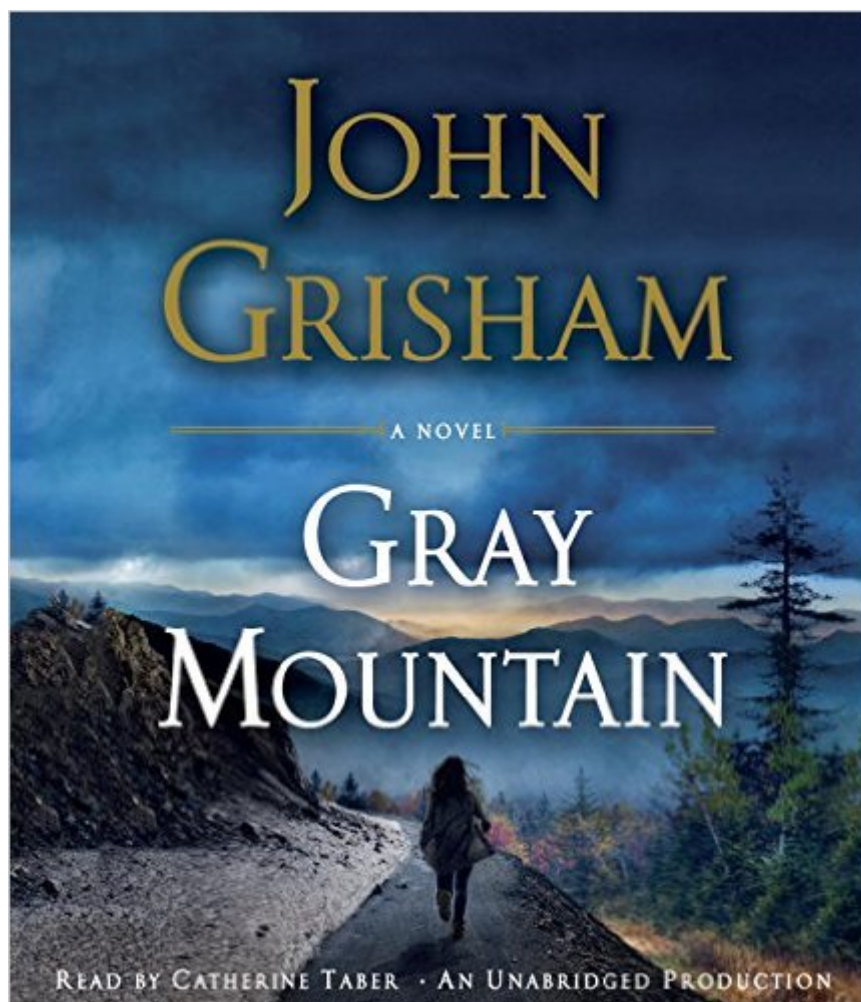


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# Gray Mountain: A Novel



## Synopsis

John Grisham has a new hero . . . and she's full of surprises The year is 2008 and Samantha Koger's career at a huge Wall Street law firm is on the fast track until the recession hits and she gets downsized, furloughed, escorted out of the building. Samantha, though, is one of the lucky associates. She's offered an opportunity to work at a legal aid clinic for one year without pay, after which there would be a slim chance that she'd get her old job back. In a matter of days Samantha moves from Manhattan to Brady, Virginia, population 2,200, in the heart of Appalachia, a part of the world she has only read about. Mattie Wyatt, lifelong Brady resident and head of the town's legal aid clinic, is there to teach her how to help real people with real problems. For the first time in her career, Samantha prepares a lawsuit, sees the inside of an actual courtroom, gets scolded by a judge, and receives threats from locals who aren't so thrilled to have a big-city lawyer in town. And she learns that Brady, like most small towns, harbors some big secrets. Her new job takes Samantha into the murky and dangerous world of coal mining, where laws are often broken, rules are ignored, regulations are flouted, communities are divided, and the land itself is under attack from Big Coal. Violence is always just around the corner, and within weeks Samantha finds herself engulfed in litigation that turns deadly.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I kept waiting for the excitement to begin....never happened. Main character Pollyanna and weak. Very sorry I spent time and money on this book. I have read all of his books and can't believe it is the same author.

This was the most boring book I have read in years. The characters were uninspiring and dull and it did not feel as though Mr. Grisham had written this book as I have read all his previous books and loved them. I did not finish the book and I would not recommend it to anyone. A complete waste of one's time

Always a fan of John Grisham for his finely etched characterizations and ability to draw the reader into the courtroom drama of which his books are based. This book reads more like a docu drama. I did not like Samantha the female protagonist, who seemed a flat cardboard person who is self absorbed and shallow....bored with her job in a big law firm until she is unexpectedly let go due to the stock market crash. Then she is introduced to a world of the Appalachian "real people" through her volunteering at a free legal clinic and consequently becomes aware of many issues involving hardcore poverty and the huge environmentally devastating coal mining industry. Do not expect an armchair reading the usual Grisham novel generates....I put it down several times tired of the characters and being preached at about a thinly veiled attempt to spread the word of governmental collusion with the coal industry.

Jeez, no ending. It just stopped. I feel ripped off, for the price of the book plus the time invested in reading it

This book is so boring. Am surprised I even finished it. I kept waiting for John Grisham to show up and he never did. I have read all of his booke and liked them, but this one was a huge disappointment.

Really, no ending. Just a wandering diatribe. I'm a Grisham fan but I was never "involved" in this book. Shallow characters, unresolved issues. As a male author with a female main character I have to say he shouldn't try this again. She was one hundred percent vanilla. I'm still wondering what the point of the novel was. Read Sycamore Road but don't bother with this.

I'm almost halfway through this book, and NOTHING has happened, except for endless exposition about the evils of coal mining, which, while true, is no substitute for an actual plot. Don't waste your money!

Did John Grisham write this? You could have fooled me. I kept checking the spelling of the author's name on the cover to make sure I hadn't bought some kind of literary "knock-off" novel. Like the counterfeit watches you buy that say "Rolek" instead of ROLEX. I was browsing through the new books at the local big-box store, saw this and bought it immediately. Bad move. What I have, so far, is a Nancy Drew mystery about the coal mining industry. It appears Mr. Grisham got a hair up his ass\* about the coal mining business and churned out this burnt offering as a screed. And, using his good name, a chance to make a few bucks for good measure. The main character is offered up as a "fish-out-of-water" among the down-home and downtrodden hill-folk in "Coal Country, Appalachia." This allows Mr. Grisham to pile on paragraph after paragraph detailing the atrocities perpetrated on the hills and valleys of the region. As if this hasn't been going on for at least a century already, with government approval. Hand me my banjo! I think "predictable" is the word that best describes what passes for a novel here. As I was reading, I would predict what was going to happen a page or two ahead. And Lo! it came to pass. I can't say how disappointed I am. I passed up a couple of other novels to buy this book. I'm bummed!

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