JOHN GRISHAM IS FAMOUS FOR HIS LEGAL THRILLERS THAT HAVE GONE ON TO BECOME BOX OFFICE HITS...
John Grisham was born in Jonesboro, Arkansas in 1955.

As a child, he worked picking cotton in the summers.

At seven years old, they family began moving around different parts of the South.

The Grisham children sized up towns by their libraries.
Every move also meant finding the Baptist Church.

John wasn’t much of a student but loved reading the works of John Steinbeck.

In 1973 he graduated high school and attended Jr College in Senatobia, MS.

His real passion was for baseball.

He spent most of his time on the bench.
It wasn’t long before Coach Ferriss told John he didn’t have a future as a professional baseball player. John had become friends with his roommates, who were considering moving on to another college to study forestry. In 1975 he finally got serious and enrolled at Mississippi State University in Starkville. He stayed as his friends moved on. He earned his accounting degree in 1977.

The next year he entered law school, quickly changing from tax to criminal law.

The next year he went to Delta State to be coached by legendary “Boo” Ferriss.

He often skipped class to watch real trials.
He earned his J.D. in 1981 and married Renee that same year.

They settled in Southaven, MS where John had a successful start as a lawyer.

In his first big case, he got a man acquitted of murder by self-defense.

1983 was a big year, John became a state representative in MS, and they had their first child, Ty.
IN 1984 HE PASSED BY A COURTROOM WHERE A FRAIL RAPE VICTIM WAS TESTIFYING

IT GOT HIS IMAGINATION GOING FOR A STORY

RENEE WAS AN AVID READER WHO HELPED CRITICALLY GUIDE HIS WRITING

HE BEGAN STAYING UP LATE AND GETTING UP EARLY, TO WRITE

IT TOOK OVER A YEAR

HIS OFFICE SECRETARY TYPED UP THE MANUSCRIPT AND MAILED SAMPLES TO OVER 30 AGENTS

HE FINALLY HEARD BACK FROM THE 16TH, IN APRIL 1987 WHO WOULD REPRESENT HIM. IN 1988 JOHN WAS RE-ELECTED TO THE STATEHOUSE. HIS AGENT SAID TO START WRITING THE NEXT BOOK INSTEAD OF CALLING TO CHECK THE PROGRESS THE AGENT WAS MAKING...

28 AGENTS REJECTED HIS WORK
In June 1989 A Time to Kill was published. It did not sell well at first, nor promoted well by the publisher, so it did not stand out.

Grisham is quoted as saying "It's better than my other books] because you can almost smell the biscuits and the eggs and the grits and... feel the sweat sticking to their shirts..."

He spent six months sketching out his next novel, he wanted it to be fast paced, a thriller with wide appeal. Two years, countless rewrites, and constructive criticism from Renee...
John came up with the idea of a young law grad receiving offers from elite firms, accepting a job with a smaller family oriented firm in Memphis... A great office, car, and home in Memphis.

Unfortunately, work in the firm was too good to be true—It was a front to protect the Mafia, under investigation by the F.B.I.!

On his way out to Sunday church he got an urgent call from his agent, there wasn’t an offer from a publisher...

This time he already had an agent, to shop the story, how would it fare?
His agent needed an OK to take the highest studio offer for making the firm into a film.

Paramount paid $600,000 for the movie rights!!!

He now had time to write a book about the Supreme Court!

He went to D.C. to research, which he normally shunned.
Again he sold the movie rights before the book rights.

In the spring of 1992 it was announced Tom Cruise would play Mitch McDeere in the firm.

Around this time a reporter surveyed ten air passengers on the book they were reading. He had a time to kill with them, a fifth was halfway through the Pelican Brief.

Other successes followed...

In January 1996 he returned to law winning a suit for a widow against the Illinois Central Railroad.

Later that year he sued his late agent's estate.
TO ESCAPE FANS JOHN AND RENEE MOVED TO A FARM IN VIRGINIA

THEY MADE CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR CHURCH AND ENOUGH TO OPEN A 4 FIELD BASEBALL PARK FOR YOUTHS

THEY ALSO DONATED TO MISSISSIPPI STATE AND CREATED A TEACHER EXCELLENCE AWARD.

SINCE HIS SUCCESS IN THE EARLY 90'S HE HAS WRITTEN AT LEAST ONE NOVEL PER YEAR, MOST RECENTLY THE WHISTLER IN 2016


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