



Rogue Lawyer

John Grisham

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#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER - NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE WASHINGTON POST AND NPR - Featuring one of John Grisham's most colorful, outrageous, and vividly drawn characters yet, *Rogue Lawyer* showcases the master of the legal thriller at his very best.

On the right side of the law--sort of--Sebastian Rudd is not your typical street lawyer. His office is a customized bulletproof van, complete with Wi-Fi, a bar, a small fridge, and fine leather chairs. He has no firm, no partners, and only one employee: his heavily armed driver, who also so happens to be his bodyguard, law clerk, confidant, and golf caddie. Sebastian drinks small-batch bourbon and carries a gun. He defends people other lawyers won't go near: a drug-addled, tattooed kid rumored to be in a satanic cult; a vicious crime lord on death row; a homeowner arrested for shooting at a SWAT team that mistakenly invaded his house. Why these clients? Because Sebastian believes everyone is entitled to a fair trial--even if he has to bend the law to secure one.

Praise for *Rogue Lawyer*

"Terrific . . . inventive . . . Grisham still makes it look easy."--**Maureen Corrigan, *The Washington Post***

"Sebastian Rudd is . . . a kind of twenty-first-century Philip Marlowe . . . with a blunt, rude, gravelly poetic wiseguy voice."--**Benjamin Percy, *The New York Times Book Review***

"Deeply engaging and entertaining . . . [Grisham finds] intense drama in the little skirmishes that play out across our legal system every day."--**Charles Finch, *USA Today***

"Grisham has taken a step in an intriguing new direction."--**Janet Maslin, *The New York Times***

Rogue Lawyer Details

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Author : John Grisham

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From Reader Review Rogue Lawyer for online ebook

Marianne says

Rogue Lawyer is the 26th stand-alone novel by popular American author, John Grisham. Sebastian Rudd is a rogue lawyer. He defends criminals no-one else will touch; he is unpopular with criminals and with the police, so unpopular that his last office was fire-bombed; he is not above cheating, especially when he believes the other side is doing it; he says he fights bad systems and hates injustice.

After finishing parts one and two, the reader could be forgiven for thinking that the book is going to be a collection of anecdotes about cases Rudd has won or lost, but persistence proves that Grisham is giving his character a back-story, so that his behaviour later in the book seems consistent. Rudd does spend quite a bit of time justifying his actions, though, especially when it comes to his broken marriage, his obsession with cage fighting and his interactions with his seven-year-old son.

This is a legal thriller that touches on wrongful arrest, trial by media, death row, and death by SWAT team. There is a dramatic prison escape, a car bombing, more than one kidnap, several cage fights, sex trafficking, and a SWAT assault, all against a background of conflict with Rudd's ex-wife over visitation rights. The size and nature of back-room court deals, if accurate, is quite an eye-opener. Not Grisham's best, but still a good read.

With thanks to TheReadingRoom and Hachette for this copy to read and review

exncgal says

It's been a while since I've read any of John Grisham's books, and this one was really disappointing. I felt like he was trying to capitalize on his past "small town law enforcement corruption" themes, with a dash of Scott Turow... but unfortunately he grabbed Michael Connelly instead and poured a big heaping jarful into the pot... poor Mickey Haller the Lincoln Lawyer is just floating in the soup. Very disappointing. I mean, I really like Mickey Haller, but Sebastian Rudd is a poor substitute (some might say a knock-off, and I wouldn't disagree with them).

And the whole cage fighting thing - wth? Was this supposed to show us what a badass Rudd is, living on the edge?? I didn't buy it. Thank goodness this was a library book.

Lori says

It's a lot like another book of his that I read, but I remember the other as better. A jumble of storylines, but no resolution, it stopped when he quit writing. It didn't seem like an ending to me.

Ashley Daviau says

I'm really split down the middle when it comes to this book. I did thoroughly enjoy some parts but then at other parts I wanted to rip my eyes out because I found it SO boring and stretched out.

The parts that I did enjoy really were excellent though! They had my full attention and I couldn't turn the pages fast enough. But then one of the boring stretches would hit and I'd quickly lose interest.

It also didn't help that I related in no way to the main character, in fact I kind of disliked him. He was quite abrasive and rude and seemed like he couldn't care less how his actions affected others. But the rest of the characters were an interesting and very diverse cast and part of what partially saved this book from being a total flop.

James Thane says

I've always been a fan of John Grisham's legal thrillers, but I was a bit disappointed in the last one that I read, *Gray Mountain*, which I thought was a bit preachy with characters that weren't all that interesting. This book is, to my mind at least, a lot more fun, and I devoured it in a couple of sessions.

The protagonist is a lawyer named Sebastian Rudd who works out of a bulletproof van after his last "real" office was firebombed. He has one employee, a bodyguard and general assistant, who drives him from appointment to appointment and who attempts to protect him from the large numbers of people on both sides of the law who would like to do him harm. He has an ex-wife to whom he was briefly married before she left him for her gay lover. But the two did manage to conceive a son that Rudd gets to see for a few hours a month, and one of his principal legal challenges is to fend off his vindictive ex-wife who would prefer that Rudd not get to see their son at all. He is also invested in a young cage fighter who appears to have a very bright future.

The cops and prosecutors hate Rudd because he usually defends the scum of the earth. For example, as the book opens, he's defending a tattooed kid with multiple piercings and a very low IQ, who's been accused of the brutal murder of two little girls. There's precious little evidence to actually link the kid to the crime, but the cops and the prosecutors are determined to railroad him to a death sentence and they've convinced practically everyone in town that the kid is guilty.

In another case, Rudd is defending a brutal killer who has already been convicted and is on death row, and in consequence he's not a very popular guy with the general public either. Truth to tell, the argument that in America everyone deserves a fair trial and legal representation is generally lost on a large segment of the public who assume that the police would never arrest the wrong person and that the accused parties should just be strung from the nearest tree ASAP, constitutional niceties be damned.

Unlike a lot of legal thrillers that focus on a single case throughout, this book follows Rudd from one case to another and the cases bleed into each other as they would in the real world. I found Rudd to be a fascinating character, flaws and all, and I loved watching him work in and out of court. The cases themselves were very interesting and I really hope that Grisham has another Sebastian Rudd novel in his future.

Marla says

I really enjoyed this book. Sebastian Rudd is the type of lawyer who skates close to breaking the law. He defends the lowlives that most people won't defend, which puts him and his son in danger. Is he crazy to be defending these lowlives? I found Rudd a refreshing character. He didn't really care what people thought and he worked hard when he knew his client was innocent and getting a raw deal. He also doesn't like corruption within the police department and will go after them even if it is dangerous. This is a pretty fast paced book that will carry the reader along.

Richard says

This is not a novel. At best, it is a book of short stories featuring the same protagonist. Attorney Sebastian Rudd is a thinly-developed knockoff of Micky Haller, Michael Connelly's Lincoln Lawyer. One major difference is that Sebastian Rudd is a truly sleazy lawyer, while Haller has some self-respect. Parts of the plots are not credible, and this can be seen in the first of the short stories, which is much more an angry screed against police and prosecutors than it is a story. Especially odious is the scornful description of a jury that is a contradiction of most of the real juries and their verdicts that were once seen regularly on Court TV -- sincere and conscientious men and women who take their duties seriously and weigh all of the evidence carefully. By insulting juries in this manner, Grisham is insulting all of us because any and all of us could eventually serve on similar juries.

The anti-police and prosecutor case that is presented at the beginning of the book eventually fades away completely and is not mentioned again in later portions of the book, which is really a collection of stories, rather than one cohesive story. Sebastian Rudd is really unsavory. He conspires with criminals. He uses his influence to inflict violence on his enemies. He hires unethical people to assist him with his cases. He fails to report an attempt at jury tampering to the judge in a criminal trial. Rudd is a stereotypical sleazy lawyer. He is not at all likable.

The author makes an attempt to tie the stories together at the end of the book, but he doesn't really succeed. The result is an abrupt ending with loose ends left dangling. This is not a well-written book, and I cannot recommend it to others.

Gary says

This is a story of Lawyer Sebastian Rudd who represents people that no one else will touch such as drug dealers and murderers. The novel follows his life and the cases he is working on and although each case is interesting and well written it fails to capture the imagination and fully hold the reader.

The book is almost a series of short stories that are loosely connected and as soon as each case had captured my attention it was over and moved on. I found this more than a little disappointing and thought that if maybe the novel was kept to one case and expanded it would have been far more interesting.

Overall I thought this was well below the standard of some of John Grisham's other books.

La-Lionne says

My review is not so much about the book as it is about some laws in US that this book got me thinking about.

Aside from the first 30%, I enjoyed the book tremendously. The first third of the story was quite confusing. You get to read about different cases MC worked on and his unorthodox ways of defending his clients. It was fun to read, but one case had nothing to do with the other. At first, I thought it all was going somewhere and that, at some point, it will get connected. But it never did. Later I understood that It was author's an unusual way of character introduction.

There are plenty of action and fun twists, but it also gives you a lot to think about afterwards. From what I know about Grisham, from reading his books, is that he always does his research on laws in US. This makes his fictional stories believable.

This book got me thinking about, what some might call, an unconstitutional laws in US and how they contradict the constitution. In the second amendment it is said that a person has a right to keep and bear arms, in the forth it says that people have rights to protect their private possessions against unreasonable searches. And then you have a "No-knock warrant", which indirectly says that the law enforcement can pretty much give a middle finger to the second and forth amendments, if they have a probable cause that is. It seem that every time they get a warrant, they have a probable cause. The scary thing is, they don't always get it right. A person has a right to defend themselves against an intruder, unless the intruder is a law enforcement, then, not only you lose that right, you will be prosecuted and can go to prison and be put on a death row in some states, for a first degree murder. And it doesn't matter that the law enforcement made a mistake and invaded the wrong home.

It's not the first time that I got my neighbor's mail, and vise versa, we don't have names on our apartment doors. I can't tell you how relieved I am that I don't live in US. I love the American people and the culture, laws however, it's a whole different matter.

Imagine if my neighbor was doing something fishy and my home got invaded by mistake, in the middle of the night. So if I would grab something to defend myself and got forbid injured *an intruder*, I would be the one at fault because it was a police officer? Are you fucking kidding me? I hate guns, never owned one and never will (thankfully Norway has strict gun laws) , but I'm sure I would grab something sharp if I saw my apartment door flying in, in the middle of the night.

According to the 2015 statistics, there were 20k executed warrants, in mostly drug related cases, in US. The law enforcement got it right, for the most part. But how about those people that just happened to have law disobeying neighbors? Their family members got murdered and pets got killed, all because law enforcement made a mistake. Then, to add insult to the injury, they got sent to prison for defending their families and homes. To say the law is outrageous is an understatement. So, a police officer invaded someone's home by mistake, someone got killed, ops, shit happens. If a home owner in the US is defending themselves from, in this case, an intruder, there are consequences that will be paid and it won't be by the intruder. And it doesn't matter that you were asleep and didn't hear someone shouting "Police!". I would laugh if it didn't have such a tragic consequences.

US laws doesn't affect me in Nowray, unless I travel there, but still, it makes me sad for the people that live by them in America. Maybe US government should take a break from passing new stupid-ass laws and invest in education of the law enforcement, so "mistakes" (loss of innocent lives) like these, won't happen? It horrifies me when I read a story about SWAT throwing a flash-bang stun grenade into the house and almost killing a 19 month old child.

What if there is a probable cause for the no-knock warrant, but there are children living in the house? Then

you read about corrupt police using fake no-knock warrants to rob people. Wtf? What kind of fucked up power and action hungry The Call of Duty world are we living in?

Rosie says

The book tells Sebastian's story of representing various clients. Some of these clients include: Gardy, an innocent man being wrongfully convicted for murder; Link, a mob leader who killed a judge and is facing death row; Tadeo, a cage fighter who gets into trouble while fighting in the ring. Woven through most of these cases are corrupt law enforcement officials which Sebastian has to sometimes fight dirty to get the fair result.

I went through waves of enjoyment with this book. At first I found it interesting as Sebastian's character was being developed and the first case presented. Then around a third of the way through I became a little bit bored and I was wondering when things were going to pick up. Around half way things got interesting and I couldn't put the book down, but they gradually tapered off to a very flat ending. I think the blurb is slightly misleading and makes the book sound a bit more exciting than it actually is. In fact, it took until page 178 to get to the part the third paragraph of the blurb refers to.

Sebastian is definitely the very definition of a rogue lawyer and I think Grisham develops his character very well. I really liked him and his interactions with his partner, called Partner. This was the reason I kept reading the book. In fact, most of the characters were well developed, I just think the story could've been developed a bit more with more suspense and focus on one case. Overall, I did quite like it, though I think there was something missing. It wasn't quite what I expected. This rating is more like 3.5 stars.

Thank you to The Reading Room and Hatchett Australia for my copy to read and review.

Carol - Reading Writing and Riesling says

I was cheering on the protagonist from the side lines :)

My View:

It has been a very, very long time since I have read a John Grisham adult novel, in fact it has been so long I have lost all memories of the individual book (it was, at the least, read thirty years ago so perhaps I can be forgiven for not remembering the details but having a lingering impression that this author can write!) and that memory is not ill-conceived!

I don't know why it has been so long between books? This book was enthralling. I loved the solid, justice seeking lawyer Sebastian Rudd whose egalitarian belief that every person accused of a crime is entitled to a fair trial is how I believe the justice system should work. (Should and does are two very different things though – or am I just cynical?)

I found myself cheering on this rogue lawyer, anxious on his behalf, rapidly turning pages and hoping that all would work out in the end.

I was not disappointed. A great read.

Dale Harcombe says

Three and a half stars.

I think this is probably my second ever Grisham novel. Divorced and with only minimal contact with his young son, Sebastian Rudd, the rogue lawyer is brash and cynical and attracts attention from clients others would not touch. He believes every criminal deserves to be represented and ends up with some dodgy, to say the least, clients. Yet in a way, Sebastian is strangely likeable despite his appalling parenting, which had me shaking my head in disbelief. When I first started this novel I thought it would be once case carried through the entire book. That is not the case, which initially made it seem like it was going to be more like short stories. But that didn't eventuate either as there is a link (pun intended, which you will pick up as you progress through the book) between some of the cases.

I found this an interesting read, although I did feel if even half of the information in this book was true, the police and law situation in USA must be scary indeed because those you would expect to be on the right side of the law are not always. Possibly it is no different in other countries. I don't know.

There is enough action in this to maintain interest and keep the plot moving forward. The reader will certainly meet some unsavoury types in these pages. If you are into legal thrillers then I think you should enjoy this one. I did. Thanks to The Reading Room and Hachette Australia for my ARC copy of this in paperback version to read and review.

Nan Williams says

As I scanned through the GoodRead readers' reviews, I noticed that the 4 and 5* ratings were from those readers who confessed that they'd never read a John Grisham novel before. I've read all of his books - ALL. This has got to be ... the worst.

While reading this, I had the feeling that his agent was pressuring him to write another novel and he just didn't have a story in mind. I'm assuming that his agent then said, "Well, what about something like the Lincoln Lawyer? Just put a Grisham spin on that formula."

John Grisham is an excellent novelist and also really adept at bringing legal shortcomings to light. This book is not worthy of him. It was a real disappointment from one of my favorite authors.

Sherilyn says

If you want to write a book of short stories, call it a book of short stories. Don't call it a novel. No plot, no novel.

Benjamin says

It felt more of a chore to read than a pleasure. At times there were enjoyable parts that left you wanting more, but those feelings were short lived as I finished the book grudgingly. I also noticed that it was pretty repetitive, as if the author was trying to recount parts of the story so that he could remember what he was writing about.

All in all, it was ok. It felt like a knock off of The Lincoln Lawyer.
