

The Theme of Justice In The Select Works of John Grisham

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Abstract

John Grisham was an American novelist and lawyer. He was born in Arkansas, located in the United States of America. He was a former member of the Mississippi House of Representatives. Grisham is renowned for his legal thrillers. A legal thriller as a genre, comes under the genre of crime fiction. This paper studies some of the author's critically acclaimed works.

Keywords: John Grisham, The Firm, A Time To Kill.

I. INTRODUCTION

John Grisham was an American novelist and lawyer. He was born in Arkansas, located in the United States of America. He was a former member of the Mississippi House of Representatives. Grisham is renowned for his legal thrillers. A legal thriller as a genre, comes under the genre of crime fiction. In a legal thriller, the proceedings of an investigation are described. The courtroom proceedings form an important component of legal thrillers. Grisham had also delved into mystery, crime fiction and young adult fiction. Several of his novels have been adapted for film and he has had multiple fiction bestsellers. He is extremely famous for the novels *The Firm* and *A Time To Kill*.

II. THE FIRM

The Firm is John Grisham's second novel. It was very successful and was hence adapted for film. Mitch McDeere is a Certified Public Accountant and has graduated from Harvard Law School. He is married to Abby McDeere, whom he had met in high school. Abby is an elementary school teacher. Mitch has two brothers, named Ray and Rusty. Rusty had passed away in Vietnam, and Ray is imprisoned for manslaughter in Tennessee. Mitch signs with a small law firm in Memphis, because he is attracted towards the huge salary and a lease on a BMW car. He is assigned to partner Avery Tolar.

Mitch notes that many of the firm's attorneys have passed away in mysterious circumstances. Therefore, he hires Eddie Lomax to investigate their deaths. The other attorneys have died in suspicious ways, and hence Eddie tells Mitch to be extremely careful. It is later revealed that the firm is actually a front for a crime family based in Chicago, named The Marolto crime family. Mitch and Abby decide to work with the FBI but make the decision to flee from them once enough evidence is gathered, since they do not trust them. Justice is the main theme of the novel.

III. A TIME TO KILL

A Time to Kill was published in 1989, and written by John Grisham. It is a legal thriller and a bestseller. The novel's success led to its adaptation into a film. The setting of the novel is Clanton, a fictional town in Mississippi. This fictional setting of the novel can also be seen in other novels by Grisham. The novel has multiple autobiographical elements. In the novel, an African American girl named Tonya, who is ten years of age, is raped by Pete and Billy. After Tonya is discovered, she is taken to the hospital. However, Pete and Billy are bragging about what had happened at a bar. On hearing the news, Tonya's father, Carl Lee, wants to avenge for the crime committed against his daughter. He should Pete and Billy with his rifle. As a result, he is charged with capital murder.

Carly wants to be represented by Jake Brigance. Carl is prosecuted by the district attorney, Rufus Buckley. It is rumoured that the judge who will be presiding over the case has been intimidated by a white supremacist. Jake requests for a venue change, but is denied. The jury is all-white now due to the refusal for a change in venue. Jake sends his wife and daughter away for safety. On the day of the verdict, several black people gather to demand for Carl Lee's acquittal. Race and justice are the main themes of the novel.

REFERENCES

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