

The Runaway Jury Study Guide

The Runaway Jury by John Grisham

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Plot Summary

The Runaway Jury follows the case of Celeste Wood, the widow of Jacob Wood, who has died from lung cancer after years of smoking three packs of Bristols a day, versus Pynex, one of the Big Four tobacco companies in the United States.

Although the case has been filed four years ago, we enter the story just weeks before jury selection, when both sides are frantically trying to discover as much about the potential jurors as they possibly can. The tobacco companies have already won many of these cases before, mainly due to a secret account called The Fund. The Fund holds millions of dollars to be spent defending these lawsuits. A man named Rankin Fitch controls The Fund and stops at nothing to get the result that he wants. In contrast to the other cases, the lawyer for the plaintiff, Wendall Rohr, is also well funded and assisted by seven other lawyers.

The jury is selected, and the trial begins in Judge Harkin's court. One day in court, a woman named Marlee hands one of the deputies a note to pass on to Fitch. The note contains information about what the eleventh juror, Nicholas Easter, will be wearing the next day. After following Easter the next day, Fitch discovers that she is right. After a couple of days, Marlee contacts Fitch, again correctly predicting the jury's movements, which begin to get stranger and stranger. She continues to have contact with Fitch, and as time goes on, he learns that she has someone, Easter, on the inside, and Fitch realizes that Easter can control not only the jury's movements, but also the individual jurors' status. Despite appearing to have Marlee on his side, Fitch also buys some insurance by way of bribery and pressure on several of the jurors.

As the trial winds to a close, Marlee makes a deal with Fitch - 10 million dollars for the verdict. She and Easter have proved to this point that they are able to manipulate the people on the jury, even making decisions as to who is actually on it, so Fitch has no reason to doubt her. They make a deal. However, Fitch has not been able to find any concrete information on Marlee's background, despite his constant digging. Finally, some information surfaces - Marlee's parents both died of lung cancer. Fitch receives this information too late.

The jury returns with a decision for the plaintiff to the tune of four hundred two million dollars, a landmark verdict that opens the tobacco companies up for what could be thousands of other lawsuits. Flush with their ten million, Nicholas and Marlee meet up in the Cayman Islands, where Marlee uses the money to buy and trade tobacco shares, taking advantage of the blow that has just hit the industry. She makes an additional eight million dollars, and in a surprise meeting with Fitch, gives the ten million back. For them, the verdict was all that they were looking for.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

Carl Nussman, a lawyer and jury selection consultant, introduces the reader to juror number 56, Nicholas Easter, as he presents Easter's dossier to the lawyers at Whitney & Cable & White. They have very little information about Easter, but they notice that he has been talking with a woman in the store who lit up a cigarette. The lawyers also discover that she was recording the conversation. Carl then moves on to juror number 57, Traci Wilkes, who is a doctor's wife, mother of three, exercise junkie and closet smoker.

Upon moving on to juror number 58, the intimidating figure of Rankin Fitch bursts into the office and demands to know why there are still potential jurors that remain a mystery. He then orders the team to continue to work many hours into the weekend until the job is done. Fitch leaves the office and interrupts three other meetings, scaring the lawyers into submission. As he leaves the building, Fitch looks up at the lights on in another building, where he knows that the plaintiffs are looking at the same photos of potential jurors, before getting into his chauffeured car and leaving the city.

Chapter 1 Analysis

This chapter introduces one of the book's main characters, and does so by setting the first scene of the book - the jury selection. By giving the reader facts about Nicholas Easter, it also creates an air of mystery about him, making the reader want to know more about him as much as the jury selectors do. The high-level surveillance and the intimate details that the lawyers have show the ruthlessness of the firm, giving the reader the impression that they know everything, and what they don't know, they will find out.

The examination of the jurors also gives insight into what the case is about - the lawyers are concerned with the potential jurors' attitudes about smoking. Nicholas Easter is a non-smoker but is not disturbed by someone smoking around him, and Traci Wilkes is a fit mother of three but is caught ducking off for a quick cigarette.

The chapter also introduces Rankin Fitch, portraying him as an intimidating tyrant who holds a good deal of authority in the case at hand. Although we are not told of his actual position in the case, the reader is well aware that he will be a major character throughout the rest of the novel.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

Chapter 2 begins by taking the reader out to a beach house on the Gulf Coast where we meet four men - the CEOs of the Big Four, the tobacco companies at the center of a litigation boom that has seen smokers suing the tobacco companies. Although the companies are sued separately, they have all joined to create The Fund - the pool of secret money that is used to build the best defense cases to avoid the massive payouts that the plaintiffs are looking for.

Rankin Fitch, who administers The Fund, has gathered the men together. Fitch has won eight trials without a loss. Fitch updates the men on the progress of the case, reassuring a nervous D. Martin Jankle, CEO of Pynex, the defendant in the latest bout of litigation. Chapter 2 also introduces Wendall Rohr, the plaintiff's attorney, and gives some background information on his character.

Chapter 2 Analysis

Chapter 2 is important as it introduces some of the key players in the novel. The reader finds out exactly what part Rankin Fitch plays. Fitch's controlling personality is made evident through his discourses with the men at the beach house. On the contrary, the 'defendants' are portrayed as a little helpless despite their positions of power, and appear to be reliant on Fitch to get them out of this mess. However, apart from their financial standing, this is the only aspect of the men that is revealed, and they largely remain a mystery. Only two of their names are given.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

It is the first day of jury selection and the lawyers, press, potential jurors and other interested parties all show up at the Biloxi courthouse. They are shown into the courtroom and take their prospective places. The court is called to order and Judge Fred Harkin takes his place, determined to run this trial according to a plan that was set up long before this trial began. He begins proceedings, excusing those with a good reason from jury duty. A blind man is pardoned from duty, only to be permitted to stay after challenging the dismissal. The court breaks for lunch and Nicholas Easter heads down to Burger King to buy some food. While there, he runs into the woman who initially recorded their encounter in Chapter 1, and has a conversation with her. Unaware that he is being recorded, he answers questions about his attitude toward smoking and smokers. The chapter ends with Fitch repeatedly playing back the recording of the conversation with Easter.

Chapter 3 Analysis

This chapter sets the scene for the trial to come. The reader notes the folding chairs and inaccurate records in Judge Harkin's courtroom and can make certain assumptions about the way things work (or don't work) here. The chapter also shows us the enormity of the lawsuit, revealing that it was filed four years ago and that the judge has written rules especially for the occasion.

In this chapter, we are also shown a little bit more about some of the main players. We see the self-importance of Judge Harkin and note how many of the jury members greet Wendall Rohr warmly. We meet Nicholas Easter in person and see his open response to the questioning of the blonde, and assume that he is not aware that he is being recorded.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Chapter 4 begins in Nicholas Easter's apartment, where he is carefully reading and completing the questionnaire given to him by the jury selectors. He pores over each question, being careful with both his questions and his handwriting so as not to give the lawyers any idea of his true feelings on the matter. He has completed a questionnaire like this before, for a similar case. At that time his name was David and he tried to be as elusive as he was being now. He just missed out on being on that jury.

The action then returns to the courtroom where Judge Harkin continues to dismiss people for medical reasons. Once he is finished, Wendall Rohr gives his opening statements to the jury, and we see the plaintiff, Celeste Wood, for the first time. Rohr questions the jurors about serving on a jury before. He comes across Mrs. Millwood, who has not only served on a jury who ruled against the plaintiff, but also despises large payouts, as it has left her husband out of a job. She's the perfect juror for the defense, but a definite liability for the plaintiff.

Meanwhile, jury selectors for both sides study the questionnaires, removing the undesirables from their lists. After a few more questions, Harkin breaks for lunch, leaving the courtroom empty except for the lawyers, who argue their motions. Court then resumes, and Harkin recesses at 4:30, again, leaving the lawyers to debate the questions and the answers of the questionnaire. Jury selection will take place the next day, and Fitch is not going to let his lawyers get a moment sleep.

Back in the courtroom the next day, we meet Durwood "Durr" Cable, senior partner at Whitney & Cable & White, who will handle most of the court work. He addresses the potential jurors, taking the stance that people choose to smoke, rather than becoming addicted to smoking. Mrs. Tutwiler challenges him, arguing that if they are addictive, the cigarette companies should not make them. After getting this and some other responses to consider, Cable sits down. The potential jurors are dismissed. Jury selection takes place, with both sides strategically striking jurors. Once finished, the jurors are notified and sworn in. Nicholas Easter is the 11th juror.

Chapter 4 Analysis

Chapter 4 further develops the foundation of the novel.

First, the reader is let into the world of Nicholas Easter. The narrator makes the reader privy to his background and his lifestyle, as well as the fact that he has tried to get onto a jury for this type of case before. He has even changed his name and identity so that he can try again. What the reader does not know is why he would want to be a part of this jury so much.

The reader is given more insight into the jury selection process for this case. The questions on the questionnaire, the questions the lawyers ask the candidates, as well as the examples of undesirable jurors allow one to see exactly what each side is looking for.

Finally, the jury is selected, which sets the stage for the action to come.

Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

Chapter 5 begins with Nicholas Easter at the courthouse, early in the morning. He knows it well, as he was snooping around after his summons for jury duty. He is met at the entrance to the jury room by Lou Dell, who hurries him in, shows him where all the restrooms are and presents him with a list of instructions from Judge Harkin. After signing the form, he sees the second juror arrive: Herman Grimes, the blind man who refused to be forced off the panel. After introducing himself, Nicholas offers to help him out during the trial. Grimes declines, but the offer is silently accepted.

Meanwhile, both sides are pleased with the overall composition of the jury. Grimes was difficult, but in the end, they are happy with his selection. However, they all wonder who the leader of the panel will be.

It is the first day of the trial and the jurors are led into the courtroom. They have selected a leader and the defense groans inwardly when it is announced that it is the blind man, Herman Grimes. Easter sits in the front row, stone faced, and takes in his surroundings - Fitch, the Wall Street boys, the 'jury-watchers' and the rest of the spectators, which are made up of reporters, local lawyers and other courthouse regulars.

Wendall Rohr presents his opening statement, promising to prove that smoking causes cancer, and this cancer that killed Jacob Wood, a good man who became addicted to smoking. Fifty minutes and a fifteen-minute recess later, it is Durr Cable's turn. He offers thirty minutes of reassurance that the defense's case is just as solid and the opening remarks are done.

Chapter 5 Analysis

This chapter establishes some of the other main players in the plot and another member of the jury, Herman Grimes, is reintroduced. A relationship is established between Easter and Grimes early on, with Easter offering to assist him through the duration of the case. This relationship becomes even more significant when it is learned that Grimes has been elected foreman of the jury.

As the trial begins, one sees the action from where Easter is sitting and learns a little more about his involvement in the case. This intensifies the mystery of his motivation for wanting to be on this particular jury.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

Judge Harkin calls a recess for lunch and the jury makes their way back to the jury room. Twenty minutes passes and their lunch hasn't arrived, so Easter questions Lou Dell, who tells him that it is on its way. Easter tells the other members of the jury that at most other trials, they would have been allowed to go and get their own lunch and that he knows that because he studied law for two years. Another 20 minutes passes and Easter asks to go to the men's room, but instead heads down to the restaurant where he knows Judge Harkin will be eating lunch. He approaches Harkin about the non-existent lunch, and Harkin treats them to lunch in the back room of the same restaurant. In investigating what happened to the missing lunch, it turns out that a mystery female caller called the deli, telling them that lunch was required at 1:30 rather than at 12:30.

The trial resumes and the jurors are shown video of Jacob Wood before he passed away. After around an hour of hearing him speak about his life, Harkin calls a recess and the smokers on the jury retire to a room with a window. One of the smokers, Jerry Fernandez, attempts to make small talk with the other three, Silvia Taylor-Tatum and two other women, but is unable to get much out of them.

Marlee, a young, attractive woman with an air of mystery about her, appears in the courtroom. She is aware of the entire background of the case. Before leaving the court, she asks one of the deputies to give an envelope to Rankin Fitch. He does so. Rankin opens the envelope to find a description of what Nicholas Easter will be wearing the next day. Meanwhile, the jury continues to hear and watch the video evidence of Jacob Wood. They hear his plea to smokers to quit.

While court is still in session, Fitch sends Jose and Doyle to check out Easter's apartment. Doyle enters the apartment and takes photos of items of relevance, such as magazines and clothing in Easter's closet. Doyle leaves the apartment. Once court adjourns, Easter makes his way home, realizing that someone is following him. He makes it to his apartment, and before entering, types a code into a keypad before unlocking the door. He turns on his computer and finds that his surveillance camera had recorded a break-in - as expected.

Chapter 6 Analysis

In this chapter, the reader meets Marlee, Easter's accomplice, and sees the beginning of their manipulations. Through mentioning his days at law school and getting the jurors a luxurious lunch, Easter is winning the hearts of the other jurors. Marlee makes Fitch aware that she can predict the actions of the jury.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

Fitch, Doyle and Pang wait in a van outside Easter's apartment building, and once he appears, they see that he is wearing exactly what the note had said he would be wearing. Alarmed, they head down to Fitch's office, joined by ex-FBI agent Swanson. Fitch is determined to find the girl who wrote the note - Swanson is convinced that she will find them.

Back in the jury room, Nicholas Easter strikes up a conversation with Rikki Coleman, a married mother of two. He asks her whether she received any bribes overnight, and goes on to explain to her how juries in these tobacco cases have been tainted before as the defense bribes the family members of the jury. He even goes as far as to tell her that he knew that they were watching him during the jury selection.

The court is back in session and the jury files in. Judge Harkin begins by asking the jury a series of questions - did anyone discuss the trial with you? Did you receive any unusual phone calls? Did you notice any strangers watching you? Did you hear any rumors or gossip about the trial? The jury remains silent, and Harkin is satisfied with this answer and calls on Rohr to call his next witness.

Rohr calls Dr. Milton Fricke, director of the Smoke Free Research Institute in New York. Fricke was hired before Jacob Wood died and he was also present at Wood's autopsy, of which he has photos. Rohr quizzes him on the chemistry and pharmacology of smoking before the court recesses for lunch.

This time lunch is waiting for them in the jury room, presented personally by the deli owner by way of apology for the previous day's mishap. Instead of sitting down and eating, Easter complains loudly about the plastic plates and forks, but he is not joined by any of the jury members. He eventually sits down to eat and he is promised proper cutlery next time.

Meanwhile, at the 21 Club, Luther Vandemeer of Trelco and Larry Zell of Listing Foods arrange for the former to buy out a small chain of grocery stores, Hadley Brothers. Hadley Brothers had a store in Biloxi, which is managed by Lonnie Shaver, a member of the jury on the tobacco case. After such a purchase, they agree, a bit of personnel shakeup could place the right amount of pressure on Mr. Shaver.

Fitch's office is a discreet area at the back of an empty store that has been cheaply and hastily set up with plywood walls, folding tables and plastic chairs. Photos of the jurors and typed memos cover the walls. There is a small windowless room in the back which is off limits to most employees. The room is used to screen footage taken by a small camera planted in a suitcase that is focused on the jury and records reactions. On that



Friday, as Fitch and two other jury consultants watch, the jurors have a strong reaction to the exhibit presented by Rohr - pictures of Jacob Wood's charred, blackened lungs.

Chapter 7 Analysis

At the beginning of this chapter, Fitch discovers that Marlee was right - Easter had worn what she had said he would. This shows that Easter and Marlee are connected in some way and are carrying out some kind of plan. The ex-FBI agent reinforces this idea by commenting that she will find them.

The chapter also reinforces the idea that the jury is open to being tainted by the defense. Easter asks Rikki Coleman if she has been bribed yet and confides in her that it has happened before. The two CEOs plot to buy out Hadley Brothers so that they can put pressure on another jury member, and Fitch is secretly recording the jury to study their responses. There is a feeling that the defense somehow has some kind of secret control over them that they can enforce at any time.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

Fitch keeps Easter under surveillance, following him to the deli, home and then fishing with Jerry Fernandez, another juror. Despite the constant surveillance, Easter is not seen meeting with the girl who wrote the note. Swanson assures Fitch that she will be in contact within the week. That Monday morning, Marlee calls with another message - Fernandez, juror number 12, will walk into court with a copy of *Sports Illustrated* under his arm.

Back in the jury room, Easter grabs the other jurors' attention by loudly asking whether anyone was bribed last night. The other jurors are intrigued by this comment and listen intently as Easter goes on to describe how as potential jurors they were watched by both sides, and how jury tampering had taken place in other tobacco trials. He tells them how jury consultants are even watching them while court was in session, and convinces them all to stare at one of them, a woman, Ginger, who always sits in the second row. They all agree and Lou Dell calls them to enter the courtroom. On the way in, Easter offers Fernandez something to read, and Fernandez accepts it. It is a copy of a *Sports Illustrated* magazine.

Once in the jury box, all the jurors stare at Ginger in the second row. Fitch, who is sitting behind Ginger, is not sure whether they are staring at him or her, but he notices, and is even a little surprised, that Fernandez is indeed holding a copy of *Sports Illustrated*. He realizes that Marlee has contacts on the inside and becomes quite excited - this jury can be bought. Meanwhile, Ginger and even Judge Harkin are very aware that the jurors are all staring at the second row, but all pretend not to notice.

Wendall Rohr calls his next witness, Dr. Bronsky, who explains the makeup of tobacco smoke and how it can be harmful. Halfway through his testimony they break for lunch. The jury is served custom-made sandwiches, veggies and pasta served on china plates and iced tea in real glasses.

Back in his office in the 'viewing room' Fitch receives another call from Marlee, asking him if he wants to know why the jury was staring at him. Aware that they are tracing her call, she hangs up before giving him an answer. Fitch knows that she wasn't in the courtroom that morning, so she must have someone on the inside. The question is who.

Court resumes and the afternoon is spent on the topic of nicotine, and how it is the addictive part of cigarettes. If the levels of nicotine were increased in the cigarettes, then more people would become addicted, and more people would buy cigarettes. The day finishes on that note.



Chapter 8 Analysis

In this chapter, Marlee proves once again that she can predict the actions of the jury, and Easter twice proves that he can control those actions - first by giving Fernandez the magazine, and secondly by having the jury stare at Ginger. Further, by revealing to Fitch that she is aware that the jury is supposedly staring at him, she reveals to Fitch that she has someone on the inside, leaving him to question just who it is.

Easter also puts the jurors on alert that somebody may try to bribe them or their family during the trial. Considering he had studied two years at law school, the other juror's readily accept that information, further cementing their trust in him. Easter also gets results with the lunches, which on this day are served on china plates.

At the end of the chapter, expert witness Dr. Bronsky covers nicotine addiction, finishing with his opinion that IF the manufacturer were to put more in the product it would become more addictive. This alludes to the rest of the plaintiff's argument, suggesting that maybe the defense has been doing so.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

It is Tuesday morning and Easter is the first to arrive at the jury room. He is followed by Colonel Frank Herrera and strikes up a conversation with him. They discuss the dangers of smoking and the Colonel makes it clear that he thinks that giving up is just a matter of willpower and that you would have to know that smoking three packs a day would kill you. Easter takes this opinion to heart, making it clear that he hasn't made up his mind about the case yet. The Colonel quickly agrees, saying that he could be persuaded, too.

Back at Fitch's office, Fitch is nervously watching the phone waiting for Marlee to call. Meanwhile, the briefcase camera has been shifted, and half of the jury cannot be seen, so Fitch sends an errand boy down to have it moved. Marlee never calls.

Court resumes and Dr. Bronsky is back on the stand, again running through the science of smoking with his colored charts and diagrams. Finally, Judge Harkin calls a two-hour lunch. Today during lunch, the members of the jury are allowed a half-hour walk accompanied by Lou Dell and the deputy. The jury is made well aware that Easter requested this of Judge Harkin, and they are particularly grateful for it.

Court resumes and so does Dr. Bronsky. Just as the jury begins to get bored, Judge Harkin releases the jury early, as he needs to hear motions that do not concern the jury.

Lonnie Shaver, jury member and manager of a grocery store, returns to work and is met by the owner's son and two other businessmen. The owner's son informs him that Hadley Brothers has been bought by Super-House, a division of Listing Foods. He then leaves him with the businessmen, named Ken and Ben. Ken and Ben discuss Lonnie's future with him, making him well aware that his job is in their hands, offering to fly him up to Charlotte to discuss the possibility of a promotion. Lonnie mentions that he is on jury duty, leading the men to show their disgust of such product liability suits. They agree to fly him up on the weekend.

Chapter 9 Analysis

In this chapter, Easter starts to feel out the jury, and discovers that while the Colonel already has a strong opinion about the case, he can be swayed. His letter to the Judge about letting the jury out for some fresh air also leaves him in good stead with the rest of the jurors, most of whom now hold him in high regard. This lays the foundation for him to have a lot of influence over the jury members when it really counts.

The chapter also shows the increasing power that Marlee has over Fitch as he waits for her call.



Finally, the meeting between Lonnie, Hadley, Ken and Ben indicates the beginning of a bribe, which is shaping up to be in the form of a promotion or being fired. Note how, even in their passing conversation, there are subtle hints with regard to the case: Ken and Ben's disgust with product liability cases, lighting up a Bristol, etc. The author is making it very clear to us on whose side these men are.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

The trial hits a snag on Wednesday morning due to another one of the countless motions made by the defense to prohibit the testimony of one of the plaintiff's experts. With no jury present, Wendall Rohr loses his temper and argues against the motion. While this is going on, the jurors wait in the jury room.

The jurors are chatting quietly in their little groups divided by gender, and the only man talking to a woman is Easter, who is quietly discussing the case with Loreen Duke, a large black lady, who is taking in every word as he tells her how he studied tobacco litigation for most of his two years in law school. The only jurors not talking are Herman Grimes, who continues to 'read' the diagrams shown by Bronsky the previous day, Lonnie Shaver, who does business on his laptop and Herrera, who is reading the *Wall Street Journal*. After winding up his talk with Loreen, Easter suggests to Herman Grimes that they ask the Judge if their noon outing can be extended to morning walks when there is a delay. Grimes agrees and Easter promises again to write the letter to the Judge.

At ten-thirty, the jury is finally summoned to the courtroom where Dr. Bronsky is about to be cross-examined. Once in the courtroom, Easter recognizes Doyle, the man who broke into his apartment, sitting in the second row. He slips a note to Judge Harkin, telling him that a man that was following him was sitting in the courtroom. Harkin then slips a note to the Circuit Clerk, ordering her to get the Sheriff. A little unnerved by the note passing, Doyle leaves the courtroom. Harkin calls a brief recess.

During the recess, Judge Harkin calls Easter into his office to talk to him about Doyle. Easter confirms that Doyle had indeed been following him, but Easter does not reveal that he has video tape of Doyle snooping around his apartment. Harkin decides to take his questioning further, asking Easter whether any of the other jury members had noticed anyone following them, or were approached by either side. Easter hasn't, but promises Harkin that he will let him know if he hears of anything. Harkin then shifts his attention to the *Wall Street Journal*, which published an article speculating what impact a verdict in favor of the plaintiff might have on the tobacco industry, and asks if Easter has read it. Easter hasn't, but takes the opportunity to mention that he had seen Colonel Herrera read and re-read it that morning. Easter then takes the conversation a step further, divulging his previous conversation with Herrera. Easter makes it sound as if Herrera's mind is already made up and that he should not have been elected as a part of this jury.

Meanwhile, the article in the *Wall Street Journal* echoes what everyone is thinking. What is the jury going to do?



Chapter 10 Analysis

Chapter 10 begins with Easter again talking his way into the hearts and minds of the jury - by sharing supposed secrets with individual members and seeking additional benefits from the Judge, he gains more and more trust and respect from the jurors.

This chapter is also crucial in the development of the relationship between Judge Harkin and Nicholas Easter. We can see that they already have a mutual respect for one another, with the Judge granting Easter's wishes with regard to the jury. In this chapter, Easter tells Harkin that someone has been following him, identifying him in the courtroom. However, he fails to mention that he also has videotape of him breaking into his apartment, so we can safely assume that he is keeping that information to himself, should he need to use it later.

By getting a private discussion with the Judge, Easter is also able to give him information about the jurors - in this case, the Colonel, giving Harkin his opinion that his mind may already be made up. Concerned by all the information given to him, Harkin makes Easter his eyes and ears on the jury and a close relationship between the two begins.



Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Summary

It is now Friday, and Marlee strikes again. She places a call to Fitch, again depicting what Easter will be wearing, as well as what magazine he will be carrying. Later, she takes it a step further, calling a second time from a different location and predicting that the jury will recite the Pledge of Allegiance before sitting down.

Instead of keeping her predictions between Fitch and herself, Marlee places a call to Wendall Rohr's offices, but, as she thought, she was told that Rohr was too busy to take her call. Instead, she instructs the secretary to watch the fax machine, as there would be an urgent message for Mr. Rohr in the next couple of minutes. Sure enough, the secretary delivers a message to Wendall Rohr, describing what clothes Easter will be wearing, the magazine he will be carrying, and that he would be feeling extremely patriotic today. Rohr calls his co-counsel for an emergency session.

There is light chitchat in the jury room as the jurors gather and greet one another. Once they have gathered, Easter mentions how as a child he used to recite the Pledge of Allegiance every time he saw a flag and how seeing the flag behind the Judge made him think of that every day - wouldn't it be fun to do that before sitting down? The Colonel expresses some doubt but he is quickly convinced by Easter. It is a plan.

The jurors enter the courtroom one by one, but instead of sitting down, wait for all twelve to take their places and begin the Pledge. Everyone is surprised, most of all Judge Harkin, as well as Wendall Rohr, who is visibly shaken. One by one, the majority of the courtroom joins in so they do not seem unpatriotic. Once finished, they all sit down and the trial resumes, with a dazed Wendall Rohr calling his next expert witness, Dr. Hilo Kilvan.

Fitch slips out and returns to his office. In the viewing room, one expert is watching Dr. Kilvan; the other is replaying the Pledge of Allegiance. It is decided that the Pledge was led by Easter.

Back in the courtroom, Scott Mangrum, a lawyer who helped to finance the case, is questioning Dr. Kilvan. After establishing Kilvan as an expert, more brightly colored charts are produced and the jury is educated on the mortality rates of smokers versus non-smokers. More and more numbers are introduced until they begin to blur.

Court recesses for lunch and, instead of sitting at the table, Loreen Duke becomes the first person to move her chair away and eat on her own, away from the smacking gums and full mouth of Stella Hulic, who sits across from her and has a tendency to brag about herself. Rikki Coleman, who claims she needs to sit by a window, follows Loreen. Lonnie Shaver excuses himself, saying he needed to work during lunch. Nicholas begins to talk about Kilvan as a witness, but he is shut down by Herman Grimes, who



orders him not to talk about the trial. Fernandez breaks the silence that follows, snapping at Stella Hulis to stop smacking her food around, telling her that she should have some manners. They exchange remarks and Napoleon, another juror, backs up Fernandez. Herman keeps the peace, and the smokers retreat to the smoking room, with Easter in tow. Away from Herman, they are free to discuss the case. They all agree that they know the dangers of smoking. If you smoke, you do so at your own risk

Chapter 11 Analysis

Marlee continues to play games with Fitch, this time upping the anti by having the jury do some as completely out of character as citing the Pledge of Allegiance. More and more, she is showing the complete control that she has over the jury. However, Fitch is becoming suspicious that the inside man is in fact Easter.

Marlee also throws in a twist with this prediction - she also tells Wendall Rohr of Easter's wardrobe, reading material and the Pledge. It is not yet quite clear why she has now involved him, but there is a definite reaction from Rohr when the prediction eventuates. Meanwhile, getting the jury to agree to say the Pledge is proof that Easter exercises a lot of control over the jury

In the courtroom, we also see another expert take the stand to give evidence for the plaintiff. More colored boards and graphs are displayed, and we see that as more and more numbers are introduced, the less meaning they have to the jury. Finally, we are beginning to see the cracks in the relationships between the jurors, who are beginning to squabble over irrelevant issues such as table manners. It is looking like the jury is getting fed up with the trial and that some of the members, the smokers in this case, have already made up their minds.



Chapter 12

Chapter 12 Summary

Stella Hulic and her husband Cal board a plane for Miami and Marlee follows them. Once in their hotel room, Cal receives a call from Marlee, who doesn't identify herself, but warns Cal that someone is watching his wife, but that they should not go to the police. Stella is frightened, and spends the rest of the trip boarded up in the hotel room, before taking an early flight home.

In the meantime, Ken and Ben fly Lonnie Shaver to Charlotte, the home of SuperHouse headquarters. He meets George Teaker, CEO, and Shaver is bombarded with information about SuperHouse and is quickly overwhelmed by their desire to please him. Ken and Ben then take him out to the country club, where they are met by two black men, both of high standing in Listing Foods, which makes Shaver relax. A lot of emphasis is placed on the idea of promoting a black man within the company, and Shaver is suitably impressed. Toward the end of chapter, the topic turns to litigation, and the Biloxi case is mentioned. Shaver is made aware that they make a lot of money from tobacco sales, and should the case go against the tobacco companies, they would all be at risk. It is implied that Shaver would never let that happen. Shaver agrees.

Chapter 12 Analysis

In this chapter, the setting is moved out of the courtroom and out of Biloxi with two of the jurors. Stella Hulic is put on alert by Marlee, leaving her somewhat frazzled, but Marlee's ulterior motive is yet to be realized.

Lonnie Shaver is taken to Charlotte by the people of SuperHouse and Listing Foods and is wined and dined. By the end of the meeting it is clear that his vote has been easily bought, with little risk of being found out, and Lonnie doesn't even realize it.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

It is Monday morning of the second week of the trial and the jurors enter the jury room, dreading yet another week of testimony. Stella Hulic arrives late, looks visibly shaken and immediately disappears into the smoking room. Chatting with Angel Weese, another smoker, Easter suggests they both go down for a smoke. In the smoking room, he mentions that he was followed over the weekend, which leads Stella to recount what happened to her. Lou Dell then knocks on the door and the jurors enter the courtroom for more testimony from Dr Hilo Kilvan.

For Wendall Rohr, much of the weekend has been spent tracking down the origin of the fax he had received on Friday. They ascertained that it had come from a truck stop near Hattiesburg, and a clerk gave them a weak description of a young woman who had paid five bucks for a one-page fax. One thing all of the lawyers did agree on was that the woman wanted money - money for a verdict. On the other side of the fence, Fitch agreed. Fitch had spent the weekend monitoring jurors and listening to summaries from his jury people, and was pleased with the progress from the Charlotte meeting with Lonnie Shaver - his vote was in the bag. On Monday, he watched the trial from the privacy of the viewing room.

Dr. Kilvan continued to give his evidence, and today he hits hard. Cigarettes kill four hundred thousand Americans each year and are the single deadliest product on the market. The jury listens. While Dr. Kilvan gives his testimony, Easter slips a note to the Judge, requesting a private conference at noon - it is urgent.

In his conference with the Judge, Easter brings three things to his attention. He alerts him to the fact that Stella has been followed over the weekend, and that she is a wreck for it. He then goes on to say that Colonel Herrera's mind is definitely made up and that he is trying to influence other people. Finally, Easter shows Harkin the tape of Doyle breaking into his apartment, saying that it had happened over the weekend rather than earlier the week before. Judge Harkin is very concerned.

Marlee interrupts Fitch's lunch with a phone call, warning him that there is a warrant out for Doyle's (the guy that broke into Easter's apartment) arrest, and that he should leave town right away. Within the next couple of hours, Doyle is on a plane to Chicago.

Judge Harkin calls a halt to Dr. Kilvan's testimony at 3:30 and sends him home for the day. He announces to the lawyers that there are a couple of serious matters involving the jury that must be dealt with immediately. Fitch watches from the viewing room as the jury leaves and the camera is focused on the bench. Harkin advises the lawyers that he knows that some of the jurors have been watched and followed and that one of the jurors has been a victim of a break-in, and gives them two options - a mistrial, or to sequester the jury.



Neither lawyer responds, waiting to hear more. Harkin brings in Stella Hulic who testifies that someone rang her while she was in Miami and told her that she was being followed. She breaks down in the witness box, and Judge Harkin excuses her from jury duty. Next, he calls Easter to the stand, who testifies that he has been followed, and Harkin shows the lawyers the videotape of the break-in. The lawyers make weak arguments for and against sequestration, and the jurors get a full report of what was going on from Easter.

Back at Fitch's offices, Fitch was demanding impossible answers from all his staff. He knew that he had not sent anyone to follow Stella Hulic. One of his staff suggests that maybe it was the girl, Marlee, and Fitch has to agree. The jurors are reassembled in the courtroom, with Stella being replaced by Phillip Savelle, a nightmare juror for both sides. They are instructed to go home and pack their things, as they are to be sequestered for the remainder of the trial. They are stunned.

Chapter 13 Analysis

This chapter brings ties together the mysterious actions of both Easter and Marlee as we begin to see the reasons behind many of their actions - the sequestration of the jury. Both sides are now convinced that Marlee is offering the verdict for sale, and by having the jury sequestered, she is now the only person who has access to it through Easter.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

On their last night of freedom, Easter meets Jerry and Sylvia (the Poodle) for a drink at a casino. While Jerry watches a football game, Easter tries to get to know Sylvia a little better, learning about her two failed marriages and twin boys. He tries to make small talk about the trial, but Sylvia seems disinterested.

After the announcement of the sequestration, Mrs. Grimes places an angry phone call to Judge Harkin. How will Herman go in a strange place on his own? She manages to convince Harkin to let her stay with Herman, on the conditions that she not attend the trial and not have contact with the other jurors.

The night before sequestration, Lonnie Shaver is busy trying to finish a week's work in one night. He speaks to George Teaton in Charlotte, explaining that he was to meet with another member of SuperHouse later that week, but that the Judge had ordered the jury to be sequestered. Teaton sympathizes, and also expresses grave concerns about the outcomes for the company if the jury finds in favor of the plaintiff. Lonnie promises to do what he can.

After the afternoon's events, Durwood Cable confronts Fitch, demanding to know what is going on. Fitch denies having anyone follow Stella, and claims that he does not know the man that broke into Easter's apartment. Easter is the first to arrive with his things at the courthouse the next day, and is told by Lou Dell and Willis the deputy that his bags will have to be searched. He refuses, placing his bags in the corner, and convincing each arriving juror to place their bags there as well to avoid having them searched. When summoned to the courtroom, an angry Easter announces that they are not coming out.

Lou Dell approaches the Judge, informing him that the jury would not come out until he came and spoke to them. Taking Cable and Rohr with him, he enters the jury room, where an angry Easter demands that their bags not be searched. Harkin agrees, but warns that if anything unlawful is found that the juror would be held in contempt and jailed. Not content with that, Easter also demands more conjugal visits, and is awarded two or three instead of one a week. Easter is now satisfied.

With the jury now back in the box, the trial continues, and Cable cross-examines Dr Kilvan, throwing different studies and reports at him, and getting him to admit that more than just smoking could cause lung cancer, if indeed smoking was the cause.

On Wall Street, word of Stella's dismissal as a juror becomes more and more embellished until the word is that the defense had lost their most valuable juror. The gossip also is that they had gotten caught breaking into a juror's apartment, and so the value of Pynex dipped. Later that day, an analyst in the courtroom called and said that



the jury was on strike because the plaintiff's evidence was so boring, and Pynex's stock went straight back up again.

Chapter 14 Analysis

This chapter shows for the first time, the jury is a major force in the trial, and the reader sees that this is because of Nicholas Easter and his demands. The jury is quite happy to stand behind him no matter what he wants, which is particularly evident when he surprises them by bringing up the issue of conjugal visits with the Judge. Also relevant in this chapter is Lonnie Shaver's discussion with Teaton of SuperHouse. The purchase of Hadley Brothers has paid off and Shaver's vote has been bought.



Chapter 15

Chapter 15 Summary

Using just the right pressure through the right corporate bodies, Fitch managed to secure the medical records for seven of the twelve jurors. At present he does not have Easter's, for obvious reasons, Grimes is blind and has nothing to hide, Shaver has not been to the doctor in over 20 years, Sylvia the Poodle's doctor died years ago and Savelle is new. However, in a lucky break, Fitch uncovers some interesting information on the saintly Rikki Coleman - she had had an abortion not long before meeting her husband. Fitch wonders if he knows.

The disgruntled jurors make the trip to the Siesta Inn in Pass Christian, the place they are to call home for the duration of the trial. Each have a room - no phone or television allowed - and also have access to a dining room and a room they call the Party Room, which is furnished with a dining table, a large-screen TV, phones, comfortable chairs and a fridge stocking plenty of non-alcoholic beverages. No incoming calls are allowed and outgoing calls have to be approved. No one could leave the hotel without permission from Harkin, Lou Dell or Willis. Dinner is from six to seven and breakfast from six to eight-thirty, but at least the food is good quality.

The next day at breakfast, Jerry Fernandez announces that he is ready for his conjugal visit now. Easter replies by complaining about the fact that they can't have newspapers and Jerry seconds this, adding that he wishes he could have a cold beer. The grumbling continues around the table - Herrera wants more beverages, Millie Dupree wants newspapers, Lonnie Shaver needs an unrestricted telephone, Savelle misses his yoga in the woods, and Gladys Card wants to attend church. They all agree to take the matters to the Judge.

Gloria Lane interrupts a heated argument between Harkin, Rohr and Cable, and alerts Harkin to a problem with the jury. They won't leave the hotel. They want to talk to the Judge. Meanwhile, Marlee gets in touch with Fitch again and organizes a meeting that evening. Fitch promises to be there - alone.

Cable, Rohr and Harkin arrive at the motel and are greeted by a flustered Lou Dell. She shows them to the Party Room where the jurors - with the exception of Herman Grimes - are waiting for him. Easter is again leading the charge and reads their list of demands. Within the hour, Harkin has agreed to most of them.

Back in court, the plaintiff calls another expert witness, Dr. James Ueuer. He explains to the jury how the tar in cigarettes causes cancer, referring to experiments that he had carried out on mice. Jury consultants watch the reactions of the jurors closely, and Ueuer is cut short before he can get to the experiments that used rabbits and beagles.



Chapter 15 Analysis

In this chapter, Fitch gets lucky on two counts - he gets information on one of the jurors that can be used as a bribe and he hears from Marlee, who wants to meet up with him. It is evident that one way or another, this jury is going to be influenced by someone outside the confines of the motel.

Sequestration is very restrictive and results in an unhappy, disgruntled jury. When, before the sequestration, Easter went out of his way to lead the group to revolt about their conditions - and in some cases, such as the plastic forks and plates situation, they did not necessarily follow - the sequestration leaves them looking for a leader and happy to get behind anyone who is brave enough to stand up. Easter's influence over the jury is now stronger than ever.



Chapter 16

Chapter 16 Summary

Fitch travels to New Orleans to meet with Marlee. He has hired Jumper, the deputy who she passed the note through the week before, as one of his men, so that he could alert him as soon as she entered the building. Fitch waits at the table and she appears without warning, and takes a seat across from him. Fitch takes in her appearance and asks if she is hungry. She replies that she isn't and quickly moves on to business, indicating to Fitch that she is aware that his people are photographing her.

They discuss Easter, and Marlee admits that he is her contact inside the jury, but does not reveal their actual relationship. A waiter has been paid by Fitch to remove anything that Marlee touches, but she is careful and keeps her hands tucked under her chin. Fitch tenders the question of money for a verdict, but Marlee brushes it off. She mentions the jury's strike, and explains to Fitch exactly what happened. They discuss some of the jurors, and Marlee mentions that Easter has actually started smoking during the trial. With that, she leaves, promising another meeting soon. She is followed as she boards a plane to Mobile, but her pursuers are cut short when she calls the police on them.

On Wednesday night, the second night of sequestration, Jerry Fernandez and Easter sneak out of the motel and head down to the casino. Once Jerry is suitably distracted, Easter sneaks away to play blackjack and Marlee slides into the chair beside him. The two slip away to the mezzanine. They kiss and huddle together, and Marlee updates Easter on the meeting with Fitch. They kiss goodbye and part ways.

Wendall Rohr decided that the jury had had enough of hearing the scientific evidence and that they probably already knew that smoking was bad for you. He calls his next witness, Lawrence Krigler, an ex-employee of Pynex, who had completed studies of tobacco leaves and nicotine for the company. In short, Krigler's research discovered a way to grow tobacco with less nicotine. After presenting the results of the study, he came across a memo instructing upper management to discredit the study, as it had already been established many years prior that the nicotine was the substance that kept smokers smoking - so the more nicotine, the more smokers, the more demand there was for this product. When asked how he knew that the company, and in fact the industry, knew this about nicotine, Krigler refers to a copy of a infamous memo that he once had. It had promptly been stolen from him and he was unable to get his hands on another. This memo outlined a study that proved nicotine was addictive. This became common knowledge in the tobacco industry by the 1970s.

The jurors are taken aback by this witness and lunch is unusually silent. After lunch, Cable does his best to discredit Krigler by attempting to find a motive for his evidence. Later, Easter helps to convince the jury that the defense is just throwing mud, leaving the damage of Krigler's testimony untouchable.



Chapter 16 Analysis

The chapter begins with the face-to-face meeting of Marlee and Fitch, who exchange pleasantries, discuss the jury and the trial but come to no arrangement. Here a little more of Marlee's character is revealed- she is smart and constrained, showing no signs of fear or anxiety, and keeps the upper hand over Fitch at all times.

From the first meeting between Marlee and Easter the reader can quickly establish that their relationship is a romantic one.

The trial also grows more intense, with Wendall Rohr leaving behind all the scientific evidence and introducing some meatier evidence - evidence that saw Pynex discarding research that could reduce the level of addictive nicotine in their cigarettes because they wanted the smokers to stay addicted. This is the first time that we actually see the jurors have a strong reaction to evidence and see them form opinions that they did not have before the trial began.



Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Summary

Krigler's testimony affects more than just the jury - Pynex's share price dips as soon as the Wall Street boys can get on the phone. Krigler is whisked back to Florida as soon as he is finished testifying.

Millie Dupree's husband, Hopper, owns a small realty agency in Biloxi. The agency deals mainly with smaller sales, although "Hoppy" often dreams of the big ones. Late in the afternoon on Thursday, he is visited by Todd Ringwald from KLX Property Group in Las Vegas, a company that follows the casinos around and makes a killing from the property market. Ringwald tells Hoppy that an MGM Grand is coming to Biloxi, but that nobody knows it yet. KLX Property is planning a Planned Unit Development near the casino, and wants Hoppy's help with securing the property. However, there is one problem. The land that Ringwald wants is in the district of Jimmy Hull Moke, a known crook who has been in office for over thirty years and who controls everything in his county. Hoppy tells Ringwald that the only way to get Hull to agree to the development is to bribe him, but Ringwald suggests that Hoppy go there as his representative, get a feel for what he wants and then deliver it. Hoppy happily agrees to be the middleman, and mentally starts counting the money.

Back at the motel, Lonnie Shaver calls Teaker - CEO of SuperHouse - back. Teaker asks Shaver all sorts of questions about the trial, and Shaver answers freely. Teaker offers Shaver a wage of \$70,000 -a huge pay rise for Shaver. At the end of the call, Teaker once again puts the pressure on Shaver - he hopes they can count on him.

Chapter 17 Analysis

In this chapter, the action shifts away from the jury and there is another plan in the making - this time involving Millie Dupree's husband. Although there is no other link between this deal and the trial yet, the foundation has been laid for the bribery of yet another jury member. Meanwhile, the pressure is again placed on Lonnie Shaver, and this time a 'reward' of a salary increase is offered.



Chapter 18

Chapter 18 Summary

It's Friday morning and the *Wall Street Journal* runs a front page story covering the testimony of Krigler, and also containing the vehement denials of the tobacco companies. Judge Harkin reads it an hour before going into court and calls Lou Dell to make sure that the jurors don't see or read it. She is happy to oblige.

After Krigler's damaging testimony the day before, the defense opts for a lighter approach on Friday, a move which doesn't get past the jury but doesn't impress them either. Wendall Rohr calls Dr. Roger Bunch, the U.S. Surgeon General and a known critic of the tobacco industry. His title and fame gave him free reign to condemn all aspects of the tobacco industry, and the jury eats it up. Once again, Easter slips a note to the Judge, suggesting that they work through the weekend so that the trial finishes up sooner than later.

Meanwhile, Hoppy Dupree contemplates the meeting with Jimmy Hull and the wealth that it could bring him. He agrees with Ringwald that the meeting should take place in his office and is lucky enough to be able to arrange it for lunchtime. Hull arrives and Hoppy goes over the plans with him, without divulging the name of his client. He recognizes Hull's power and implies that his client is willing to comply with anything to get the development through. Hull asks for \$100,000, saying it is a fee for his son's - a high school dropout - services as a consultant on the project. Hopper consults with Ringwald and the deal is made. The money will be delivered on Monday.

Chapter 18 Analysis

The jury are responding more and more to the plaintiff's witnesses, despite being unhappy about being sequestered. Once again, Easter is making demands of the Judge - he is becoming known for throwing his weight around but also for getting what he wants.

As Hoppy makes the deal with Hull, the reader cannot help but get the feeling that he has just landed himself in hot water. The reader knows too much about the tactics of the defense to think that they do not have a part in it.



Chapter 19

Chapter 19 Summary

On a hunch, Fitch has the jury records from two of his previous cases flown in to Biloxi. He scrutinizes the files of a David Lancaster and Perry Hirsch, both of whom are hard to find information on during the trials, and both of whom vanished after the trials. In both cases, neither man managed to get on the jury. Thinking that these two men and Easter might be the same man, he studies photographs of all three, and believes himself to be right. A handwriting expert confirms that all three men are the same man, and that he is an intelligent man as well.

Back at the Siesta Inn, the jurors are allowed their conjugal visits and some are visited by their loved ones. Angel Weese entertains her boyfriend, Phillip Savelle has an unseen guest, Gladys Card watches TV in her room with her husband and Millie Dupree eats the chocolates her husband Hoppy has brought her while he raves about the amazing business deal that has landed in his lap. Herman stays in his room with his wife. Easter, Fernandez, Herrera and Shaver remain alone and the four watch John Wayne movies in the Party Room.

Late Friday night, Fitch receives a call from Marlee at his hotel, where he has assumed nobody but his closest people know he was staying. They discuss the trial and the conjugal visits that occurred that night and Marlee lets on that the evidence from Krigler really hurt his case. She also tells Fitch that Rohr is worried about Fitch getting to the jurors; particularly because Fitch has more money to do more damage than he does. She again hints that she would be willing to sell the verdict, but hangs up before they get any further. Unable to sleep, Fitch heads down to the local casino.

Chapter 19 Analysis

As Fitch uncovers Easter's previous identities, it's clear that Easter and Marlee's plan has been around for some time and just needed Easter on the jury to be put into action. Fitch may be able to use this information for his own benefit.

Marlee again speaks with Fitch, discussing the juror's actions with him. She maintains her sense of control, giving the impression that she still has the upper hand. Further, in her conversation with Fitch, she hints that she has the same kind of relationship with Rohr, which is not the case. She uses this strategy to make Fitch think that he is in competition with Rohr for what Marlee is offering.



Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Summary

Early Saturday morning Hoppy Dupree answers the door to two FBI agents in black suits. They would like to ask him some questions about the Stillwater Estate. Dupree asks that they do it down at his office rather than risk having his kids wake up. The agents agree and accompany him there. Down at Dupree's office, the agents ask Hoppy about Ridgewater before informing him that Hull was wearing a wire, and their whole conversation was taped. Hoppy is stuck, and he is facing jail time for conspiracy to bribe a government official. However, the agents say there may be a way out. The agents instruct Hoppy to meet with them again in 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Fitch listens to their conversation, which is being relayed to him through a tiny mike implanted in the end of a pen that Ringwald had planted earlier. Ringwald and the agents were hired by Fitch and the whole thing had cost The Fund a mere eighty grand.

The bus with all the jurors on board leaves the Siesta Inn at ten and heads down to Canal Street in New Orleans, with all the passengers leaving the bus at Magazine. They are treated to lunch and are then allowed to scatter along the French Quarter, shopping, drinking and watching football. At four, they all board a paddle steamer for a sightseeing tour. At six, they return to a pizza dinner and are back at the inn by ten, where they sleep more soundly than ever.

Chapter 20 Analysis

In this chapter, Fitch's plan to use Dupree is revealed: the way that Dupree will avoid being 'charged' is to convince his wife to vote a certain way on the jury. Fitch is not putting all his trust in Marlee and is making sure that he has plenty of bribes up his sleeve.

The jury is allowed out on the town, an activity approved by Judge Harkin. Although there is no mention of how it came about, one can only assume that Easter proposed it to the Judge.



Chapter 21

Chapter 21 Summary

Late Saturday afternoon, Fitch launches his next and most severe attack on the jury. He sends Pang and Doyle around to Easter's apartment where they break in and, after stealing his hard drive from his computer, set fire to the apartment. They then run around the building, telling other residents of the building to evacuate, and then disappear. Four apartments are destroyed and eleven are seriously damaged.

Doyle and Pang return to Fitch's office and Fitch gets some of his best computer experts to work on Easter's hard drive, which is a maze of codes and passwords and proves difficult for even the best computer whiz. They manage to retrieve a couple of documents. There is a letter to his mother, signed Jeff, a bunch of dreadful poems and a six-page summary of current news items about the tobacco industry. Also of interest to Fitch is a list of voters in the Biloxi area, which must have been taken directly from a computer in the Court. Fitch wonders how Easter has gotten his hands on it

At 9 am on Sunday, the two FBI agents again show up at Hoppy's office, this time joined by a George Christiano, from the Department of Justice in Washington. He suggests that they move to another location to talk and head out to a dock near Bay St. Louis, before boarding a boat named *Afternoon Delight*. The agents stay at the car. Christiano discusses the deal with Hoppy. The reason behind the deal is political - the tobacco companies contribute the most amount of money to the Republicans, and this trial threatens to run them out of business. To stop this from happening, Hoppy needs to convince his wife not to vote in favor of the plaintiff, and there would be no charges filed against him. To Hoppy, this was simple. He would be seeing her tonight.

Judge Harkin changes his mind on the issue of the jurors attending church that Sunday. He decided that all of the jurors would all of a sudden join one religion or another and the logistics of shipping all of the jurors to their respective churches would be just too difficult. Therefore, he organizes for a young divinity student to conduct a chapel service in the Party Room and sends a personal note to each of the jurors.

Five people attend the service - Gladys Card, unhappy about breaking her perfect attendance record at her own church; Rikki Coleman, who shows up in a jogging suit; Loreen Duke; and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Grimes, mainly to leave the confines of their room. Phillip Savelle protests at the idea of worship, so he meditates naked on his bed, chanting so loud that it can be heard above the service.

At two, the relatives began to arrive with fresh clothes for the jurors. Since Easter has no close contacts on the outside, Judge Harkin and Willis accompany Easter to his apartment, only to find it smoldering after the fire. He inspects the apartment, and notices, to his horror, that the computer is gone. He fills in some paperwork and leaves with Willis.



Chapter 21 Analysis

Fitch's torment of the jury members continues, but this time he turns it up a notch by burning down Easter's apartment. This very public display of power by Fitch comes as a result of Fitch finding out the truth about Easter, and essentially 'showing him who's boss.' Further, he steals his computer, which Easter is horrified about, leading one to believe that there are some very sensitive documents. Luckily for Easter, many of these are unable to be accessed. The reader can also see the blatant bribing of Hoppy Dupree, and see how glad Hoppy is that the deal asks something so simple of him.

In addition, a jury that was happy despite being sequestered is now disgruntled again due to Judge Harkin's change of mind regarding the attendance of church.



Chapter 22

Chapter 22 Summary

It is Sunday night and the jurors are once again allowed conjugal visits, since renamed 'personal visits' due to a protest by Phillip Savelle. Hoppy Dupree is the first to arrive with his chocolates and small bouquet and quickly goes to work on Millie, asking her about the trial and trying to discount the merits of the plaintiff's witnesses without making it obvious that he has an agenda.

Easter slips out at halftime of the football game that was being watched in the Party Room, and makes his way up to the next floor where he meets Marlee in the room she has booked under one of her many aliases. Without any words, they go to bed together. Originally, the two met when they both had different names, when Easter was in law school and Marlee was a waitress and heir to enough money to see her living comfortably for the next couple of years. After his first year of law school, Easter clerked for a large firm where over 300 lawyers were working on one trial, the defense of a tobacco company over a lung cancer law suit, which lasted five weeks and ended up with a verdict for the defense. He ended up hating the firm and quit law school at the end of the year, when he and Marlee moved in together and eventually fell in love.

An hour later, they emerge from the motel, and return to Marlee's car, which, for a joke, she had parked half a block away from Rohr's office, so that Fitch's goons would report that she was meeting with him. Using one of the rented cars that Marlee has on call, Easter drops her off around the corner, and heads back to the motel.

Meanwhile, Wendall Rohr is not actually in his office, but is in fact in a conference with the counsel - or the other lawyers that had chipped in the money for the trial. They all argue as to what course of action to take next and each lawyer has a different opinion. In the end, it is Rohr's trial, and it is in his hometown, so the decision is his - leaving behind many bruised egos.

Chapter 22 Analysis

In this chapter, the reader learns more about the relationship between Easter and Marlee, finding out how their relationship developed and discovering the strength of their current relationship. They have been following these tobacco trials for years, perhaps since Easter worked for a firm that was defending one. They know the way these trials work, and, for that matter, know how Fitch works as well. One sees Marlee's quickness and sense of humor as she 'teases' Fitch's men by parking her car near Rohr's office.



Chapter 23

Chapter 23 Summary

Before the jury enters the court on Monday morning, Judge Harkin has a private meeting with Easter, supposedly to make sure everything is okay after the fire, but also casually asks some questions about the jury. Easter replies that everything is fine, and Harkin leaves it at that.

The jury enters the courtroom and Rohr calls his next witness, Leon Robilio, a former member of the Tobacco Focus Council and a reformed smoker who had quit after nearly 40 years. Because of smoking, he suffered throat cancer that took his voice box, so he talks by holding a small device to a hole in his throat, producing a pitchless robot-like voice. Robilio testifies that while he was on the Tobacco Focus Council, a lobbying council funded by the tobacco industry that advised them on attempts to regulate the industry, he, too, had seen the memo that Krigler had mentioned, as well as hundreds of studies on what nicotine and the other chemicals contained in cigarettes can do to you. He explains how the industry constantly pushed choice over addiction, despite the studies proving otherwise. He reveals that the industry targeted teenagers in order to ensure that the next generation continued to bring in profits. The jury is captivated.

Cable then steps up to cross-examine Robilio and immediately begins to discredit him as a witness. Robilio is being paid to testify and actually started smoking when he was 25, after he was married with children. All three of his kids smoke and started smoking in their teens but may have been, admittedly, influenced by himself, his wife and the smoke-friendly environment they provided. Cable brings up a list of causes that the tobacco industry supports to discourage children from smoking and encouraging people to quit, which provokes an outburst from Robilio, calling Cable a fool for not realizing that the whole industry is made of liars. Cable has no further questions.

Meanwhile, Fitch is searching for any information that he can get on Easter, or Jeff if that is his real name. After following the trail of Easter's mother, Fitch's people confirm that Easter's real name is Jeff Kerr, and Marlee is Claire Clement. Fitch makes it his business to know his enemy.

At lunch in the jury room, the mood is somber. Loreen Duke breaks the silence by asking Fernandez how old he was when he started smoking. He was 14 and wanted to be like the Marlboro man. Angel Weese was 13, and Sylvia the Poodle was 16. They go around the table. All of them who had ever smoked had started in their teens.

Hoppy meets one of the FBI agents, Nitchmann, for lunch. He is relieved when the agent shows up in plain clothes and tells him a little about what was happening in the courtroom. Nitchmann, pretending not to be interested, as he is just an agent and has no interest in such things, hands Hoppy a piece of paper that he says may help to convince his wife to vote against the plaintiff. The document claims that Robilio was



fired by the Tobacco Focus Council, has psychiatric problems and that his alcoholism caused the hole in his throat. In addition, he is being paid half a million to testify at the trial. Nitchmann suggests that Hoppy show this to his wife and have her show some of her closest friends on the jury.

Chapter 23 Analysis

In this chapter, the jury is deeply affected by Robilio's testimony, despite Cable's efforts to discredit him. Their discussion at lunch shows that many of them can relate to what he is saying.

Fitch gets some solid background information on both Easter and Marlee. At the same time, he uses his 'contact,' Hoppy, to try to further discredit Robilio by having him give his wife a phony document. He goes a step further by encouraging her to show her closest friends on the jury.



Chapter 24

Chapter 24 Summary

Back in court, Rohr has Dr. Art Kallison, an economist, on the stand to estimate the value of Jacob Wood's life. Kallison presents a total figure of \$835,000, based on lost wages alone. On cross-examination, the defense again points out that the witness is being paid to be there, but otherwise he only has an argument about the rate of inflation.

Rohr finally calls his last witness, Celeste Wood, the widow who has said and done little but sit there throughout the trial. On the stand, she appears unemotional as she speaks about Jacob and her life together. The defense passes on cross-examination, so they choose not to mention that, in fact, she met another man a year earlier and was going to get married except for Rohr, who put an end to it as quickly as possible. The defense would get that information to the jury some other way.

After Celeste leaves the stand, Judge Harkin announces the jury will not be needed the next day, as the lawyers would just be arguing motions. In a move unseen by many of the lawyers, Easter raises his hand and asks that the jury be allowed on an outing, rather than just sitting around for a whole day. Harkin denies this, citing that they could not bill an outing like that to the taxpayers. Easter suggests that with such big budgets, that the lawyers could foot the bill. Both the defense and the plaintiff readily agree.

Rohr still has three expert witnesses up his sleeve, but seeing as the jury was sequestered, decides to leave it there. This is certainly no ordinary jury, especially for Fitch, who has sabotaged many juries. Even though he laid all the traps, the same way he did with other juries, this one is different. Now Fitch has Marlee, and he will be able to buy the jury. The way he sees it, five jurors are for him, two against, and the other two will vote the way that Easter votes. In another room nearby, Rohr is also counting who is for and against him, and thinks that he also has it in the bag.

Chapter 24 Analysis

The reader sees the plaintiff resting their case, with Celeste Wood, their final witness, not provoking much of a response from the jury. The defense does not cross-examine her; however, they will get the dirt that they have on her to the jury through other means, rather than look like they are trying to slander the widow.

It is made clear that both sides are confident that they will win the case - Fitch because he has infiltrated and bribed the jury, and can buy the verdict and Rohr because he believes that he has presented a good case. It has become a case of the good versus the evil.



Chapter 25

Chapter 25 Summary

Back in Lawrence, Marlee's hometown, Small, a private investigator hired by Fitch, is still digging around for information about her. He tracks down and interviews a woman named Rebecca, who he discovers was a friend of hers, but who denies knowing her. Once Small leaves, Rebecca calls Marlee, who she knows as Claire, and warns her that someone is asking after her.

Marlee contacts Fitch and requests an immediate interview. Fitch leaves right away and meets her at the Biloxi pier. Immediately, Marlee confronts him, telling him to stop digging around in her past or the deal is off, threatening to deal with Rohr instead. She then lays down the terms of the deal. Once both sides have finished their closing arguments, the money - the amount is yet to be determined - will be wired into an account, and then the jury will deliver the verdict. Although Fitch argues as to whether Marlee can be trusted to deliver the verdict, Marlee doesn't budge.

After several failed attempts at trying to reach him by phone, Jimmy Hull shows up at Hoppy Dupree's office. His secretary informs him that Hoppy is not there. Hull leaves a message for Hoppy to contact him as soon as he gets in.

Fifty miles into the Gulf of Mexico, Angel, Rikki, Colonel Herrera, Jerry Fernandez, Lonnie Shaver and Easter are enjoying a day out on the sea. Fernandez and Easter make sure that Shaver always has a beer and use the opportunity to get talking to him. Shaver reveals that his mind is already made up and his vote will be for the defense. Easter jokes that Fernandez's mind is also made up for the defense, but that he is remaining open-minded.

Chapter 25 Analysis

Fitch is not a passive player in his relationship with Marlee, as his men continue to hunt down information on her past. What he doesn't count on is Marlee having close enough friends to inform her of his investigations, and this jeopardizes Marlee offering him the jury's verdict. Marlee warns him to back off or risk having the verdict go the other way. The second meeting between Fitch and Marlee takes the reader one step closer to the purchase of the verdict, which will be on Marlee's terms, rather than Fitch's.

There is a little more insight into how the jury is sitting, as Lonnie Shaver reveals to Easter and Fernandez that he will be voting with the defense.



Chapter 26

Chapter 26 Summary

The boat carrying the jurors returns to shore, with Fitch's men watching for no particular reason. Meanwhile, Fitch calls off his men uncovering Marlee's past. While on the one hand, it is imperative that he stay on her side, it is also important that he know who she is.

Angel Weese's boyfriend, whose child she is secretly carrying, is Derrick Maple, a 24-year-old divorcé who is unemployed and dodging his ex-wife's lawyers. Over a beer in the tavern, Derrick meets Cleve, a runner for Wendall Rohr, who is carrying out a range of duties from delivering papers to investigating juries. They talk about Angel, and Cleve checks if anyone has approached him about the trial. No one has, so Cleve offers Derrick five thousand dollars in return for Angel's 'influence' on the verdict. As the conversation progresses, Derrick realizes the amount of money invested in this trial, asks for ten thousand, and later, for 1% of the winnings. He gets what he wants.

Back at Fitch's offices, Fitch is doing everything that he can to keep D. Martin Jankle, CEO of Pynex, away from the vodka. They run through a mock exam and then a mock cross-examination and Jankle seems to hold his own. Despite Fitch's suggestion to hang around the office for the night, Jankle returns to his hotel room, only to find that Fitch has filled the minibar with non-alcoholic drinks and has taken the flask from his bag as well.

Once he is sure that everyone is asleep, Easter sneaks out of his room to a room that Marlee has booked. They kiss but quickly get to business. She tells him how they were looking into her past and replays her meeting with Fitch. They both realize that if Fitch was able to get into her past, he would have had to go through Easter's first. Jeff Kerr's background was harmless, but Claire's has to be protected, or they might as well leave now.

Chapter 26 Analysis

This chapter continues to develop the mystery that surrounds Marlee - why is it so important that her past not be discovered? Despite her demands to have the digging stopped, Fitch continues to search, but arranges to have it done more discreetly.

This chapter also shows us the first time that the plaintiff attempts to sabotage the jury, bribing Derrick Maple to have his girlfriend Angel Weese influence the jury in favor of the plaintiff. The first thing to notice about this bribe is the comparatively small amount of money that is initially offered. Seeing that this is the first and only attempt to secure a verdict by the plaintiff, we can see that the defense still has the upper hand, despite not having called any witnesses yet.

As the court case continues, Jankle is going to be called as a witness the next day, and Fitch goes to many lengths to keep him away from the drink, which creates the impression that he may not do so well on the stand.



Chapter 27

Chapter 27 Summary

It is Wednesday morning and the courtroom is full of Wall Street boys fresh from reading an article in *Mogul* by Barker, a renowned analyst who predicts that the tobacco companies could lose everything due to this trial. The jurors file in at nine and Jankle is called as a witness. He testifies well, pushing the issue of choice and abuse of smoking and cigarettes, referring to the many different brands and types of cigarettes that his company manufactures. He claims that cigarettes are okay if used responsibly, as with alcohol and other products, and compares his advertising budget to that of Coca-Cola.

Meanwhile, some of spectators are a distraction to certain jurors.. Angel is distracted by Derrick, who has shown a sudden interest in the trial, Millie is distracted by Hoppy, who has also shown a sudden interest in the trial, and Lonnie Shaver recognizes D. Y. Tauton, the black lawyer from his meeting in Charlotte. After catching Tauton's eye, Shaver sits up a little straighter and pays attention.

Fitch watches Jankle from his office, with Vandemeer, the CEO of Trelco, the largest tobacco company in the world. Over lunch, they discuss the trial, and Vandemeer is a little doubtful, and asks Fitch if he has enough influence over the jury. Fitch assures him that he does. He can't lose this one.

A week earlier, Judge Harkin changed the rules a little and allowed the two alternate jurors to eat with the twelve, seeing as they are all sequestered together. Easter has befriended Vietnamese Henry Vu and has decided that he will be sitting with them when the deliberations begin.

After lunch, Jankle resumes his testimony, and, after a couple of questions about Pynex's contributions to anti-smoking schemes, he is subject to cross-examination by Rohr. By the end of the questioning, it is clear to the jury that Jankle knew that his products were killing people, and he was doing nothing but making excuses.

Chapter 27 Analysis

The cigarette company first takes the stand in this chapter, giving their side of the story. Jankle, a former lawyer, sticks to his concept of smoker's abuse of his product, much to Fitch's anger. By the end of the cross examination, one gets the impression that Jankle's testimony actually won votes for the plaintiff, rather than for the defense.

Henry Vu is introduced and it is implied that he will be on the jury when it is time to make the decisions.



Chapter 28

Chapter 28 Summary

During a meeting with Cable, Fitch expresses what he doesn't like about the way that the case is being defended - Jankle's theory of the abuse of cigarettes and the fact that Cable was the only lawyer handling the questioning. However, after an argument over who is better qualified to decide how the case runs, the two both agree that the defense's case should be short and not run longer than three days. Fitch slams the door as he leaves the office and growls at the other staff as he leaves the building. Once in the car, he gets updates on the hunt for information on Marlee - still coming up dry, but they have tracked down one of Easter's law school buddies and are arranging a meeting with him. Fitch wonders why Marlee hasn't called him today, and as they drive past a convenience store, longs for a cold beer. He also longs for Marlee.

After sitting through one day of questioning, Derrick Maple suddenly becomes very bold and chooses a new location for his Wednesday night meeting with Cleve, a rough bar in the black section of Biloxi. When Cleve refuses to go inside, they meet at a waffle house, where they eat pancakes and drink coffee at the counter. Derrick informs Cleve that ten grand isn't enough for the payoff and demands fifty thousand plus 10% of the winnings. Cleve promptly refuses the deal and leaves. Derrick chases him out to his car, threatening to go to the defense with his offer, to which Cleve points out that there will be 10% of nothing, because a defense verdict means that no money will change hands. After much discussion, Cleve agrees to take back an offer of twenty-five thousand per vote if Angel can get more than one.

Back at the motel, the jurors are enjoying their personal visits, some more than others. In Room 47, Hoppy and Millie Dupree make love like never before after enjoying a feast of takeout Chinese food. Once they are finished, they discuss the children and the house, and how much they all miss Millie. He then takes out the document that discredits Mr. Robilio as a witness, showing Millie and claiming that someone faxed it to his office. Instead of being interested, Millie throws it on the bed and demands to know why Hoppy is now so interested in this trial. He apologizes as she cries, and he wonders what he is going to tell Christiano.

Chapter 28 Analysis

At the beginning of this chapter, the reader sees a weakness in Fitch, as he longs for a drink. Fitch also is longing for Marlee, indicating to the reader that she does in fact hold this trial in her hands. Derrick Maple tries to milk the situation for all its worth; however, in the process, he reveals how little he knows about the situation. This makes one wonder whether he will even be able to convince Angel to vote a certain way. Millie's refusal to look at the document that Hoppy has brought and her suspicion of Hoppy's sudden interest in the trial indicates that she, too, may be a hard one to fool.



Chapter 29

Chapter 29 Summary

Early Thursday morning, Easter takes advantage of Colonel Herrera's strict morning routine to deliver copies of some magazines to his room, including *Mogul*, which contained the article by Barker. He calls Marlee to inform her that the delivery has been made.

Marlee places a call to Fitch, instructing him to go to a particular pay phone where she will call him, to ensure that she cannot be taped. After rushing out the door, Fitch picks up the ringing phone. Despite Fitch's protests, Marlee tells him that they will be losing a juror that day, Colonel Frank Herrera. She hangs up, and there is nothing that Fitch can do.

Rather than arrange a meeting with him, Easter places a call to Judge Harkin's home, saying that the jury was getting a little suspicious about their meetings. Harkin agrees, and Easter tells him that Herrera has been reading *Mogul* magazine, and may have been influenced by Barker's article. Harkin agrees not to tell anyone where the information came from, and promises to look into it.

After Herrera consents to a search of his room, the offending magazine is discovered, and, despite protesting that the magazine was planted, Herrera is excused from the jury. As Fitch watches from the back row, the eleven remaining jurors enter the courtroom, and Henry Vu is announced as the replacement juror. Easter and Fitch lock eyes, and each know what the other is thinking.

The defense calls its next witness - the attractive Dr. Denise McQuade, a behavioral psychologist with her own firm and four published books. With her red lips and red fingernails capturing the attention of many of the male jurors, she crosses and uncrosses her legs as she testifies. Advertising is a part of our culture, she says, but as consumers, we make informed choices about the products that we buy. Therefore, smokers also make informed choices about purchasing and smoking cigarettes. Once Cable is done, Rohr cross-examines, but fails to make up any ground.

Chapter 29 Analysis

By removing Herrera from the jury, both Easter and Marlee prove, particularly to Fitch, how powerful their influence over the whole system is. In addition, as Herrera was a popular defense juror, it also tells Fitch that they are sure they will be able to cater the verdict to whoever is buying, no matter what the different members of the jury may think. However, the readers know that Herrera's replacement, Henry Vu, is more open-minded than Herrera and has developed a friendship with Easter. This will make it easier for Easter to influence him. The move simply killed two birds with one stone.

The defense finally gets a break with Dr. McQuade as a witness, but one cannot fail to notice that this was primarily to do with the witness' sex appeal, rather than her testimony.



Chapter 30

Chapter 30 Summary

Hoppy meets up with the two FBI agents, Napier and Nitchmann, who claim that Mr. Christiano at Justice wants a full report of Hoppy and Millie's visit, minus the personal details that Hoppy was so proud of. Hoppy's report is less than glowing, telling them that Millie was not impressed when Hoppy showed her the document. Nitchmann rushes out to relay this information by phone to Christiano. Nitchmann returns to inform Hoppy that Christiano is on his way, and is not a happy man.

Rohr spends his lunch locked in his office with Cleve, going over what to do about Derrick Maple. After considering his options, he decides that they will pay him the money for one verdict up front and cheat him on the rest of the money later, when they would have taped evidence that he was trying to influence the jury. However, when Derrick and Cleve meet, Derrick has decided that he wants the money for one vote up front, with deposits for the other votes, counting on a unanimous verdict. Cleve refuses and walks away and Derrick does not follow him.

Keeping line with their previous witness, the defense calls Dr. Myra Sprawling-Goode to the stand, an attractive, well-dressed, six-foot-tall woman with light brown skin and a smile that warms the jury. Her specialty is marketing and she has received funding by the Consumer Product Institute - that is actually funded by Fitch - to study cigarette advertising and its effect on teenagers. She explained her findings to the jury - all effective advertising is aimed at young people, not necessarily teenagers, so why should tobacco companies not be allowed to have effective advertising? It is her opinion that the only way to protect teens from cigarette ads is to ban cigarette ads altogether and even then, this would not stop teens from smoking. On cross-examination, Rohr tries to find out just where this funding came from, but she doesn't know. Fitch likes it that way.

It is the tenth night of sequestration, and there are no personal visits. Most of the jurors are in the Party Room, playing checkers. Phillip Savelle remains in his room, head in a book, as usual, trying to ignore everyone. Even Easter has not been able to get through to him.

Chapter 30 Analysis

It becomes clear that at least one of Fitch's attempts to influence the jury is not working, and that Rohr is no angel himself when it comes to jury tampering. With Derrick Maple turning down his offer, we are left to believe that the plaintiff will have to leave it up to the jury to decide.



The defense has been consistent so far with its expert witnesses, using beauty to capture the attention of the jurors and focusing on the advertising side of things rather than the scientific side, mainly to avoid boring the jurors.

The chapter also alludes to Phillip Savelle as a bit of a dark horse on the jury - not even Easter can reach him, so no one knows what he will do.



Chapter 31

Chapter 31 Summary

With Herrera gone, Henry Vu is now the only member of the jury who gets up early and sits reading the paper in the Party Room, but this morning, Nicholas joins him. They talk briefly about his daughter at Harvard, and the topic moves to the trial. Easter reinforces the idea that they should stick together, as a mistrial would be disastrous and the time that they have spent there would be wasted. Henry agrees.

At 8 am, Fitch receives a call from Marlee in his office. She tells him that Lonnie Shaver has been bothering Easter and that he will be the next one to go. Fitch shamelessly pleads with her, asking her what she wants. She agrees to meet with him, alone. He agrees, takes down the address and makes his way there, somewhat liberated to be completely alone.

Once he arrives at the apartment, Marlee scans him for bugs and wires and gets down to business. She wants ten million wired to a bank account before the verdict. If it is not there when it is time to read the verdict, Easter will either hang the jury or get a verdict for the plaintiff, nine to three. Fitch tries to barter with her, offering her five now and five on delivery, but Marlee doesn't budge. Grudgingly, Fitch agrees, and the two shake hands.

Back in the courtroom, the beauty parade is finished as the defense calls another witness to the stand, a shaggy-headed scientist named Dr. Gunther, whose whole testimony is used to create some doubt that cigarettes cause cancer - only 10% of smokers got it, and there just has to be more research.

Meanwhile, ex-FBI agent Swanson is still trying to track down information on Marlee's past. He locates an old friend of hers from the pub, Beverly Monk, and pays her a thousand dollars for information on her past. Beverly can't tell him much, only that she very rarely talked about her past and that she seemed to be well off if you could go to her apartment. She doesn't know Jeff Kerr, but offers to make some phone calls to see if she could find out anything else, if they will pay her. Swanson leaves her with his card.

Hoppy sits in the back of a long black Chrysler with Mr Christiano and agents Napier and Nitchmann. Christiano tells him that at his next visit, he will have to come clean with Millie, and hopefully, that will convince her to change her vote and help to persuade others. Nitchmann smiles as Hoppy cannot help but cry.

Chapter 31 Analysis

At the beginning of this chapter, Easter talks with Vu, and makes sure he is on the same page. Vu seems to be the kind of person who wants to see what others are doing before



making his decision, and by the end of the conversation, one is convinced that he will vote whatever way Easter does, with a little persuasion.

Most importantly, this chapter sees Marlee make the deal that she has been leading up to for most of the story. In making the deal with Fitch, she is very confident, and does not budge on the amount she wants and how and when she wants to receive it. By playing hardball she gets her way - Fitch certainly now respects and even fears her, because he knows the damage she could cause. His search for information on her background is proving fruitless, giving him nothing to barter with.

The reader also sees the defense's strategy in the courtroom, with their expert not really giving a whole lot of concrete evidence, just muddying the waters by claiming more evidence is needed.



Chapter 32

Chapter 32 Summary

An hour after their first meeting, Fitch and Marlee meet again, this time with Fitch carrying a rather large suitcase, which Marlee again checks for bugs. They talk about what they know about the jurors, about who will vote which way and who will need to be leaned on a little. Fitch reveals a little about who is being bribed, saying that Lonnie Shaver's employer is on their side, but keeps much of his information to himself. Fitch tries fishing for information about her past, but comes up with nothing. They finally get to the business side of things, and Marlee orders Fitch to wire the money to an account in Korea, which will be in his name, not hers, giving no explanation why. Once the jury gets the case, the money is then to be diverted to her account in Hanwa. If anything goes wrong, she threatens a large verdict for the plaintiff.

Wendall Rohr loudly cross-examines Dr. Gunther, leaving everyone on edge. It is the end of the week, and Easter has since sent a letter to Judge Harkin, requesting that the trial continue on Saturday, so that the case can wind up a little quicker. Harkin agrees, and Cable promises that they will be resting their case soon. Harkin promises the jury that they will have the case Monday afternoon, and the jurors sigh as they can finally see the end of the road.

Chapter 32 Analysis

The novel reaches its climax - Marlee and Fitch have made their deal and they seem to be working together, although Fitch seems to be holding back a little, and one can see the conclusion of the trial, with the jury to deliberate within the next couple of days.



Chapter 33

Chapter 33 Summary

Hoppy arrives at the Siesta Hotel for his personal visit with Millie. He sits down and tells her everything, playing up the drama with his suicidal thoughts and genuine tears. Millie is shocked, telling Hoppy that she was planning to vote for the plaintiff, weeping and saying that it is not fair. Hoppy agrees.

Before organizing the wire transfer, Fitch consults an expert from Washington, who agrees that Marlee definitely knows what she is doing when it comes to wire transfers. He calls the CEOs of the Big Four, instructing them all to wire two million each into the fund, and then makes the transfer, faxing the confirmation to a waiting Easter at the motel as per her instructions. Once done, he feels like a weight has been lifted off his shoulders - the verdict is bought, and so easily too.

At around eight on that Friday night, a determined Derrick Maple enters the lobby of Whitney & Cable & White, ready to offer them Angel's vote for a price. He has heard the names of a couple of the lawyers in court, and asks the woman at the front desk to speak to a Mr. Gable. The receptionist informs him that there is no Mr. Gable there, so he grabs a couple of business cards to prove he has been there and leaves.

Tortured by what her husband has done, Millie cannot sleep, so she throws on a tracksuit and heads up to the Party Room, where Easter is watching football. Easter mutes the TV and asks if she would like to watch a movie. She doesn't, but instead confides in him about that night's events, and tells him everything that has happened to Hoppy. After all, Easter is such a nice young man.

Back in his room, Easter makes contact with Marlee and gives her the full Hoppy story. There is much to be done, and they agree to start with the names Christiano, Napier and Nitchmann.

Chapter 33 Analysis

Marlee's deal with Fitch is put into action in this chapter. Although Fitch is eager to move ahead, one can see that he still doesn't completely trust Marlee and is looking for a way to undermine her plan. In the end, he can see no way around it and has the Big Four give him the money, which he wires as per her instructions.

Hoppy reveals all to Millie, who in turn reveals all to Nicholas. The chapter ends with us wondering how Easter and Marlee will use this information.



Chapter 34

Chapter 34 Summary

Court is in session on Saturday morning, and little changes as the defense calls their final witness, an researcher named Dr. Olney who has experimented with mice and found that exposure to cigarette smoke did not cause them to have lung cancer. Among the spectators were Hoppy, offering Millie smiles of support, Tauton, the black lawyer from Charlotte who kept glancing at Lonnie, Derrick Maple and other members of the juror's families who are there partly to show their support and partly to satisfy their curiosities.

Meanwhile, Beverly Monk wakes mid-afternoon, thinking about what Swanson said. She thinks about Phoebe, another girl that she and Claire had worked with, who might know a little more about Claire's background, particularly a boy she had once dated that was not Jeff Kerr. She knows that Phoebe is currently in the same situation, and mentally plans a visit. She then starts looking for Swanson's card.

Fitch does not attend or watch that morning's testimony as he meets with James Local, a private investigator that is trying to pick up Marlee's trail. Local could find nothing on Claire before her time in Lawrence, and he is impressed with her efforts to hide her past. Kerr is a different story and it seems that he only started the secrecy after he met Marlee. Fitch tells them to work harder.

In her office, Marlee is trying to hunt down Christiano, Napier and Nitchmann, with little success. Fitch shows up at 10 as planned, and they discuss the jury. Easter is concerned about Rikki Coleman, who seems to have her heart set on a big verdict for the plaintiff. Fitch gladly offers her the information about the abortion, which Marlee promises to take to Easter. Herman Grimes is another dark horse, but they have nothing on him, so it is agreed that Easter will simply have to convince him himself. Marlee promises that they have the votes, and Fitch promptly leaves at her request.

After Fitch is gone, Marlee continues to look into Hoppy's situation. Her search leads her to an agent named Madden, who was in charge of investigations involving Jimmy Hull Moke, who had never heard of the agents before. Marlee promises a meeting once she finds them.

The defense rests at three on Saturday afternoon and the jury is allowed to leave. Planned for that evening is either a trip to a junior college football game or the local movie theatre. Personal visits are then allowed until midnight that night. The next day the jurors are free to attend their church services unsupervised from nine to one, and on Sunday night personal visits are on again. Closing arguments will be Monday morning, and the jury will have the case by lunchtime. The end is in sight.



Chapter 34 Analysis

The defense finally rests its case and the end is in sight, but this only marks the beginning of the real action. However, while the action moves towards its climax and it looks as though Easter and Marlee have everything tied up, Fitch is still digging into Marlee's past and it looks as though Beverly Monk may have some information. In addition, time is running out for Marlee to find information about Fitch's little scheme concerning the Duprees.



Chapter 35

Chapter 35 Summary

It is Saturday night and six of the jurors - Easter, Jerry, the Poodle, Henry Vu, Lonnie and the second alternate juror Shine Royce - are at the football game and spend most of their time explaining the game to Henry. When they return to the motel, personal visits are allowed, and despite it being expressly forbidden by Harkin, Easter slips into Millie Dupree's room to speak with her and her husband. He explains to them that he has a friend on the outside that is good at digging up information, and that the whole thing was a scam so that the defense could have Hoppy persuade Millie to change her vote.

The next day begins with a birthday cake for Loreen Duke's 36th birthday, before the jurors go their own ways to attend church, which for some meant the casino, and for others, like Millie Dupree, meant spending a few hours at home in her kitchen.

Meanwhile, Hoppy Dupree calls Napier and Nitchmann, telling them that he has made progress with Millie and that they should meet him at his office for a full update. Once there, they are surprised by a visit from actual FBI Agent Alan Madden, who demands to know what is going on. Both Napier and Nitchmann deny claiming they are FBI Agents, despite Hoppy's protests. Madden arrests them and takes them away, but not knowing about the bribe for Millie's vote, assumes they are harmless and releases them at a rest station in Alabama, ordering them not to return to Mississippi. From there, they call Fitch, who has someone come and pick them up.

Upon hearing what has happened, Fitch breaks a lamp with his fist. Three hours later, Napier and Nitchmann are sitting in the room next to Fitch's office. He demands they tell him the whole story, which he records. He had no doubt that by now Millie would be absolutely against the defense and probably seeking a huge plaintiff verdict. He needed Marlee more than ever now.

Chapter 35 Analysis

This chapter sees Easter and Marlee take even more control of the jury as Easter saves Hoppy from what could have been a jail sentence, which earns him Millie's unconditional trust. By doing this, he also foils one of Fitch's plans, making him think he needs Marlee more than ever to get the verdict that he wants. Ironically, it is Marlee who is causing Fitch's problems.



Chapter 36

Chapter 36 Summary

Determined to find out some information about Claire that would earn her some money, Beverly calls her old friend Phoebe, who as it turns out also had a call from someone claiming to be Jeff Kerr looking for information about Claire, but she knew that he was faking, so she just strung him along. Beverly calls Phoebe back an hour later, claiming that she has been thinking about Claire, and wants to reminisce. After talking with Phoebe, she 'remembers' that Claire's real name is Gabrielle Brant and that she is from Columbia, Missouri where she went to school. After getting some more information about her, Beverly calls Swanson, who offers her four thousand for the information. They arrange to meet, but Beverly never shows up.

Marlee and Fitch have one last meeting before Monday, and Fitch comes clean to Marlee about the situation with Hoppy Dupree. Marlee convinces Fitch that Millie is under control and will be voting with Easter, as will nine of the other jurors. Marlee guarantees that the verdict will be unanimous, and Fitch's mind is put at ease.

Meanwhile, in Wendall Rohr's conference room, he is busy practicing his closing statements, with the other seven lawyers critiquing him. Over in another office, Cable is doing the same thing, except he is being videotaped as well. Both men are positive that they have won the case.

Fitch once again makes his way to the beach house, where the four CEOs are waiting for a final update on the trial. They are curious where the eight million that he requested has gone and how he is certain that the jury would vote in their favor. He assures them that it is all under control, but dares not divulge how he has done it.

Chapter 36 Analysis

This chapter reveals information which could lead to Fitch discovering Marlee's past, which she has made clear would be disastrous for her and Easter. In his meeting with Marlee, Fitch tells her about the Dupree situation, but Marlee does not let on that she had a hand in exposing it. This is unusual, considering that she had always boasted about Easter's conquests with the jury.



Chapter 37

Chapter 37 Summary

The feeling among the jurors is light on Sunday night, as many of them believe that this will be their last night being sequestered. Personal visits are allowed again, but being the third night in a row, many are tired of their loved ones and spend the night alone packing and tidying up. Easter and Marlee share a pizza in his room, and after she leaves, Easter runs into a very grateful Hoppy and Millie. Millie expresses her concern over whether she should still be on the jury, but Easter convinces her that at this late stage it would be the right thing to do.

Cleve and Derrick meet at a sports bar in the Nugget Casino on Sunday night. Cleve hands Derrick a paper bag containing fifteen thousand dollars, with another ten thousand to come after Angel has voted for the plaintiff. Cleve leaves and Derrick makes a detour to the bathroom to count the money before leaving to see Angel. On his way out, he is tempted by the crap tables and decides to place a bet. Hours later, after losing seven thousand and winning back four, Derrick decides that he has had enough, and gets in his car to drive home. He is pulled over on his way and he is arrested for driving drunk. His brother bails him out after five hours. Derrick pays him for the use of his car and tries to go and see Angel, only to be caught by Chuck, the uniformed deputy, who arrests him for the second time that night.

At three-thirty Monday morning, Swanson receives a call from a drunken Beverly, and demands to know where she is. He convinces her to meet him at a café at seven with the information that he needs.

Chapter 37 Analysis

The jury is looking forward to the end of the trial, suggesting that they will not want to spend a long time deciding on the verdict. One can see that Easter has now gained complete control of Millie's vote, as she is not sure that she should be there anyway, so she puts her complete trust in Easter. Any chances that the plaintiff may have been able to buy some influence over the jury were drunk and gambled away as soon as Derrick saw the money.

Meanwhile, Swanson is getting closer to getting Fitch the information that he wants about Claire/Marlee. The only question is, what is in Marlee's past that she is so desperate to hide from Fitch?



Chapter 38

Chapter 38 Summary

At exactly 6:15 am Monday morning, the reliable Mrs. Grimes arrives in the dining room to fix Herman Grimes some breakfast. As he often does, Easter helps her out, but this morning he slips four small pills into Herman's coffee. Half an hour later, Herman is doubled over in pain, having what is rumored to be another heart attack. The paramedics arrive, and Herman is rushed to the hospital. Lou Dell immediately calls Judge Harkin to tell him what has happened. The jurors are dropping like flies.

Meanwhile, Swanson is waiting at the café for Beverly, although he doesn't expect her to turn up on time. He calls her apartment, but her roommate tells him that she isn't there. He was prepared to wait. Four hours later she arrives, obviously tired and hung over, with a young man with 'Jade' tattooed across his forehead. She tells him that Claire's name is Gabrielle Brant and that she is from Columbia, Missouri, where her mother was a medieval studies teacher. She takes the money and Swanson disappears.

Judge Harkin steps up to the bench at 9:30am, after a heated argument with Rohr and Cable over whether or not to call a mistrial. However, the trial would continue, and the jury enters the courtroom minus Herman Grimes and with a proud Shine Royce in his place. The lawyers begin their closing statements, with Wendall Rohr rehashing the testimonies of his experts and the corruption of the tobacco industry as told by Krigler and Robilio. He went on to talk about how the industry encourages children to smoke, with three thousand picking up the habit a day. Then, he goes on to talk about poor Mrs. Wood and Jacob Wood, and how much his life was worth. While he doesn't suggest a figure, he writes \$800,000,000 CASH on the whiteboard - this is how much cash Pynex has - and leaves the jury to think about it.

Next up is Cable, who criticizes the plaintiff for building its case around the children rather than around Jacob Wood, an obvious play on the emotions of the jurors. This has been nothing more than a naked grab for money, he says. He is done in just over half an hour, and the jury has the case by lunchtime. Harkin orders them to appoint a new foreman, with the rest of the instructions being given to them in the jury room.

After the jury has left the room, Fitch receives another call from Marlee, who then faxes him new details of where to wire the money. She instructs him to do it within the next hour, or the deal is off. Fitch calls his experts and the transaction is complete within ten minutes. Once the money is in her account, Marlee has the money rewired to another account and informs Easter that the money is in. She then gets in a rented car and drives to the Gulfpoint airport, where a small Lear Jet is waiting. She grabs her bags and locks her keys in the car.



Swanson tries to contact Fitch, but can't get through. The rest of his men are on their way to Missouri. He has found five Brants there, but none who knew of someone named Gabrielle. He finally gets Fitch on the phone and then is on his way to Missouri.

Chapter 38 Analysis

In this chapter, the story really builds up to its climax - the jury has the case, the money has been delivered and the right jurors are in place. To add to the tension, Swanson and his men are on the brink of finding out who Marlee really is, and it appears to be a race against time to uncover this information before the jury comes back with the verdict. The fate of the case is now in the hands of the twelve jurors, with Easter as their leader.



Chapter 39

Chapter 39 Summary

After the jurors finish eating their lunch in the jury room, it is time to elect a new foreman, and Easter is elected by acclamation. He appears to take the job seriously, instead of rushing to a vote as Lonnie Shaver would like to. Judge Harkin's instructions require them to review the evidence which has been brought before them, which includes the thousands upon thousands of pages of reports that were entered. Easter suggests they each take one, skim through it and report back to rest of the jury. They begrudgingly oblige.

High in the air in the jet, Marlee makes the trip to George Town in Grand Cayman in ninety minutes. She clears customs with a Canadian passport, on which her name is Lane MacRoland. She takes a cab into town to her bank, the Royal Swiss Trust, where she meets Marcus, a man she has been dealing with for many months now. She fills in some paperwork and orders a sandwich and a coffee from the secretary. Marcus reports to her on the price of Pynex's stocks - they were up at seventy-nine after a day of heavy trading. Smith Greer is also up, and ConPak was trading even. Marlee starts buying and selling like a professional, instructing Marcus and remaining completely calm. At twenty-two million, Marcus asks her to stop, as anything more would need approval from upper management.

Meanwhile, Marlee's past is rapidly catching up with her as Swanson continues to dig for information on Gabrielle Brant. In Columbia, Missouri, he and his men chase down information on a Dr. Evelyn Brant, who appeared to be Gabrielle's mother. She had in March 1987 of lung cancer, leaving everything to Gabrielle. Some further investigations had found that Gabrielle's father, Peter Brant, had also died of lung cancer. There was a series of donations to groups such as the American Lung Association, the Coalition for a Smoke Free World, the Tobacco Task Force, the Clean Air Campaign and other anti-smoking causes. Swanson makes the call to Fitch.

Initially, Fitch took the news calmly, weighing his options now that the jury has started their deliberations. He could call in a bomb threat, but the jurors would just be taken somewhere else, secret, to continue. Pang and Konrad wait in the hall for instructions when they hear a lamp hit the door, followed by the sound of a desk hitting a wall. Fitch screams at them to find the girl.

Chapter 39 Analysis

The climax hits its peak in this chapter as we see many loose ends tied up. Marlee uses the money given to her to buy and sell shares that have been affected by this case before the verdict, which also explains the running commentary on the share prices throughout the story. Marlee's background is also uncovered, and it is clear that her

motive is more than money. The engineered verdict is now in doubt as we wait in suspense to see what Easter will do with the jury.



Chapter 40

Chapter 40 Summary

After a forced stretch of concentration, Easter finally calls upon the jurors to summarize what they have read in their reports. He gives a quick summary of his own, but is cut off by Rikki Coleman's suggestion that they vote on who thinks cigarette smoke is harmful. Twelve hands shoot up. The vote is also unanimous that nicotine is addictive. The topic then turns to the subject of kids and advertising, as Loreen Duke summarizes the report by Dr. Myra Sprawling-Goode, and they are reminded of the poll they took on the day of her testimony. They continue to plow through the reports as Lou Dell and Willis guard the door.

Lonnie Shaver pushes for everyone to vote, and Easter lets him have his way. Lonnie puts in his vote for the defense. Gladys Card is questioning the amount that they have to award Mrs. Wood, while Angel recounts how she started smoking at thirteen because of an advertisement, and is now finding it hard to quit. One of Loreen's teenage girls has just started smoking, getting them from vending machines in the mall where they hang out. Jerry asks her what she will do when her daughters start smuggling alcohol, and the debate turns to whether alcohol is as addictive as cigarettes. It is established that Rikki is voting for the plaintiff, Jerry is undecided, and Sylvia the Poodle cannot understand why they should be making Mrs. Wood a multi-millionaire. Lonnie is enjoying his position as a rebel leader and calls upon Phillip Savelle to cast his vote. Savelle believes in the power of choice. Henry Vu is still thinking, and Easter is called upon to cast his vote. He votes that they get through the reports.

Fitch sits in his office by the phone, praying that she might call. He is not surprised by the reports that her car had not moved from outside her condo for the last eight hours and that there was no activity inside the condo. She is gone. The only thing he can do is take heart that the jury is taking so long to come back with a verdict. Maybe it isn't so easy for Easter after all.

At five in the afternoon, Judge Harkin reconvenes the courtroom and sends for the jury. He asks them whether they think they will be able to come up with a verdict. Easter promises that there will be one that evening.

Chapter 40 Analysis

This chapter begins to bring together all the subplots of the novel, from the expert witnesses and lawyer's arguments to the jury selection and bribes. As the jurors begin to banter in their deliberations, we can see each piece of the puzzle coming together through the jurors' comments - Lonnie's defiant vote for the defense which is tied directly to influence from his 'employer'; Angel; who believes the testimony that tobacco companies targeted kids with their advertising; and Easter, who has assumed the

position of foreman after forcing Herman Grimes out. With each defiant opinion, it appears harder for Easter to bring them all around to one verdict - whatever that verdict may be.



Chapter 41

Chapter 41 Summary

Back in the jury room, the jurors have just finished their last dinner from Mr. O'Reilly and they decide to get down to business. Easter asks who is willing to hold Pynex liable for the death of Jacob Wood. Rikki Coleman, Millie Dupree, Loreen Duke and Angel Weese say yes, Lonnie, Phillip Savelle and Gladys Card say no, and the rest were undecided. Lonnie asks Easter what he thinks and after spelling out his opinion, Easter states that he thinks they should stick it to the tobacco companies. The verdict will mean nothing if it's not significant. Shine and Vu jump on Easter's bandwagon. Lonnie stares at them all in disbelief, telling Easter that he can't talk money because he doesn't have all the votes. Easter claims they are not his votes, to which Lonnie retorts that the verdict has always been Easter's.

They go around the table again for another vote - seven for the plaintiff, three for the defense and Jerry and Sylvia the Poodle unsure. Gladys Card states that she doesn't want to vote for the tobacco company, but at the same time doesn't want to give all this money to Mrs. Wood. Rikki raises the issue of just how much Easter thinks they should give her, and they are shocked at his answer - one billion dollars. He argues that they need to make this a landmark verdict and that somewhere down the track it will probably be reduced on appeal. Unable to fathom that amount of money, they all agree to write down how much they think would be suitable, add it up and then divide it by ten to get the average. Mrs. Card still does not think that she can use such big numbers, so she leaves with Savelle and Lonnie. After counting the nine votes they have, they come to a total of around three hundred fifty million dollars, which Jerry suggests rounding up to four hundred million. Together with the compensatory damages, which they had agreed to be two million, the verdict is decided for the plaintiff for four hundred two million dollars.

Lonnie can't believe the verdict and asks Nicholas whether anyone would know which way he voted. They would - Harkin would ask each of them individually.

Chapter 41 Analysis

This chapter marks the end of the trial that has dominated the story and puts a twist in the situation that was so predictable just chapters ago. This verdict makes one certain that the motives behind Easter and Marlee's plan are more than just money; their main intention is to bring down the tobacco companies.



Chapter 42

Chapter 42 Summary

Before the jury returns to the courtroom to deliver the verdict, Lou Dell presents Judge Harkin with a note from Nicholas Easter, requesting that he have a deputy accompany him from the courthouse after the verdict has been read, as he is afraid that he might be attacked. Harkin arranges this and reconvenes the court. The jury enters, and, after the document containing the verdict is shown to a straight-faced Harkin, Easter reads out the verdict. They find for the plaintiff two million in compensatory damages, and they find for the plaintiff four hundred million in punitive damages. Everyone in the courtroom is in a state of shock as Judge Harkin asks each of the jurors whether this is their verdict, with Lonnie Shaver claiming loudly that he did not vote for this verdict. After a lengthy thank-you from Harkin, the jury is released. Fitch watches the verdict from his office, but there is nothing that he can do.

Accompanied by the Sheriff, Nicholas is driven to a large apartment complex where he is dropped off and gets into his getaway car, which takes him to the Hattiesburg airport, where a Lear jet is waiting. Sometime after midnight, he arrives in George Town where he quickly gets through customs with his new Canadian papers and embraces Marlee who is there to meet him. Their four-year quest was over.

The next day, Marlee meets again with Marcus and again begins trading the tobacco shares, which have been hit hard by the verdict. By the end of her session, she has made over eight million, which she asks to be wired to another bank in Zurich. She returns to her room, where Nicholas watches her pack, and then they fly first class to Miami. On the plane, they watch the coverage of the verdict, with experts popping up everywhere and legal professors predicting the future of tobacco liability.

Chapter 42

Chapter 42 Summary

In this chapter, the final blow is delivered to the tobacco companies with the delivery of the verdict. However, we also see here that Nicholas and Marlee have not finished taking advantage of the tobacco companies yet, with Marlee making even more money over the fluctuating share prices. At the end of the day, they have successfully beat the tobacco companies in more ways than one.



Chapter 43

Chapter 43 Summary

Three days after the verdict, Fitch returns home to Washington. Later he would meet up with Vandemeer and Jankle and tell them every sorry part of his deal with Marlee. He has also conferred with some ruthless New York lawyers on how best to attack the verdict. Easter had disappeared right away, Herrera still stands by the fact that he did not read the article in *Mogul*, and Herman Grimes was happy to release his medical records, showing that he had not suffered a heart attack at all, but that his coffee tasted a bit funny before he collapsed. Cable is going to file a motion to request permission to interview the jurors. However, Fitch would not tell them about the Marlee deal.

Six weeks after Fitch left Biloxi, Marlee drops in on him again, surprising him as he eats his dinner in a tiny Indian diner. He does not seem happy to see her. She tells him that she is giving the money back, and he replies that he does not want it, but she is going to return it anyway - she was only borrowing it. She asks if he found out about her past, and he says that he did. When the conversation is over, she gets up to leave. She warns him to watch for her at every trial, because she will be watching.

Chapter 43 Analysis

The end of this chapter is a fitting conclusion for the novel, with Fitch and Marlee having one last meeting. Marlee giving the money back shows that her plan did not have to do with getting money, but the money that Fitch had given her was just a tool. The verdict is still being attacked in the courts, implying that a decision will never be reached, but for Marlee, Easter and Fitch, the game is over for now.



Characters

Rankin Fitch

A heavy-set middle-aged man with a black-and-grey goatee, Rankin Fitch is feared by most who know him, but not many do. Although being the administrator of The Fund and the coordinator of many aspects of the trial, Fitch remains in the background of the proceedings and generally is only known to those who work for the defense.

An alcoholic in a former life, Fitch has a short temper and is quick to lose it when things do not go his way. Fitch's manner is intimidating and brutish, and he commands respect through fear, even with those who outrank him, such as the CEOs of the Big Four. He is meticulous in his planning, making sure that every detail is fine-tuned, and is elaborate and ruthless in his dealings with the jurors. With his good connections in high places, he will do whatever it takes to convince a jury member to vote for the tobacco companies, whether directly or indirectly. Prior to the case in Biloxi, he directed eight trials without a loss and engineered two mistrials.

However, as loathsome a character as Fitch is, he drops his guard a little in his relationship with Marlee, and allows himself to trust her before he knows all about her. Although she is offering him an easy win, his character is not the kind to relinquish all control, no matter how clever he believes someone to be. It is this uncharacteristic trust of Marlee that ends up being Fitch's downfall.

Nicholas Easter

Clean-cut with boyish good looks, 27-year-old Nicholas Easter was a law student when he met Marlee at a local bar. As their friendship blossomed and Easter, then Jeff Kerr, became more and more disillusioned with the law, he left with Marlee, or Clare Clement, to embark on a campaign to bring down the tobacco companies.

Since then, Easter has had many identities which continued to change as he and Marlee followed the lawsuits around the country, trying to get onto the jury. He is smart and quick-witted, with an amazing ability to become whatever someone wants him to be as long as he gets something in return. The reader sees this both when he is potential juror and when he is a juror, trying to earn the trust of the other jurors. At times, he appears bland and disinterested, but at the same time is clever and especially thorough, particularly when it comes to his efforts to get on the jury. Then, when the time comes, he is a strong and confident leader.

While Marlee has a clear reason for targeting the tobacco industry, the only motive that Easter has, apart from the money, is his love and devotion to Marlee.

In his dealings with the jurors, Easter is ruthless and a brilliant actor - he successfully uses and loses the jurors as he sees fit. His disregard for authority is shown through the



stunts that he pulls to prove that he can control the twelve - he makes a mockery of the whole system. Easter is a cheeky character, and the reader cannot help but get the feeling that while Marlee has a motive, this is all one big game for Easter.

Marlee

Thirty-year-old Marlee, which is her name for the time being, is a master at getting noticed when she wants to be, and inconspicuous when she doesn't. She is precise in all her business dealings, never settling for anything less than exactly what she is out to achieve. In a previous life, her name was Gabrielle Brant, and as a child and then a teenager, she had watched her parents both die from lung cancer, events which sparked her crusade against the tobacco companies. At first, she provided financial support for anti-smoking causes, but as the lawsuits began to spring up, she saw a more effective way of bringing down the industry.

Through the way she prepares and carries out her plan, one can see that she is a very patient, calculating person. She shows a sense of humor through the way she toys with Fitch, and almost seems to get pleasure out of his anguish. She remains strictly unemotional in all their dealings, not even breaking character once for a laugh at one of Fitch's nervous jokes. The irony of Marlee's character is that while she appears to be calculating and shallow, her motive is purely emotional, if not vengeful. Although the reader suspects that there is something significant in her past, we never think that it may be a motive for her actions until we find out at the same time as Fitch.

At the end of the novel, we appreciate Marlee's resourcefulness as she makes millions off the money she is apparently 'borrowing' from Fitch. However, by returning the money, she doesn't redeem herself. Again ironically, to overturn a lying cheating industry such as the tobacco industry, she has had to lie and cheat herself and become as those whom she loathes.

Wendall Rohr

The lawyer for the defense, Wendall Rohr has been in the suing game for a while, making his first fortune off two oil workers who were the victims of burns on a rig in the Gulf. With the money earned from that case, he quickly picked up more cases like it, and he became known as a courtroom brawler. After dealing with the effects of drugs and a nasty divorce for a couple of years, the 50-year-old Rohr then made his second fortune off a wave of asbestos litigation. With the money he built a firm, took a young wife and directed his energy into suing corporate America on behalf of injured people.

Rohr is a man of the people, particularly in his hometown where he is even friendly with some of the potential jurors. He is well-liked and is unconventional in his sense of style. Despite this, one can see that he does go to extreme lengths to be "one of them" such as dressing as the jurors do and talking their language. To the most part, Rohr does not appear to be corrupt, but he is not opposed to placing the odd bribe to put a little pressure on the jury. In many cases, we can see that his strategy for the case is much



like Fitch and Cable's - no matter what evidence you present, it is imperative that the jury is kept happy.

Durwood Cable

Senior partner for Whitney & Cable & White, Durwood Cable is the lead lawyer for the defense. Often called Durr, the 61-year-old old appears to be somewhat stuffy, very professional and is primarily seen in a black business suit. Having been both a lawyer and a judge, Cable is very well versed in the letter of the law and has spent the better part of the last thirty years speaking to and looking at juries. What Cable likes most about the courtroom is that everything and everyone has its place, and his place is in charge, and he gets very angry when he discovers Fitch has been playing games behind his back. However, unknown to Cable, he is just another of Fitch's 'people,' convincing the jury in the courtroom, while Fitch uses other methods on the outside.

Judge Harkin

A judge in a small town courthouse, Judge Frederick Harkin is 50 years old and was once a plaintiff's lawyer, and there were rumors that because of this he was a plaintiff's judge, although this was not true. Not known for his warmth or his humor, his passion has always been local politics. For Fred Harkin this case proves to be a real boost to his ego and he has spent months, if not years, writing all its rules and planning every detail down to where the many lawyers would sit.

Despite being determined to be very strict with his rulings throughout the course of the trial, Harkin turns out to be quite a pushover, particularly when it comes to the jury. While he appears to want to flex his muscles around the lawyers, and does so at every opportunity, he grants every bizarre wish of the jury, even down to changing the name of conjugal visits. Unbeknownst to him, he loses control of the trial when he makes an alliance with Nicholas Easter, who simply uses him as a yes-man with the authority to fulfill Easter's plans.

Herman Grimes

After nearly being passed over for the jury because he is blind, Herman Grimes is a man of integrity, firm in his morals and opinions. He is immediately voted foreman, although the reader is not told why, as the only interaction that we see with any members of the jury prior to his election is that of his conversation with Easter. One can only believe that he has made an immediate impression on the other jurors as the right man for the job. He is reluctant to accept help from anyone, including his wife, although it is often forced upon him without his complaint.

Throughout the duration of the trial, Herman refuses to discuss any aspects of it, and follows the Judge's instructions to the letter, diligently going over the exhibits on his



Braille computer. It is this strong will and reluctance to divulge his opinion that leads Easter to make the necessary moves to have him removed from the jury.

Jerry Fernandez

Young and flirtatious, Jerry is the "fun" member of the jury, and quickly becomes friends with Nicholas Easter. His marriage is slowly failing and he quickly starts an affair with Sylvia Taylor-Tatum, who he affectionately nicknames the Poodle because of her elongated looks.

Already a smoker, he has a fondness for beer and gambling, and is not shy when it comes to being intelligent and a smart-aleck, but tends to sit on the fence when the real issues such as the verdict come about. Although his opinion that people know what they are smoking is well known, he makes it clear that he can be swayed. Knowing that due to their friendship, Jerry will vote with him (and bring Sylvia with him) Nicholas Easter uses Jerry's stirring to provoke responses from the other jurors, so as to reveal their opinions on the unfolding case. Therefore, Jerry becomes another of Easter's tools.

Sylvia Taylor-Tatum

Sylvia Taylor-Tatum is another smoker on the jury and has two twenty-year-old twin boys from her first marriage. Her second marriage is to an older man and produced no children, for which she was glad. She raised her boys herself and seems to have taken an interest in them, enjoying football because they had played it in high school. All around, Sylvia is a very shallow character, and the only juicy detail we are given about her is her affair with Jerry. She, like Jerry, is a fence sitter when it comes to her opinion on the case, but we know that she will vote with Jerry, who will in turn eventually vote with Easter.

Hoppy Dupree

With his dreams of success and bumbling personality, Hoppy Dupree is the perfect victim for one of Fitch's schemes. The husband of juror Millie Dupree, he owns a struggling and somewhat quiet realty agency in Biloxi. Seemingly happy with his lot, he is not an aggressive businessman, but will jump at an opportunity if it is presented to him on a plate. However, when all goes sour, his delight very quickly shifts to remorse, and his love for his wife is shown through his shame. Yet ironically, he is quick to jump at the easy way out, even if it does mean manipulating his wife. Not at all a leader, Hoppy Dupree is simply a pawn that is played by whoever can do the most for him at one time or another.



Millie Dupree

A fifty-something housewife and wife of Hoppy, Millie is one of the older and more kindly members of the jury, but also isn't one to speak what is on her mind, albeit softly. She has a strong relationship with Hoppy, although the sex ended years ago and the couple is happy for one another's company and have a strong sense of family. Despite her soft appearance, she has a strong character, refusing to give into the situation with Hoppy and vote for the defense, showing her strong morals and convictions. She also has a very trusting and appreciative nature, which leads her to ask for Easter's help, which opens her up to be influenced by Easter.

Angel Weese

At 20, Angel is the youngest member of the jury. She works for a beer distributor and is also one of only two black women on the panel. Although she proves to be sullen and difficult to talk to, everyone on the jury is aware of her incredibly active sex life with her boyfriend Derrick, to whom she is secretly pregnant. She is another one of the smokers on the jury, but is desperate to quit. It is this quiet desperation that leaves her open to the case put forward by the lawyers for the plaintiff, which may be the reason her boyfriend Derrick is offered a bribe for her vote.

Lonnie Shaver

Lonnie Shaver is the manager of a small supermarket and is another of the black members of the jury. He is very dedicated to his job and resents his time being wasted on the jury, particularly when they are sequestered, and often spends their lunch breaks tapping away on his laptop, trying to keep up with the happenings at his store. He comes from a poor family, which fuels his determination to succeed. This motivation is recognized by Fitch and is used to buy his vote by offering him a promotion in return for his vote. Despite many setbacks and a strong argument for the plaintiff during deliberations, Lonnie sticks to his guns - for him, it is not about who wins the case, it is all about the promotion. Even toward the end of the novel, when the verdict has been decided, Lonnie proudly reinforces to the spectators that he has done what they have asked him to do.

Rikki Coleman

A mother of two who has never smoked in her life, Rikki Coleman is a fitness fanatic who avoids caffeine, let alone nicotine. College-educated, she works as a records administrator in a hospital. She is attentive and listens to everything that is said throughout the trial and speaks up during discussions and debates amongst the jurors. Rikki is depicted as having achieved the American dream, but has secrets lurking in her past, like the abortion that she had just before meeting her current husband, who does not know about it. This little secret leaves her open to be bribed by Fitch, and although



he does keep this information as a backup should he need another vote, it never gets out. In the end, Rikki Coleman makes her decision on what she thinks are the merits of the case.

Loreen Duke

One of two black women on the jury, Loreen Duke is 35, single with two teenaged girls. A large, jovial lady, she does not enjoy her job as a secretary at the Keesler Air Force Base and is happy to sit on the jury. Seated next to Nicholas Easter in the jury box, they often exchange whispers and she is deeply affected by the evidence presented by the plaintiff, linking advertising to teen smoking. This is mainly due to the fact that one of her teenage daughters has recently picked up the habit.

Gladys Card

Gladys Card is the nosy old lady of the group, a position which often makes her the butt of Jerry's jokes. An avid church-goer, she is prudish when it comes to discussions about sex and is also very self-involved, being of the attitude "if I can't have it, why should they." For Mrs. Card, the concept of justice does not lie in money, and although she does agree strongly with the case that the plaintiff puts forward, she cannot fathom how the tobacco companies would be punished by giving all that money to Mrs. Wood. She only has a small pension herself and she had to endure her husband's battle with prostate cancer. She is stubborn and set in her ways, and has no moral dilemma with entering a vote for the tobacco companies just so that someone on her level does not end up richer than she is.

Colonel Frank Herrera

Now retired, the Colonel is an ex-smoker who enjoyed the habit for ten years while in the army. He has a very regimented personality, and is of the firm opinion that smokers are able to quit with just a bit of willpower. His opinions on this and other issues are very blunt and he can appear to be unshakable, which leads to Nicholas Easter having him bumped from the jury. Prior to this, Herrera had enjoyed being a part of the twelve, as he was beginning to become bored with the other aspects of his life and saw this as a chance to spice it up. However, when it is announced that he will no longer be on the jury, he welcomes his departure, with plans to have a large seafood dinner and visit his grandson the next day.

Phillip Savelle

A late addition to the jury, Phillip Savelle is appointed after the departure of Stella Hulich, who claims to have been followed. Forty-eight years old, Savelle lays claim to a number of professions, such as tree surgeon, glass-blower, sailor and archaeologist. Savelle is the misfit among the jurors, practicing yoga in their lunch break and demanding the



name "conjugal visits" be changed. A non-smoker but also a non-conformist, it is anybody's guess which way his vote will swing.

Derrick Maples

Divorced and unemployed, 24-year-old Derrick Maples is the boyfriend of juror Angel Weese. His last marriage had produced two children, and his ex-wife and her lawyer are demanding \$600 a month from him, despite the fact that he has lost his job selling car phones. Derrick is in desperate need of money, which is something that the plaintiff lawyers knew well. When offered money for a verdict, Maples not only becomes greedy but demanding, and while he appears to be smart by realizing the value of the verdict, he also proves to be twice as ignorant when he suggests going to the defense and demanding 10% of the winnings. When it all boils down, Maples turns out to be young and stupid, drinking and gambling the dirty money away, and not getting to Angel in time to tell her to vote for the plaintiff.



Objects/Places

The courtroom

The room where the trial takes place.

The jury room

The room where the jury convene where they are not in the court room. They eat their lunch here and deliberations are held here. Only the jury members are allowed in this room and it is guarded by Lou Dell and Willis the deputy.

Fitch's office

This is a small shabby set of makeshift rooms behind an old coin shop. Of these rooms is the 'viewing room' where Fitch and other jury consultants secretly watch the trial through a hidden camera.

The Siesta Inn

The motel where the jurors stay as a part of their sequestration. Each juror has his or her own room, and also has access to the dining room and the room they call the Party Room, with a TV and couches.

The Fund

A secret account to which each of the Big Four regularly contribute millions of dollars. The money is controlled by Fitch and is used to defend the lawsuits brought against the companies.

Setting

The plot is set in Biloxi, Mississippi in the mid-1990s, and is yet another lawsuit against the tobacco companies. The industry has already weathered 16 lawsuits of this nature and has won them all, but just one verdict for the plaintiff would open the floodgates to a sea of litigation. The lawyer for the plaintiff, Wendall Rohr, filed the suit in his hometown in Mississippi to take advantage of their tort laws that allow financial rewards for liability, as well as their generous juries. The simple environment of the Biloxi courthouse allows for much of the action, as it has never held such a high-profile case and is staffed by gentle, trusting people who would never believe that such corruption would take place.

Language and Meaning

While the language used to portray the action is primarily simple and easy to understand, Grisham also uses a lot of legal and business jargon, and some scenarios may be a little out of reach for those who have no knowledge of the law or the stock market. In addition, the evidence given by the expert witnesses is drawn out and contains many scientific terms, much of which may not have been necessary to portray the wealth of the expert's evidence. However, by keeping these terms in the storyline, Grisham does effectively let the reader appreciate what the jurors are experiencing in having to sit through the trial.

Structure

The Runaway Jury consists of 43 medium-length chapters, which are quick to read and compliment the fast-paced plot. The story is told chronologically, with past events referred to in a present tense, so that the reader does not get a break but is continually swept along with the story.

Grisham employs many sub-plots to enhance the main plot, most of which have something to do with Fitch further infiltrating the jury. Grisham weaves these plots throughout the main plot so much so that the reader can at times be overwhelmed with the flurry of activity. Ironically, this movement is in contrast with the calm and calculating nature of the main characters.



Social Sensitivity

John Grisham's seventh novel chronicles a law suit against the tobacco industry set in a Biloxi, Mississippi, courtroom. Before his writing career started, as a lawyer in a single-man firm, Grisham frequently took civil cases, including product liability, although never one of the multimillion dollar magnitude nor the nationwide attention that he describes here. As Grisham's fans would expect, *The Runaway Jury* is much more than a sober and insightful novelization of the vagaries of civil law. Indeed, this novel is a thriller about two competing efforts to rig the jury's verdict: one from the evil tobacco industry, the other from a seemingly innocuous juror. As is typical for Grisham, the little guy wins this battle and brings about a huge defeat for Big Tobacco.

Grisham's thrillers tend to address big social issues as they deliver page-turning drama. Here Grisham takes on two huge topics of debate that have been in the news for decades: the liability of tobacco companies for illnesses caused by cigarettes and the controversy of whether juries can render just verdicts despite the manipulative techniques of trial lawyers.

Regarding the first issue, Grisham places this trial in Biloxi into the context of tobacco litigation in the mid-1990s. In the world of the novel, the Big Four Tobacco Companies, all given fictional names (actually in the nonfictional world they are the Big Five), have beaten back sixteen law suits filed by smokers without ever paying any money in penalties or damages. In truth, by the summer of 1996, when the novel was published, the industry had indeed weathered nineteen suits without paying damages, although the most famous of those cases, brought by the family of Rose Cipollone in New Jersey in 1988, did result in a modest award of \$400,000 which was overturned on appeal. That same year, 1988, the industry braced for what observers then thought was a case the plaintiff could well win, a case brought in central Mississippi by the family of a deceased smoker. Unlike many states' laws, Mississippi's favored plaintiffs by allowing monetary awards even for minimal findings of liability, as small as one percent. In the novel Grisham alludes to this generous law in simplified, unexplained fashion by stating that the anti-tobacco lawyers chose Mississippi as a venue for its "beautiful tort laws."

The 1988 case, *Horton v. American Tobacco*, hovers over the novel. Grisham's hero refers to it obliquely in conversation with his fellow jurors, noting an earlier Mississippi trial in which "there was some pretty outrageous behavior both before the jury was picked and after the trial started." And Grisham's villain slyly muses on how he had engineered mistrials. The Horton case played into racial and social class anxieties, with a family of African-American plaintiffs and an overwhelmingly African-American jury. But the region was rife with poverty and unemployment, and the defense hired a number of locals as advisers. When the jury deadlocked at 7-5, some of these advisers were accused by the plaintiffs of illegal contacts with jurors. In the 1990 retrial, the jury found that smoking cigarettes had caused the fatal lung cancer that attacked Nathan Horton, but awarded his family no damages, citing fault with Horton himself. In revisiting a Mississippi tobacco case for his novel, Grisham removes the racial aspect and changes the setting to the Gulf Coast. But he uses two key elements of the Horton case: the



lingering suspicion of illegal jury contacts, and the claim by Horton's attorneys— then made for the first time before a jury in a tobacco case—that cigarettes contained inherently harmful additives such as pesticides and herbicides. Grisham has the plaintiffs' lawyers in the novel make a similar claim.

Another feature of tobacco litigation in the 1990s is the uncovering of secret industry documents suggesting that the leaders of Big Tobacco knew for decades that they produced a harmful substance, but kept producing it. And Grisham's novel features a witness, a former tobacco executive who has changed sides, who refers to a memo from the 1930s that admits that nicotine is addictive. As to the constant debate on when people start smoking and whether the industry tries to get teenagers to buy cigarettes, Grisham handles it by having those on his jury who had smoked (or still do) admit that they started as teens. Tobacco company stock is especially volatile during such cases, so Grisham includes a sequence about a complicated manipulation of tobacco stock that occurs in conjunction with the verdict. Grisham's novel anticipated another feature of tobacco litigation: In apparent wish-fulfillment, Grisham's plaintiffs win the case— in the world of the novel the first such victory. Then in August 1996, just months after the novel was issued, a Florida jury found against a tobacco company and awarded \$750,000 to a cancer-stricken former smoker—the first such award since the overturned Cipollone verdict and thus only the second in the history of tobacco litigation. Although this fortuitous convergence of fictional and actual verdicts suggests that Grisham is in tune with current events, he may not be in tune with popular sentiment. While Americans express ready belief that cigarettes cause disease, seldom does tobacco lose in front of juries.

An anti-tobacco adherent might argue that Big Tobacco's courtroom success derives from their skill at jury selection and jury manipulation, or put another way, on the unreliability of juries. Thus *The Runaway Jury* partakes of the 1990s debate on the efficacy of the jury system.

Readers in the 1990s (and surely beyond) who are at all aware of current events bring to their reading of the novel their general knowledge of controversial verdicts: the acquittal of O. J. Simpson for two murders despite an impressive amount of scientific evidence suggestive of his guilt; the acquittals of the Los Angeles police officers who were videotaped beating Rodney King, despite the videotape; the hung juries in the first trials of the Menendez brothers, despite their admission that they killed their parents. Sober legal analysts caution that the public should not second-guess juries because the public cannot know or experience all the evidence as the jury has. Yet these verdicts, which resisted easy explanation, contribute to a general unease or distrust of juries. Suspicions of juries come from scholarly sources as well.

Stephen J. Adler writes in *The Jury: Trial and Error in the American Courtroom* (1994) that on juries "there were lots of sincere, serious people who—for a variety of reasons—were missing key points, focusing on irrelevant issues, succumbing to barely recognized prejudices, failing to see through the cheapest appeals to sympathy or hate, and generally botching the job." Adler blames this botched job, in large part, on "the deceptive, frequently cynical process of jury selection" in which "lawyers can and often



do steer some of the least capable and least fair-minded people on to some of the most important cases." Grisham presents an overmatched jury willing to be manipulated, a jury selected by the barely legal machinations of the lawyers.

Grisham has written about jury selection before: in his first novel, *A Time to Kill* (1989; see separate entry), the defense team sits around a table and pools knowledge about the names on the (illegally obtained) list of prospective jurors. In *The Runaway Jury*, lawyers hire investigators to follow, photograph, even approach people in the jury pool to uncover traits which may dispose them toward either side. What the efforts of both sides produce is a group of rather timid, easily swayed people. Some loose cannons, members who are hard to read, do get put on, largely because the lawyers use their allotted challenges for more obviously bad jurors, "bad" from their perspective anyway. From these loose cannons could come the leader, who could hold sway over the deliberately chosen weak-willed others. One of these potential leaders is Grisham's hero, Nicholas Easter.

Grisham nicely parodies the "science" of jury analysis in his Chapter 24, set late in trial, in which both sides tally how the jury will vote. Both sides think they have a lock on enough votes at least to hang the jury, and probably to win outright as only 9 of 12 are necessary for a verdict.

To comical effect, each side has remarkably different readings on individual jurors. Grisham thus counters the adage that cases can be won in jury selection. In this novel, jury selection produces not a predisposed jury, but a weak one. Especially the Big Tobacco side searches for ways legal and illegal to exploit that weakness. However, Nicholas Easter's strong personality gradually assumes control.

Grisham has not written merely a satire on jury selection. This novel is a thriller.

Grisham ratchets up the level of tension by describing two powerful competing conspiracies. Tobacco's Big Four do not leave chances of victory to good lawyering; they use their vast wealth to blackmail, bribe, and intimidate jurors who may not vote appropriately. Against this tentacular menace, Grisham places Nicholas and his companion, the mysterious Marlee, who together plot their own seizure of control over the jury.

The backstage orchestrator, the gray eminence, of the tobacco forces is Rankin Fitch, a corpulent and corrupt character of almost co-equal status in the book to the slim, shady Nicholas. Fitch is antagonist to Nicholas' protagonist. He oversees the spying on the jurors; he plots efforts to discover which way Nicholas is leaning; he hires and dispenses private investigators to dredge for Nicholas' past. The leaders of the Big Four hate him for his imperious personality yet value him for preserving their winning streak in court. His efforts may stretch credulity when he devises a scheme for a tobacco subsidiary to spend \$6 million to buy a local grocery chain so that his people can bribe a jurymen who works at the chain with career advancement. Yet this sequence shows how truly tentacular the conspiracy is, willing and able to insinuate itself into the lives of anyone connected with the case. In another sequence, Fitch approves an overly



complex scheme to catch the husband of a jury member in a faux governmental sting and thus coerce him to coerce his wife. The plaintiffs' lawyers do attempt to bribe jurors, but their doings seem amateurish and even reluctant contrasted to the tenacity and zest with which Fitch schemes. His machinations involve so many people in diverse locales and so much money that the tobacco conspiracy seems almost omnipotent. Of course this grandeur makes the defeat of tobacco by Nicholas and Marlee the more impressive and inspiring. Grisham likes David and Goliath stories, and this novel clearly fits the type.

At first, Nicholas seems to be a free agent, open to offers from either side, and Marlee sends tempting messages to the plaintiffs' lawyer. But Grisham's efforts to hide Nicholas' agenda seem half-hearted. Early on he tells jurors negative information about tobacco companies and law suits, and early on Marlee toys with Fitch. Together Nicholas and Marlee have stalked tobacco litigation, traveling to law suit sites, getting Nicholas a fake identity, and by computer procedures getting him into jury pools. This case is their first success in placing him on a jury. Through a series of often humorous maneuvers, Marlee convinces Fitch that she has a plant on the jury who can eventually deliver a verdict. Marlee tells Fitch that she is in the game just for the money, and indeed demands a huge sum to fix the verdict. But her open contempt for him (which he seems not to mind, even to enjoy) and Nicholas' statements to his fellow jurors converge to convince one early on that these plotters are anti-tobacco.

Nicholas' uses of subtle psychology and of downright trickery to win control of the jury comprise the heart of the novel. Early on, he has Marlee cause the jury's lunch to be delayed so that he can appear as a leader in voicing their complaints about lunch to the judge. He seeks out friendships with jurors by noticing what they like and sharing those affections. He plays at humility, then slowly reveals that he is very knowledgeable of the law, thereby gradually earning status among them. He convinces them to do odd things, such as say the Pledge of Allegiance upon entering the courtroom, to test whether he can exert mastery in larger matters later. He slowly breaks the rules about discussing the case with them to plant ideas about the verdict. Even at the deliberations, he insists that they review evidence, a show of objectivity before he begins to lead them to give an enormous award to the plaintiffs. As for the other loose cannons on the jury, members who are hard to read or have strong personalities (or who follow the rules), he uses subterfuge to get them dismissed, leaving himself as the only candidate for leader. He is impressively clever in realizing that he has to get an elderly blind man removed because this man's stubborn, boisterous, yet respectable personality is the major threat to Nicholas' seizure of control.

While readers may cheer the resourcefulness of Nicholas Easter and may shudder at the portrayal of the tobacco industry as the locus of evil, readers may also feel more than disquieted by this bleak portrait of the jury system, written by a former practitioner. The novel leaves the impression that juries are easily swayed (or corrupted) and usually too naive to render justice. And these jurors were never to be the ultimate arbiters of this momentous case, but were mere pawns to be shuffled across the playing space by the competing conspiracies. And justice itself seems to be a fleeting goal. If readers accept that a verdict against tobacco is just, in the world of this book such justice is only

available by deception of the type employed by Nicholas and Marlee. Is this verdict then justice?



Techniques

Grisham leavens his plot with humor.

Thus readers marvel at the intricate maneuvers of the competing conspirators and laugh at the ways some maneuvers work out. In a funny scene early on, one of the prospective jurors proudly announces that he is blind, a fact that millions of dollars paid to the jury investigators failed to uncover. Then this blind man wants to be considered for service in this law suit, or he will sue! In another early scene, Nicholas tests his ability to manipulate the jury by convincing them to recite the Pledge of Allegiance when they enter the jury box, a move which discomposes everyone else in the courtroom.

Grisham displays a dry, sardonic, and knowing humor, a technique that marks nearly all his novels. He offers a mocking insight into the vagaries of trials. For example, he writes of the jury's response to the taped deposition of the man whose illness brought on the suit: "Watching a dead man talk was quite compelling at first, but the jurors soon learned that his life had been just as boring as theirs. The heavy lunch settled in, and they began to twitch and fidget." Of human behavior Grisham is equally cynical. When Fitch's goons try to read Nicholas' stolen computer disks, they find, among other useless files, "a gawky poem he'd written about rivers" and later "more dreadful poems"—a subtle tangent about Nicholas' character. Grisham describes a black juror's consternation at the nondenominational Sunday service offered during sequestration: She "was appalled at the brevity of the service. On at eleven and over by eleven-thirty, typical hurried style of white folks. She'd heard of such foolishness, but had never worshiped in such a manner." Grisham's biting, humorous style is surely a big factor in his success, especially as such humor does not often appear in the sober thriller genre.

Finally, Grisham deftly handles tension in the final hundred pages, in which the three big plot lines converge: Marlee finalizes her efforts to scam Fitch out of millions of dollars, the jury begins to deliberate under Nicholas' orchestration, and Fitch's investigators close in on the actual identities of Nicholas and Marlee.

Grisham displays his skill in juggling then crosscutting the diverse yet simultaneous scenes to enhance the impact of the climax. If Marlee's background is not a surprise, the timing of its revelation threatens to be devastating to her conspiracy.



Themes

Power and Influence

One of the main themes running through *The Runaway Jury* is that of power and its corruption. Throughout the novel power is achieved through wealth and stature, which can be used to influence or pay anyone off. The reader sees this primarily through the Big Four, who, although they are actually competing companies, come together to be a strong force against the anti-tobacco legislation. They use their collective wealth to carry out elaborate schemes to influence and sway the votes of jurors and their families, and their size is used to influence government organizations or anyone who gets in their way. The idea of wealth leading to power is reinforced by this case in Biloxi, as the tobacco companies come up against a much wealthier plaintiff that poses a real threat to the Big Four.

As the plot continues, we see a marked shift in power as Marlee and Nicholas begin to manipulate the jury. One begins to see that although millions of dollars can be thrown at a situation, when it comes to the decision of twelve people, manipulation is much more powerful than money.

The Concept of Justice

The novel also looks at the concept of justice, and whether it can be achieved. Throughout the novel, Grisham tends to make a mockery of justice as the two main powers, Fitch versus Marlee and Nicholas, battle it out to see who can 'win' the case by being the most corrupt. Further, we can see that instead of concentrating on who can present the best case to prove their point, both sides do their best to focus solely on keeping the jury happy. Even the lawyer for the plaintiff, Rohr, who is made out to be the 'good guy,' attempts to buy off a jury member. It can also be seen that the main symbol of justice, Judge Harkin, who does his best to preside over a fair and orderly trial, is manipulated and duped by Easter. Justice is portrayed as something that is for sale or is open to being manipulated, rather than something that will prevail. Although the novel concludes with a verdict for the plaintiff and the predicted demise of the tobacco industry, the victory can be likened to the winning of a game rather than a righting of a wrong.

Triumph of the Underdog

The idea of the triumph of the underdog, or the David versus Goliath concept is also one of the main themes throughout the novel and enhances and compliments the ideas of justice and power. There are many instances where this occurs - the plaintiff over the tobacco companies, Hoppy over Fitch's goons and Nicholas and Marlee over Fitch. These events reinforce the idea that money does not always buy power or justice.



The getting of justice is the alleged business of a trial. But in most of Grisham's novels, "justice" is relative. Whatever readers may think of tobacco companies, in this novel they are corrupting entities whom justice demands be brought down. But bringing them down seems impossible unless their adversary uses corrupt means. Marlee and Nicholas decide that Fitch and his employers violate absolute moral standards. But then do these do-gooders violate moral standards by their manipulation of the jury?

The novel broaches the issues of ends and means, of moral relativism.

While pretending to negotiate with Fitch to fix the verdict, Marlee brags, "It'll work because all the players are corrupt. You're corrupt. Your clients are corrupt. My partner and I are corrupt.

Corrupt but smart. We pollute the system in such a way that we cannot be detected." While functioning as a part of her act to hoodwink Fitch, the statement has more than a kernel of truth. She and her partner have lied repeatedly and toyed with the unsuspecting members of the jury. But causing the dismissals of jurors who do not share their sentiments or who cannot be convinced, Nicholas and Marlee pollute the system. Is the verdict then fair? Well, the bad guys did lose. But what about the merits of the case, on either side? Sadly, the merits never mattered. In the novel's last scene, Marlee justifies herself to Fitch by claiming, "I lied and cheated because that's what your client understands." Is that statement sufficient justification? Grisham's novel sweeps readers up in the tension of the plot, but sober reflection reveals that the novel poses a world without standards.

Commitment to something does remain a value in this world despite the moral relativism. Late in the novel, the sifting of the hints about Marlee's background reveals, too late for Fitch, that both her parents died of smoking-induced disease. She won Nicholas to her cause, and together they scoped out tobacco trials. She emerges as a crusader avenging the deaths of her parents. She dedicates her life to fighting a vastly powerful enemy, to subjecting this enemy to the deserved punishment it has been able to avoid. Commitment is a possible standard of evaluation in the otherwise self-serving world of tobacco litigation. Yet even the plaintiffs' lawyers are in the case not for commitment against tobacco but to tap into a law suit market that will become hugely lucrative should they manage to win. And they are not above bribery to ensure a win. Only Marlee (and perhaps some of the plaintiffs' witnesses) gets into the battle in the spirit of crusaders. Marlee is greedy in part: After using the millions she extorts from Fitch in a complex stock manipulation that further depresses the value of tobacco stock after the verdict, she gives the money back to Fitch. But then, she cleared huge profits through her stock trades, enough that she can afford to give back millions and still live very comfortably. Her crusade had its material rewards.

So Marlee and Nicholas impress with their commitment and their resilience in the face of any obstacle. Yet they also disturb with their methods and their greed, a lesser greed than that of other characters, but greed nonetheless.

Style

The story is told by an omniscient third person who facilitates the many different plot lines that run through the novel. The narrator effectively relays the thoughts and feelings of all the characters, making us feel as though we are seeing things through their eyes. This also gives us insight into where the plot may be going and there is many times where the reader knows more than the characters do. By using the third person, Grisham makes the plot seem predictable, which makes the twists at the end even more effective and shocking to the reader.



Quotes

"Nothing rivaled the thrill of big-time litigation" (p. 23).

"□(Easter) knew that before dark today an entire committee of handwriting experts on both sides would be poring over his words, not caring so much about what he said but more about how he formed his letters. He wanted to appear neat and thoughtful, intelligent and open-minded, capable of hearing with both ears and deciding matters fairly, an arbitrator they would clamor for. He'd read three books on the ins and outs of handwriting analysis" (p. 41).

"Every jury has a leader, and that's where you find your verdict" (p. 65).

"Rohr was a local legend." (p. 26)

"'Know thine enemy,' he (Fitch) said aloud to the walls. The first rule of warfare." (p. 293)

"In this, the biggest tobacco trial yet, with the biggest plaintiff's lawyers lined up with millions, his beloved little Marlee would hand him a verdict. Fitch believed this and it consumed him. He thought of her every minute and he saw her in his dreams." (p. 300)

"He (Fitch) closed his eyes and saw the faces of the jurors. And he longed for Marlee."(p. 335)

"Whatever she (Marlee) wanted. It didn't matter." (p. 344)

"I'm not a thief. I lied and I cheated because that's what your client understands" (p. 549).

Topics for Discussion

What evidence is there, if any, that the lawyers for the plaintiff were aware that the verdict was for sale? Do you think they would have considered buying it?

If the jury had not been otherwise influenced, who do you think would have won the case and why?

Do you think that in writing the book, the author had an underlying agenda to raise awareness of the dangers of smoking, or used the book to discredit the tobacco industry?

Why do you think that Marlee gave the money back to Fitch? Does that make what she has done right?

How effective do you think the ending is? Is having Marlee trade the money on the stock market taking an already finished story one step too far?



Discuss the importance of characterization to the plot.

Discuss how the concept of 'David and Goliath' applies to the plot.

Do you think that as a character Marlee contradicts herself?

Discuss Nicholas' attitude towards authority.



Key Questions

A fruitful subject for opening discussion of the novel is how readers feel about law suits, about huge monetary judgments against big corporations, and about tobacco litigation. The reaction of smokers to the novel might be interesting to gauge. Another obvious line of inquiry is concerns about the jury system. Reading groups could discuss if any members have served on juries or been a party, a witness, or a spectator at a jury trial. What faith do readers have in juries, given their own experiences and some of the notorious verdicts from the 1990s? A third big issue for discussion could be moral relativism: in this novel, what is the "right" or "just" thing to do? Where is "justice" in this novel?

1. Discounting the jurors who have self-serving agendas—Nicholas and the stubborn Lonnie Shaver—could this jury have reached an impartial verdict in this case? Could this jury reach a just verdict?

Where is justice in this book?

2. Are the methods of Nicholas and Marlee necessary to win a verdict against Big Tobacco? Historically, Big Tobacco wins in court even though pressures against the industry emanated from states which were filing their own lawsuits and from the White House under Bill Clinton.

How does the accepted theory that tobacco does cause disease square with the results in court and with the American affection for personal responsibility?

3. Are justice and morality involved in the legal battle in this book? Are Nicholas and Marlee serving justice? Does the novel suggest a morally relative universe?

4. Do Marlee and Nicholas have moral standards? What is the moral difference between Marlee and Fitch? (This question involves readers' responses to knowledge of Marlee's parents' deaths and her selfappointed role as crusader.)

5. Should a complex law suit such as Grisham describes be decided by a jury, or by a judge, or by a panel of experts?

Can juries be sufficiently informed and dispassionate in such cases?

6. How does Nicholas compare to the heroic juror #8 in *Twelve Angry Men* (memorably played by Henry Fonda in the 1957 motion picture)?

7. Do evidence and good lawyering determine the outcomes of trials? Or do the traits the jurors bring with them serve as determining factors? What combination of factors brings about a verdict?

Does such a combination produce justice?



8. What role does humor play in Grisham's narration? How would readers describe Grisham's humor? gentle? sarcastic? Such questions get into the broad issue of describing the experience of reading Grisham and explaining the sources of his wide popularity.

Literary Precedents

A fine preparation or contrast for *The Runaway Jury* is any of the versions of *Twelve Angry Men* by Reginald Rose. Rose wrote the original television play in 1954, then expanded the script for the celebrated 1957 film with Henry Fonda as the honorable juror #8 who persuades a reluctant jury to acquit a murder defendant. (Sherman L. Sergei adapted the material into a three-act stage play. Rose himself updated the script for a 1997 cable telecast.) Juror #8 is an unambiguously good man whose decency wins the jurors to his side. Most of the jurymen are quiet and unassuming, willing to be led. Juror #8 must joust for control with the only two other men who have assertive personalities. Contrasting Juror #8 and Nicholas reveals very different views of court procedures. While in *Twelve Angry Men* justice is achieved only after much troubled debate (and from the serendipitous placement of #8 in the jury pool), in *The Runaway Jury* the verdict (whether just or not) is achieved by subterfuge. If Rose presents jurymen as too easily swayed and justice as at best hard to achieve, Grisham presents a wholly corrupted judicial system.

Two other thrillers about juries are *The Juror*, by George Dawes Green (1995), concerning the attempt by an underworld figure to coerce and frighten a female jury member, and the classic British mystery *Verdict of Twelve* by Raymond Postgate (1940), in which the surprising criminal insights of the jury members provide significant clues in a murder case.

Readers interested in the 1990s debate on the efficacy of the jury system could pick up two competing studies written for general audiences. Prior to the O. J. Simpson case, Adler studied five criminal and civil cases and concluded that juries are frequently overmatched by the complexity of cases and swayed by the antics of the lawyers. Much more optimistic is *We, The Jury: The Jury System and the Ideal of Democracy* by Jeffrey Abramson (1994), which argues that jury deliberations are valuable models of democracy in action.

Abramson includes a meaty chapter on the history and uses of "Scientific Jury Selection," that is, the analysis of a jury member's traits to foretell how he or she would vote. Versions and parodies of such analysis appear in *The Runaway Jury*.



Related Titles

The Runaway Jury fits with most of Grisham's other novels in the thriller genre, a category he defines in an oftquoted interview (1993): "You take a sympathetic hero or heroine, an ordinary person, and tie them into a horrible situation or conspiracy where their lives are at stake." His heroes are young people with the intellect and cunning and resourcefulness that these thriller plots demand.

Significantly, however, these heroes survive by their wits rather than physical prowess. In his books Grisham has few overtly violent scenes, although he does succeed in making the threats convincing.

Like Mitch McDeere in *The Firm* (1991; see separate entry) and Rudy Baylor in *The Rainmaker* (1995; see separate entry) and Darby Shaw in *The Pelican Brief* (1992), Nicholas and Marlee think and manipulate their way out of danger. They are mentally tough.

The Runaway Jury continues Grisham's interest in portraying issues and causes that are timely if not especially popular.

In portraying Big Tobacco as an evil force, Grisham plays into a stereotype yet challenges a public that has been disturbed by the big payouts in civil cases.

The novel immediately preceding, *The Rainmaker* (1995; see separate entry), also centers on a civil suit against a large company and shows open sympathy for plaintiffs in such cases. Yet in 1995, to much acclaim, the U.S. Congress took on the issues of limiting both civil jury awards and the abilities to file civil suits. Curiously for such a hugely popular writer, Grisham dares express in his fiction his open support for causes that are unpopular with most Americans. In addition to these novels, Grisham criticizes the death penalty in *The Chamber* (1994), and *The Street Lawyer* (1995) exposes the plights of the urban homeless. By 1998, municipalities proudly trumpet their efforts to revitalize blighted areas and move out or otherwise contain the unsightly homeless population; the homeless need to be removed to bring about urban renewal, city leaders often say. *The Street Lawyer* asks its readers to look at people whom in life they would usually ignore or turn from in disgust. In examining his popularity, readers and analysts of Grisham should consider how his openly liberal sympathies clash with an increasingly conservative America.

The novel immediately following *The Runaway Jury*, *The Partner* (1997) seems to answer a frequent objection made against Grisham's plotting: that he always ends his novels with his heroes' escapes, along with plenty of money, to safe havens, usually warm, tropical locales. Indeed, Nicholas and Marlee escape with money she made from her stock manipulations; she "earned" so much that she gives back all the funds she scammed from Fitch.



The Partner tells what happens after the escape. Patrick Lanigan, who has millions of dollars which he stole from his crooked law firm, cannot settle into a new life without suspicion. He stole too much for his victims just to ignore him. He knows they will seek him and try to steal the money back. He is reluctant to trust anyone, prone to a reclusive existence, fearful of his capture and probable torture. Indeed, he does get caught and does suffer horrible torture via electrodes.

Grisham's fans might wonder if Mitch McDeere from *The Firm* (who stole from and turned into the authorities the Chicago mob), Mark Sway from *The Client* (who also gave evidence in a mob case), and Nicholas and Marlee from *The Runaway Jury* live equally suspicious lives in their putative safe zones. Given the ferocity and power of the villains in the novels, Grisham's escaped heroes should be afraid.

Patrick Lanigan, however, has schemes covering even the contingency that he gets caught by his enemies. He is a master manipulator; the novel details in retrospect how he scammed his firm and follows in the main action how he will out-manuever those who captured him.

In fact, he even tried to lay clues that would encourage his capture so that he could control the circumstances under which he is brought back to America. As a novel about a schemer who spends pages explaining his schemes and parrying counter-schemes, *The Partner* remains overly talky and bloodless, until the ending. The irony at the novel's conclusion, perhaps suggested by the tide, is that some contingencies elude the control even of a master at manipulation.

In spirit the schemes of Patrick Lanigan match those of Marlee and Nicholas in that these schemers adhere to the moral relativism characteristic of Grisham's novels. Patrick answers to no one but himself. Stealing from thieves is okay.

Abandoning his wife after she has committed her own adultery is okay. Similarly, to Marlee and Nicholas, rigging a jury's verdict against the corrupt tobacco industry is okay. Readers could consider what sort of moral vision (if any?) is suggested by Grisham's novels. And readers could consider if *The Partner* shows not only the nether side of Grisham's characteristic escapes, but also, through its downbeat conclusion, the dark and inevitable outcomes of this sort of morality.

Grisham's books have huge initial press runs. Grisham's publisher, Doubleday, boasted that the first printing of *The Runaway Jury* was, at 2.8 million copies, the largest in history up to that time.



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