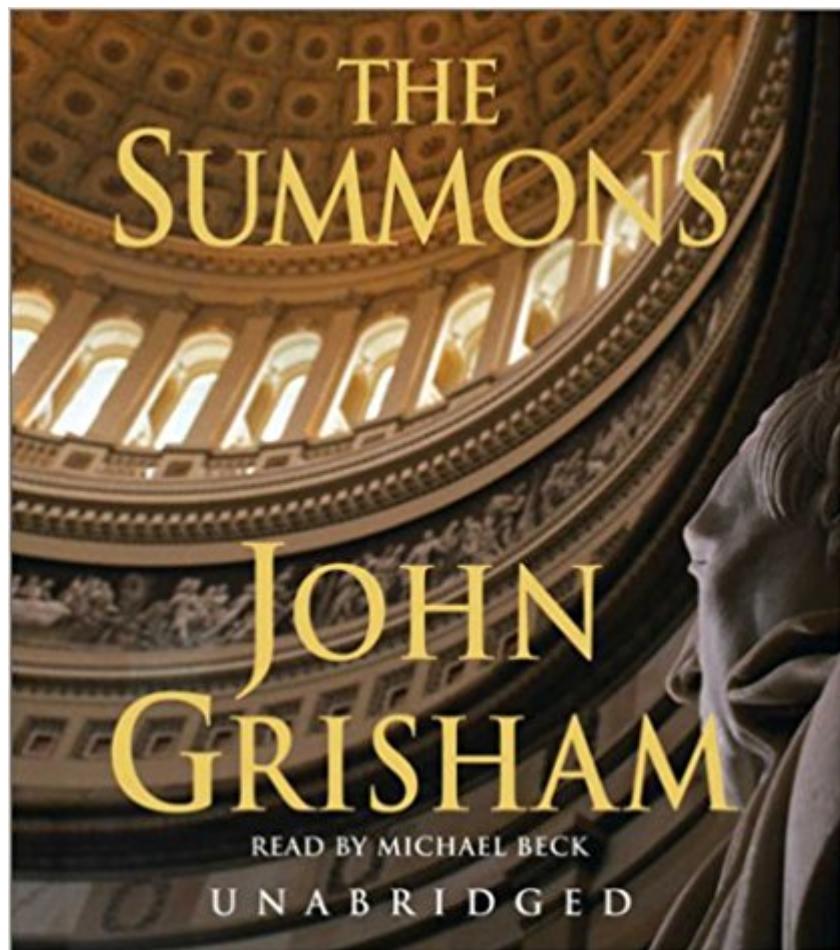


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The Summons



Synopsis

Ray Atlee is a professor of law at the University of Virginia. He's forty-three, newly single, and still enduring the aftershocks of a surprise divorce. He has a younger brother, Forrest, who redefines the notion of a family's black sheep. And he has a father, a very sick old man who lives alone in the ancestral home in Clanton, Mississippi. He is known to all as Judge Atlee, a beloved and powerful official who has towered over local law and politics for forty years. No longer on the bench, the Judge has withdrawn to the Atlee mansion and become a recluse. With the end in sight, Judge Atlee issues a summons for both sons to return home to Clanton, to discuss the details of his estate. It is typed by the Judge himself, on his handsome old stationery, and gives the date and time for Ray and Forrest to appear in his study. Ray reluctantly heads south, to his hometown, to the place where he grew up, which he prefers now to avoid. But the family meeting does not take place. The Judge dies too soon, and in doing so leaves behind a shocking secret known only to Ray. And perhaps someone else.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Law professor Ray Atlee and his prodigal brother, Forrest, are summoned home to Clanton, Mississippi, by their ailing father to discuss his will. But when Ray arrives the judge is already dead, and the one-page document dividing his meager estate between the two sons seems crystal clear. What it doesn't mention, however, is the small fortune in cash Ray discovers hidden in the old man's house--\$3 million he can't account for and doesn't mention to brother Forrest, either. Ray's efforts to

keep his find a secret, figure out where it came from, and hide it from a nameless extortioner, who seems to know more about it than he does, culminate in a denouement with an almost biblical twist. It's a slender plot to hang a thriller on, and in truth it's not John Grisham's best in terms of pacing, dramatic tension, and interesting characters (except for Harry Rex, a country lawyer who was the judge's closest friend and in many ways is the father Ray wishes he'd had. He's so vivid he jumps off the page). But Grisham's legions of fans are likely to enjoy *The Summons* even if it lacks the power of some of his classic earlier books, like *The Firm*, *The Brethren*, and *The Testament*. --Jane Adams --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Beck offers a fine performance in this no-frills production of Grisham's latest, despite its lack of overall narrative zip. University of Virginia law professor Ray Atlee stumbles upon more than \$3 million in cash in the rural Mississippi house of his dead father, then tries to discover the source of the money and elude an increasingly persistent and menacing extortionist. Beck is a dynamic reader and excels at tackling the challenge of capturing the characters' Southern twang in the story's dialogue. Ray's voice is refined and authoritative, while that of his black sheep brother, Forrest, carries a slight crack that befits a person lacking in confidence and maturity. Family friend and local lawyer Harry Rex stands out the most, and Beck also deftly portrays a smarmy, boozing Delta attorney who calls himself the "King of the Torts." But even with these intriguing, well-rounded characters and a nice evocation of the legal system's more unsavory machinations, the plot won't move listeners to the edge of their seats. Beck, however, does well with what he has, which is a decently written but rather sluggish tale of suspense with a quirky cast and one good twist at the end. Simultaneous release with the Doubleday hardcover Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

This novel flows well and grabs you early. I put my life on hold for two days and was rewarded with a very good surprise ending. Great character development, you really enjoy the Atlee brothers. The book revolves around a cumbersome pile of cash and discusses flying, counterfeiting, rehab, casino gambling, the law and the State of Mississippi. Mr. Grisham adds a handful of bad guys and a ship named "King of Torts." One of his best, highly recommended.

It's obvious that John was bored and just needed a quick, uninteresting book to make money. The ending leaves you totally in the air; it isn't really an ending at all. Highly disappointed with the author on this one. **SAVE YOUR MONEY, WAIT FOR A CHEAP PAPERBACK EDITION,**

Don't waste your time or money, very disappointing book considering who the author was. Plot was dry and had no characters I cared about one way or the other.

I must admit I gave the book an extra star because of Michael Beck. (I'm a huge fan of audiobooks and will only purchase Grisham's audiobooks if they are read by Mr. Beck) I loved The Summons. Mr. Grisham has not lost his flair for interesting, heart-thumping, twists and turns stories. I am surprised many of Grisham's fans were disappointed. This novel surpassed my expectation. It takes an exceptional author to consistently give his fans their money worth and Mr. Grishman is such an author. If you are a true fan of Grisham and you live in the real world you will understand not all of Mr Grisham books will live up to everyone's expectations. Every author goes through GREAT novels and good novels periods. Mr. Grisham has not disappointed me yet.

Can't put it down story of family turmoil, hidden money, siblings fighting, and suspense in a southern little nosey town.

Another captivating read by Grisham. Can't wait for the next book. I hope it's a continuation of this one! Fantastic.

Typical Grisham novel. Easy reading, not a difficult level.

As always, John Grisham leaves us wanting more. Love his work.

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