



The Associate: A Novel

By John Grisham

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The Associate: A Novel By John Grisham

Kyle McAvoy possesses an outstanding legal mind. Good-looking and affable, he has a glittering future. He also has a dark secret that could destroy his dreams, his career, even his life. One night that secret catches up with him. The men who accost Kyle have a compromising video they'll use to ruin him—unless he does exactly what they say. What they offer Kyle is something any ambitious young lawyer would kill for: a job in Manhattan as an associate at the world's largest law firm. If Kyle accepts, he'll be on the fast track to partnership and a fortune. But there's a catch. Kyle won't be working for the firm but against it in a dispute between two powerful defense contractors worth billions. Now Kyle is caught between the criminal forces manipulating him, the FBI, and his own law firm—in a malignant conspiracy not even Kyle with all his intellect, cunning, and bravery may be able to escape alive.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Bestseller Grisham's contemporary legal thriller offers an action-and-suspense plot reminiscent of that of his breakout book, 1991's *The Firm*, in contrast to 2008's didactic *The Appeal*, which served as a platform for his concerns about the corrupting effects of judicial elections. Kyle McAvoy, a callow Yale Law School student, dreams of a public service gig on graduation, until shadowy figures blackmail him with a videotape that could revive a five-year-old rape accusation. Instead of helping those in need, McAvoy accepts a position at a huge Wall Street firm, Scully & Pershing, whose clients include a military contractor enmeshed in a \$800 billion lawsuit concerning a newly-designed aircraft. McAvoy can avoid exposure of his past if he feeds his new masters inside information on the case. Readers should be prepared for some predictable twists, an ending with some unwarranted ambiguity and some unconvincing details (the idea that a secret file room in a high stakes litigation case would be closed from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. every night stretches credulity to the breaking point). Still, Grisham devotees should be satisfied, even if this is one of his lesser works.

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Critics agree with *Entertainment Weekly* that *The Associate* "is vintage Grisham, for better or worse, made timely with its sorry portrait of what passes for everyday ethics on Wall Street." Like his previous novels, *The Associate* is heavy on readability, predictability, and pace, and lighter on character development, scene setting, and style—no surprises here. Fans of Grisham cited masterfully drawn characters and page-turning subplots, but less enthusiastic reviewers faulted stock villains, a rather mysterious Kyle, and implausible storylines. *Time* even claimed that unlike Michael Crichton or Scott Turow, who "wrestle with actual issues," Grisham deals with, well, nothing. Still, you know what you're getting into with *The Associate*, for better or for worse.

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From [Booklist](#)

Editor of the Yale Law Journal, recipient of job offers from the best Wall Street firms, a wonderful (but not too serious) girl by his side—Kyle McAvoy is ready to take on the world. Until, that is, Bennie Wright, an unsavory private investigator, walks into his life and announces that Kyle will be doing Bennie's bidding for the foreseeable future. Why would Kyle put his fate into the hands of Bennie and his unsavory crew? Because they know a secret about Kyle—an incident involving a fraternity party gone bad—that Kyle thought was buried and forgotten. If the story gets out, Kyle's career could be ruined, so he does as Bennie demands and accepts a position with one of Wall Street's two largest firms. Kyle's assignment is to spy on his new employer on behalf of Bennie's client, the other premier Wall Street firm, as the two legal giants face off in the largest case involving defense contracts in U.S. history. Kyle must play along if he wants to get out alive. Just like Mitch McDeere in Grisham's break-out novel, *The Firm* (1991), Kyle is at once too naive and too cocky, daring to try to outwit forces much more powerful than he. Grisham knows how to produce a page-turner, that's for sure, and while his plot this time stretches believability a bit, he'll hook readers with the David-against-Goliath angle.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Mundo:

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