with her, the men throw her in a shallow ravine. After she is discovered and hospitalized, the black sheriff quickly takes the two worthless white men into custody as the girl, Tonya Hailey, lies in surgery.

Jake Brigance, a young "street lawyer" with a wife and daughter, works alone in the historic Wilbanks building, having begun his career as an associate of the pedigreed but dissolute Lucien Wilbanks. Disbarred, Wilbanks has given his entire practice to Jake, a liberal who represents poor, blue-collar workers.

Carl Lee Hailey, Tonya's father, quickly makes it clear to Jake that the two men who raped his daughter will be killed. When Carl Lee's brother Lester arrives from Chicago, the two men plot revenge. Lester knows the courthouse, having been acquitted of murder a few years ago, represented by Jake Brigance. Carl Lee hides in the courthouse at closing and plans his attack.

"Cat" Bruster, a former Vietnam War comrade of Carl Lee's, now a wealthy master of the underground, provides an M-16. On Monday morning, Cobb and Willard appear in court, and as they are escorted down the back stairs, Carl Lee Hailey emerges from a closet and opens fire on them with an M-16, accidentally wounding a deputy. Then he throws the gun down, walks

out to his vehicle and drives home. In his office across the street, Jake hears the commotion and runs over to investigate. A few minutes later, Carl Lee surrenders peacefully at his home and is taken into custody. He cooperates fully and is treated with respect and kindness by the understanding sheriff and deputies.

Jake Brigance takes on the case of Carl Lee Hailey, realizing that he will earn less than \$1,000 for his efforts but hoping for great publicity. As the press descends on Clanton, the town becomes a media circus, and death threats begin arriving. All concerned with the case are intimidated and frightened. Indicted on three counts, Carl Lee could get the death penalty. Insanity seems to be his only defence. As the grand jury is empanelled, the Ku Klux Klan reinstates itself in Ford County. Jake's only hope will be a hung jury, providing he can get just one black juror in this mostly white county. The trial is set for July 22.

Over the next two months, Jake Brigance struggles to get an acquittal for a man who coldly planned a double murder and carried it out before eyewitnesses. Offered Cat's big-time Memphis lawyer, all expenses paid, Carl Lee temporarily fires Jake who, in turn, escalates his deception and manipulation to win back the case. Local black pastors raise funds for the Hailey family's needs and defence expenses, each skimming just a bit of the take, and they bring in the NAACP to ramp up the racial tension. The Klan responds by burning a cross in Jake's front yard.

As the trial date nears, nerves are frayed, and racial tensions increase. The judge imposes a gag order. The confessed murderer, now a hometown hero to the black population, emerges as the player with the greatest integrity. Having wrested the case away from both the rich Memphis lawyer and the NAACP, Jake Brigance now becomes a serious target of the Klan. When a would-be bomber is apprehended just outside his bedroom window, Jake sends his wife and daughter away to safety.

Without the stabilizing influence of Jake's wife, he slides quickly into immature, irresponsible behaviour, surrounding himself with a colourful team of intelligent but eccentric advisers who share one common interest: drinking. One of these is a twenty-five-year-old third-year law student named Ellen Roark, attractive, sexy and brilliant. She provides expert clerking services to Jake along with some serious distraction. Meanwhile, the Klan burns crosses in the yards of prospective jurors. They assault and seriously injure the husband of Jake's secretary. As the defence team becomes intoxicated on margaritas, hundreds of black citizens hold a candlelight vigil across the street. The next day, the Klan arrives on the courthouse lawn to counter the rally of the blacks, and a furious altercation erupts.

Now the National Guard takes up residence on the courthouse lawn. The all-white jury of ten women and two men is sequestered out of town, and testimony takes only a few days. The state's key witness, the black deputy accidentally shot by Carl Lee, is sympathetic with the defence and well coached by Jake. He makes an excellent case for Carl Lee's temporary

insanity. Near the end of the brief trial, as Jake enters the courthouse under heavy guard, a sniper makes an attempt on Jake's life, severely wounding and paralyzing a National Guardsman. That night his clerk, Ellen Roark, is kidnapped by the Klan and severely injured. She is ultimately hospitalized through the trial's end. The defence's expert witness, a depraved, semi-retired psychiatrist, is discredited on the stand, rendering the insanity plea virtually hopeless. Lucien Wilbanks, in desperation, has initiated an attempt to "buy" one degenerate juror. As testimony ends, Jake's house is burned to the ground as he sleeps safely at Lucien's. Jake wishes he had never heard of Carl Lee Hailey. The next day, though, delivering his closing arguments in borrowed clothes, Jake enjoys his finest hour.

As the jury deliberates, busloads of blacks are brought in, thanks to Lucien's efforts. They protest loudly and actually frighten the Klan away and intimidate the all-white jury. After several excruciating days, following a near deadlock, the jury returns a miraculous not-guilty verdict. Exultant, Jake flies to North Carolina to be reunited with his family. He is broke, without a home. His practice is at a standstill, but he is victorious in this case and riding a wave of adulation.

## BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN GRISHAM

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Grisham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Grisham)

John Ray Grisham, the second oldest of five siblings, was born in Jonesboro, Arkansas, to Southern Baptist parents of modest means. His father worked as a construction worker and a cotton farmer; his mother was a homemaker.[2] After moving frequently, the family settled in 1967 in the town of Southaven in DeSoto County, Mississippi, where Grisham graduated from Southaven High School. He played as a quarterback for the school football team. Unlike the main character in his 2003 novel, Bleachers, he wasn't an All-American football player. Encouraged by his mother, the young Grisham was an avid reader, and was especially influenced by the work of John Steinbeck whose clarity he admired.

In 1977 Grisham received a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Mississippi State University. Grisham tried out for the baseball team at Delta State University, but was cut by the coach, who was former Boston Red Sox pitcher, Dave Ferriss. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1981. During law school Grisham switched interests from tax law to criminal and general civil litigation. Upon graduation he entered a small-town general law practice for nearly a decade in Southaven, where he focused on criminal law and civil law representing a broad spectrum of clients. As a young attorney he spent much of his time in court proceedings.

In 1983 he was elected as a Democrat to the Mississippi House of Representatives, where he served until 1990. During his time as a legislator, he continued his private law practice in Southaven. He has donated over \$100,000 to Democratic Party candidates. In September, 2007 Grisham appeared with Hillary Rodham Clinton, his choice for U.S. President in 2008, and former Virginia Governor Mark Warner, whom Grisham supports for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Republican John Warner (no relation). Grisham himself had considered challenging former GOP U.S. Senator George Allen, Jr. in the 2006 election in which Allen was narrowly defeated by the Democrat James Webb.

In 1984 at the DeSoto County courthouse in Hernando, Grisham witnessed the harrowing testimony of a 12-year-old rape victim.[2] According to Grisham's official website, Grisham used his spare time to begin work on his first novel, which "explored what would have happened if the girl's father had murdered her assailants." He "spent three years on A Time to Kill and finished it in 1987. Initially rejected by many publishers, the manuscript was eventually bought by Wynwood Press, who gave it a modest 5,000-copy printing and published it in June 1988."

The day after Grisham completed A Time to Kill, he began work on another novel, the story of a young attorney "lured to an apparently perfect law firm that was not what it appeared." That second book, The Firm, became the 7th bestselling novel of 1991.[3] Grisham then went on to produce at least one work a year, most of them wildly popular bestsellers. He is the only person to

author a number-one bestselling novel of the year for seven consecutive years (1994–2000). Beginning with *A Painted House* in 2001, the author broadened his focus from law to the more general rural south, while continuing to pen his legal thrillers.

Publishers Weekly declared Grisham "the bestselling novelist of the 90s," selling a total of 60,742,289 copies. He is also one of only a few authors to sell two million copies on a first printing; others include Tom Clancy and J.K. Rowling. Grisham's 1992 novel *The Pelican Brief* sold 11,232,480 copies in the United States alone.

