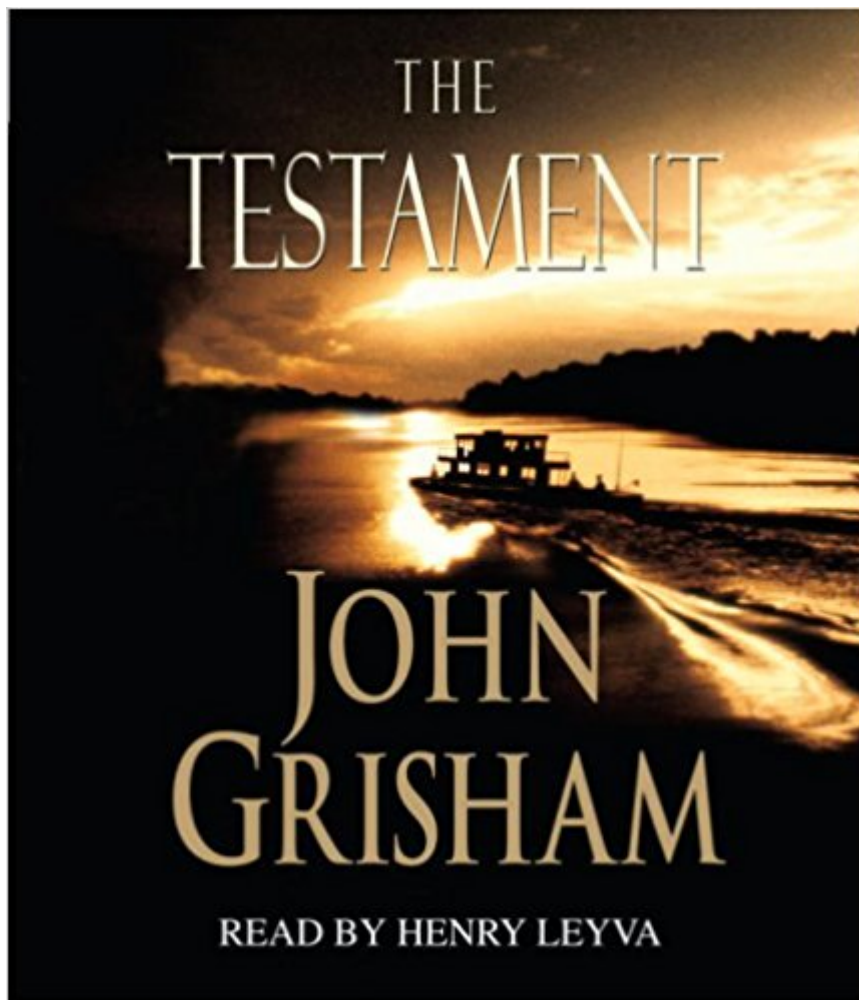


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The Testament (John Grisham)



Synopsis

Troy Phelan is a self-made billionaire, one of the richest men in the United States. He is also eccentric, reclusive, confined to a wheelchair, and looking for a way to die. His heirs, to no one's surprise--especially Troy's--are circling like vultures. Nate O'Riley is a high-octane Washington litigator who's lived too hard, too fast, for too long. His second marriage is a shambles, and he is emerging from his fourth stay in rehab armed with little more than his fragile sobriety, good intentions, and resilient sense of humor. Returning to the real world is always difficult, but this time it's going to be murder. Rachel Lane is a young woman who chose to give her life to God, who walked away from the modern world with all its strivings and trappings and encumbrances, and went to live and work with a primitive tribe of Indians in the deepest jungles of Brazil. In a story that mixes legal suspense with a remarkable adventure, their lives are forever altered by the startling secret of The Testament.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Troy Phelan, a 78-year-old eccentric and the 10th-richest man in America, is about to read his last will and testament, divvying up an estate worth \$11 billion. Phelan's three ex-wives, their grasping spawn, a legion of lawyers, several psychiatrists, and a plethora of sound technicians wait breathlessly, all eyes glued to digital monitors as they watch the old man read his verdict. But Phelan shocks everyone with a bizarre, last-gasp attempt to redistribute the spoils, setting in motion a legal morality tale of a contested will, sin, and redemption. Our hero, Nate O'Riley--a washed-up,

alcoholic litigator with two ruined marriages in his wake and the IRS on his tail--is dispatched to the Brazilian wetlands in search of a mysterious heir named in the will. After a harrowing trip upriver to a remote settlement in the Pantanal, he encounters Rachel Lane, a pure-hearted missionary living with an indigenous tribe and carrying out "God's work." Rachel's grave dedication and kindness impress the jaded lawyer, so much that a nasty bout of dengue fever leads him to a vision that could change his life. Back in the States, the legal proceedings drag on and Grisham has a high time with Phelan's money-hungry descendents, a regrettable bunch who squandered millions, married strippers, got druggy, and befriended the Mob. The youngest son, Ramble, is a multi-pierced, tattoo-covered malcontent with big dreams for his rock band, the Demon Monkeys. Will Nate get straight with Rachel's aid? Do the greedy heirs get theirs? What's the real legacy of a lifetime's work? The Testament is classic Grisham: a down-and-out lawyer, a lot of money, an action-packed pursuit, and the highest issues at stake. It's not just about great characters; it's about the question of what character is. --Rebekah Warren --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

A traditional gangbuster Grisham opening?in which an aged billionaire outfoxes his greedy heirs by signing a bombshell will, then jumps to his death?gives little clue how this seductive tale will develop. The novel also features the usual attorney hero and legal action, but Grisham confounds expectations by sweeping readers into adventure in the Brazilian wetlands and, more urgently, into a man's search for spiritual renewal. Nate O'Riley, 48, is a drunk. He's also a top D.C. attorney who, winding up his fourth rehab stint in 10 years, is asked by his firm to find one Rachel Lane. The illegitimate daughter to whom the firm's client, tycoon Troy Phelan, has left his entire \$11 billion fortune, Rachel is a missionary-physician tending Indians somewhere in Brazil's Pantanal region. Nate's experiences there prove nightmarish, including fierce storms, a plane crash, dangerous animals, hunger and, finally, dengue fever, which nearly kills him. But as Grisham crosscuts from Brazil to D.C. and the sleazy machinations of Phelan's other children and their lawyers to negate Phelan's will, readers will wonder which is the real jungle; never has Grisham revealed so nakedly his contempt for the legal profession. What Grisham holds dear is made clear in his unforgettable portrait of Rachel, whose serenity and integrity stun Nate, while inspiring him to forsake forever his lust for booze, power and money and to turn toward God. The message (which isn't entirely new to Grisham; see *The Street Lawyer*) and the storytelling that conveys it aren't subtle, but Grisham's smart use of the suspense novel to explore questions of being and faith puts him squarely in the footsteps of Dickens and Graham Greene. Sincere, exciting and tinged with wonder, this novel is going to sell like an angel, and deservedly so. Agent, David Gernert. 2.8 million first printing.

(On-sale date: Feb. 1) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

The odd man out among John Grisham's adult legal thrillers, yet for all that one of my favorites. An idiosyncratic Virginia billionaire dies, leaving a handmade (holographic) will that bypasses his heirs and settles his considerable estate on a young Brazilian missionary. Not set in the American South but in the "Pantanal" region of Central Brazil, which is a kind of seasonally flooded wetland, not a jungle. I enjoyed the change of scene despite, at times, the fact that Grisham was obviously including "travelogue" material for the benefit of the ignorant like me. The new paperback keeps this novel alive and affordable.

Each time I have read a John Grisham novel I really enjoy his description of the surroundings in the story. This novel was no exception, I could feel being in a Jungle like atmosphere, the river boat ride, Nate's addiction, withdrawals, the plane crash, the dysfunctional family situations and what it can be like going through a deposition. I know I am not doing justice to this terrific novel but I loved it. I have read everything that Grisham has ever published and he has been my favorite author from day one. Thank you for your sincere effort of making every book you write the best you could possibly produce for that story line.

A wealthy father only has money to give his children but lack of loving involvement in their lives ruins himself and his children. Contrast that with an illegitimate daughter who was totally happy and contented without money and gave her life as a missionary. The thrilling part of the book was how Nate, an alcoholic that was doomed, met this daughter. She prayed for him and believed God delivered him. His redemptive journey led to a new mission in life. An amazing exciting inspiring book...a must read!

I've enjoyed all the John Grisham books I've read, some more than others. This book was a 7.5 out of 10 for a John Grisham books for me. The ending left me wondering if the outcome was a way of one of the central characters manipulating things the way her father may have done. Well worth the reading time, held my interest throughout.

This is a great book. As a professional, we can get tired of the "rat race," burned out at our jobs. This is a story of reconciliation and redemption that is good for the soul. What's it gonna take you to

get rid of your bad habits and get out of the rut your stuck in? These are the questions asked by litigator, Nate O'Neil. He finds his answers and a life line through a missionary, deep in the jungles of Brazil/Bolivia. I recommend this book as I recommend all the books I've read from Grisham.

Ended abruptly! I was reading along and all of a sudden it was over with a very surprise ending. I grew to like Nate as the novel progressed and was hoping he would find happiness. He was headed that way when the book ends but it had to be in another direction than I had thought it would go. predictable in some ways, but not all ways. I have read The Sycamore Tree and while I initially thought these two books would be similar in content, they were not. Which one did I enjoy the most? They were totally different so really I can't compare.

Very enjoyable and inspiring reading. For me a very good reminder of how life is a constant change, and how if we are patient in life, and we have good intentions, something good always will come to our life.

Fantastic read. All of the elements; time, space, characters & plot were well developed and believable. Of course you would expect that from a seasoned, talented author. There is no "everything is fine & forgiven, happy ever after" ending. It is real, it's life.

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