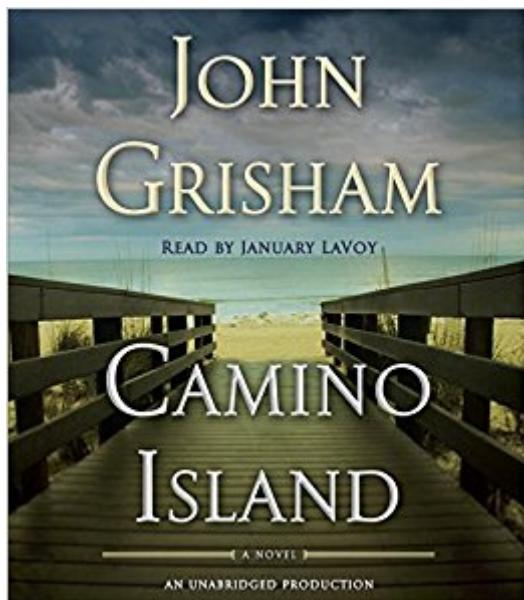


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Camino Island: A Novel



Synopsis

A gang of thieves stage a daring heist from a secure vault deep below Princeton University's Firestone Library. Their loot is priceless, but Princeton has insured it for twenty-five million dollars. Bruce Cable owns a popular bookstore in the sleepy resort town of Santa Rosa on Camino Island in Florida. He makes his real money, though, as a prominent dealer in rare books. Very few people know that he occasionally dabbles in the black market of stolen books and manuscripts. Mercer Mann is a young novelist with a severe case of writer's block who has recently been laid off from her teaching position. She is approached by an elegant, mysterious woman working for an even more mysterious company. A generous offer of money convinces Mercer to go undercover and infiltrate Bruce Cable's circle of literary friends, ideally getting close enough to him to learn his secrets. But eventually Mercer learns far too much, and there's trouble in paradise as only John Grisham can deliver it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Tasty . . . a fresh, fun departure . . . sheer catnip . . . a most agreeable summer destination.” USA Today

John Grisham is the author of thirty novels, one work of nonfiction, a collection of stories, and six novels for young readers.

I set my alarm several hours early so I could read this before work, and I don't regret the time. For me, Grisham's last few offerings have been hit and miss, with many of them having disappointing resolutions. While Camino Island does wrap up rather quickly, it did not feel rushed or unfinished. The characters really drive the novel, and I found them very engaging. Mercer, Bruce, Noelle, and the supporting cast are all interesting and fun, and carried the novel even more than the plot, which was solid but could have used a little more development in a few spots. I was originally expecting a few more "thriller" elements, but I'm actually glad that Grisham did not include chases or high suspense, because I think they would have weakened the story in the end. The book is consistent in plot and tone, and I read it straight through with no desire to take a break. On the whole, this is a solid and enjoyable read, and definitely one of Grisham's best efforts in recent years.

This is likely the worst Grisham novel I have read, and I think I've read all of them. It starts out with some promisingly interesting characters pulling off a heist, 4 F Scott Fitzgerald manuscript, from the Princeton U library. An insurance company enlists the help of a young writer/creative writing instructor to help them find the manuscripts. That's when it gets boring. The main character (the young writer), is dull, lazy, irritating, tedious, and tiresome. OK. I know I got redundant there. It fits the work. Do not do as I did and spend money on this book.

This book is not typical John Grisham. I'd gotten to the point where I thought I knew what to expect from him, so I automatically buy his new books the day they're first available. I won't be doing that again. I don't expect I'll finish this book. It's not the page-turner that his books prior to now have been. Very, very disappointed.

This was an interesting book. It was more appealing because it is in large part a story about books, authors and the book industry which is bound to appeal to people who love to read and to collect books. It fell short of five stars because it did tend to drag in spots and because the "heroine" of the story was more than a little annoying, unbelievably so. Given an opportunity to live in a beautiful area with many happy memories (and one sad one) she spends a great deal of the story whining about boredom and her inability to write. I'm sorry, but if a person loves books boredom simply isn't a major life problem, so that part grated on me whenever it appeared (which was far too often). She also blamed her inability to write on concerns over student debt which was another tiresome detail repeated far too often and became seriously aggravating. Another issue with the book was the basic unbelievability of the idea that an insurance company would consider a young, underachieving

woman potentially valuable in uncovering a master thief who was hiding extremely valuable manuscripts that had been stolen from Princeton University - enough so that they would invest heavily in her as an undercover agent. So what, you might ask, was good enough to earn the book three stars? Well - the basic storyline (minus the aggravating heroine) was fun. The theft, the things that led to the capture of some thieves, the underlying story of a man who turned a small bookstore into a fantastic business, and the well written discussions of various authors - known and unknown kept my interest. I'll admit that I'm not a huge fan of Hemingway and that group of like minded authors - and while I'm not sure it was intentional, Grisham turns them into somewhat humorous failures as human beings in spite of their adulation as authors. The author is a good writer and tosses imaginative nuggets throughout the story that made me laugh and want to keep reading, even if I wasn't fond of a few of the characters. I had no desire to stay up all night finishing the book, but I don't think it was meant to be an all night thriller - just a very pleasant read for lovers of books and book business. I wouldn't buy this as a hardcover - but for a Kindle, or in paperback, or from your local library - it's a fun read for a book lover.

If John Grishams name was not on this book, it would have never been published. It is banal, trite and dull. Save your money and time, it isn't worthy of either one..

The only problem with getting a Grisham novel is that you have to slow your reading pace because you don't want the book to EVER end. He references F. Scott Fitzgerald in this brilliant book and it occurred to me that Mr. Grisham is our F. Scott Fitzgerald. Like Fitzgerald, John Grisham weaves a tale that is lush in description but not overdone. The narrative just sweeps you along effortlessly. Like Fitzgerald, his commentary, subtle but poignant, is right on the mark. I am carrying around the last three chapters because I do not want this book to end. When it does, I will be right back to rereading his others. Sigh. Reading is a true joy and Grisham makes me appreciate it all the more. Thank you John Grisham!

All of John Grisham books are fun to read and great.. This one was no exception. I actually thought about giving it four stars just so the review would get noticed. I seldom read the five star ratings and feel you could let me rant with four stars. Just could not get myself to do that. Camino Island is a great book. If you are reading this, buy the book, set aside a weekend to read it, and enjoy. He paints a picture of the story and put me there every step of the way.

I enjoyed this book but I can not say it is one of Grisham's best. It is different in that it deals with the theft of original books written by F Scott Fitzgerald from the prestigious Princeton University archives. The thieves have to go to great lengths to avoid being caught because of the sophisticated crime solving technology that investigators can use. I guess because it did not involve a murder I could not get too invested in this plot too heavily.

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