

# John Grisham

## Enjoying It All

John Grisham has been a fixture on the literary landscape since the phenomenal success of *The Firm* in 1991. Master of the modern legal thriller, he is currently putting the finishing touches on *The Confession* (Doubleday, Oct.), his 24th book. While some authors might find the creative process challenging after double-digit production, Grisham feels just the opposite.

"There are more and more stories I want to write. My kids are grown and I am not coaching baseball anymore, so I have more time—but the most important part is I am still having fun."



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Though he is reticent about revealing too much about *The Confession*, his muse is still the intricacies of the legal system. He does say it is a contemporary work of fiction about a wrongful conviction in Texas plus "all the intrigue that goes into a story like this as the execution approaches." He hopes it will give readers "a better insight into the problems of wrongful convictions and the problems with the death penalty system."

In addition to high-profile movie versions of *The Firm*, which starred Tom Cruise, and *The Pelican Brief* with Julia Roberts, Grisham has seen a number of his books adapted by Hollywood. Though he thinks he has been lucky overall with the big screen translations, he has

a personal favorite—Francis Ford Coppola's *The Rainmaker* in 1997. "It was a very faithful adaptation of the book, very well done, with a wonderful cast, which included Matt Damon and Claire Danes."

Another adaptation of Grisham's books has just taken place—all have been digitized. He believes part of the reason e-books are causing an industry upheaval is because publishers don't know how to predict what the format of choice will be five or 10 years from now. "The huge question is, how many of the current and next generation of readers are going to grow up on Kindle and iPads and do all their reading electronically? One thing we have learned over the past 20 years is you cannot bet against technology. There will always be hardcover and paperback books, but I think the e-market will increase dramatically." Grisham is part of this morning's Author Breakfast, but it is not his first breakfast appearance at a BEA. "I did it once before in Chicago," he says. "I am not sure anyone ate breakfast, but it was a lot of fun. You get a roomful of people who love books and that's an easy crowd." He also admits he is enthusiastic about the entire show. "I love the atmosphere. I love the energy. It's book lovers and people doing deals. It's my industry and my business."

—Karen Jones