

Book review

Grisham fires 'Chamber'

Author crafts gripping story with familiar style, focuses on a lawyer's search for his past

By Jeremy Keddle
THE BATTALION

"The Chamber"
By John Grisham
Previous works: "A Time to Kill," "The Firm," "The Pelican Brief," and "The Client"
Doubleday, \$24.95, 486

Curious about the gas chamber and what a death row inmate ponders?

If so, John Grisham's latest novel "The Chamber" is sure to be a page turner for you.

Similar to his 1991 best-selling novel "The Firm" Grisham's latest focuses on a rookie lawyer, Adam Hall, who is eager to establish a name in his firm.

However, the novel lacks the fast-paced action of "The Firm" and instead evolves into a story centered on a family's history.

During the 1960s civil rights movement, the novel unfolds after the Ku Klux Klan bombs a Jewish lawyer's office. The accused, Sam Cayhall, manages to beat two capital murder trials by hung juries until the case is reopened in 1979.

A fellow Klan member tries to beat an income tax evasion charge by testifying about the bombing.

The trial leads to a conviction and a death sentence for Cayhall, who now awaits his execution scheduled for 1990.

Hall, a single lawyer, asks his Chicago firm to let him work on the Cayhall case on pro bono (free of charge) terms.

Hall has his reasons for working on this particular case which might end up getting him dismissed from the firm before he passes his bar exam. Cayhall is Hall's grandfather and the accused is badly in need of representation.

Here lies the second story within the first — the secrets of the Cayhall family and four generations of Klu Klux Klan membership.

Hall wants to know everything about the long, lost history of his family.

By portraying the family's secrets and problems, Grisham returns to themes from "A Time to Kill," the best-selling novel dealing with a father enraged over his daughter's rape and murder.

"The Chamber" reads similarly and is filled with Grisham's smooth ear-catching dialogue.

With Cayhall's sister Aunt Lee, Grisham again presents a strong feminine protagonist, such as Darby Shaw, a character from another Grisham novel "The Pelican Brief."

From Lee and Cayhall, Hall learns about his lost past and secrets which he cannot stand to hear, including what happened to his father.

Once again, Grisham presents society's concerns and problems through his characters, such as Lee's alcoholism and unconventional marriage. Grisham repeatedly hounds the press and reporters, and addresses human concerns about the death penalty.

The two themes, Hall's curiosity and Cayhall's attempt to postpone the execution, build upon each other. The grandfather and Hall battle the courts together hoping to save his life and fulfill Hall's curiosity about the Cayhall family.

Most impressive is the background information which Grisham acquired for writing "The Chamber." He briefly explains in his acknowledgements that, as a criminal defense attorney, he never had a client convicted of capital punishment. For the novel, Grisham interviewed other lawyers and visited death row at a prison.

As a result, "The Chamber" is by far Grisham's most realistic novel and entertains for that precise reason.

Winery

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"We do the same thing here with our Harvest Pickers Club," Hale said.

Harvest takes place four weekends in the summer. This year's festival falls on the weekends of July 23, July 30, August 6 and August 13.

But if you can't make the harvest dates, Messina Hof offers many guided tours throughout the week.

Each begins in the reception area, which has its own interesting history. Tumulty said the building was once one of the most beautiful homes in Bryan until age and neglect almost caused it to be demolished by the city.

Tours include an explanation of the characteristics of "good" wine, the fermentation and wine-making processes, aging, bottling and more.

And each tour saves the best for last — an educational wine-tasting demonstration.

Flintstones

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this film to the screen, this could have been so much better.

On the good side, the visuals are entertaining, there are a few decent laughs and the story reinforces family values.

Younger viewers will be impressed by the stone sets and props, and the many in-joke references to the Stone Age (Albert Ein-stone, the BC-52's, etc.).

But re-creating a cartoon as a cartoon-looking, live-action movie will only mildly entertain adults, some of whom might remember the series' original run.

Towards the end I even found myself praying for Gazoo, the green alien from the cartoon series, to enter the storyline and save the day, but he never came.

If you can't resist the hype and must see the movie, here's my advice: Yabba Dabba Don't.

KAPLAN

Summer classes for the August 20 MCAT

Diagnostic	Biology I	Organic Chemistry I	Verbal Reasoning I	Writing Sample	Physics I	General Chemistry	AAMC Practice Test II	Biology II	Organic Chemistry II	Verbal Reasoning II	Writing Sample II	Physics II	General Chemistry II	Final Test	Final Test Review	Virtual Reality MCAT
CME304: EVERY MONDAY NIGHT FROM 6PM-10PM																
Mon 5/30	Mon 6/6	Mon 6/6	Mon 6/13	Mon 6/13	Mon 6/20	Mon 6/20	Sat 7/2	Mon 7/4	Mon 7/4	Mon 7/11	Mon 7/11	Mon 7/18	Mon 7/18	Mon 7/25	Mon 8/1	SAT 8/13
CMF044: EVERY SATURDAY FROM 10AM-2PM																
Sat 6/4	Sat 6/11	Sat 6/11	Sat 6/18	Sat 6/18	Sat 6/25	Sat 6/25	Sat 7/2	Sat 7/9	Sat 7/9	Sat 7/16	Sat 7/16	Sat 7/23	Sat 7/23	Sat 7/30	Sat 8/6	SAT 8/13
CMF074: EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT FROM 6PM-10PM																
Tue 6/7	Tue 6/14	Tue 6/14	Tue 6/21	Tue 6/21	Tue 6/28	Tue 6/28	Sat 7/2	Tue 7/12	Tue 7/12	Tue 7/19	Tue 7/19	Tue 7/26	Tue 7/26	Tue 8/2	Tue 8/9	SAT 8/13
CMF084: EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT FROM 6PM-10PM																
Wed 6/8	Wed 6/15	Wed 6/15	Wed 6/22	Wed 6/22	Wed 6/29	Wed 6/29	Sat 7/2	Wed 7/13	Wed 7/13	Wed 7/20	Wed 7/20	Wed 7/27	Wed 7/27	Wed 8/3	Wed 8/10	SAT 8/13

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STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICE

...a Dept. in the Division of Student Affairs
PERSONAL COUNSELING GROUPS

WHAT IS GROUP COUNSELING AND HOW CAN IT HELP?

Group counseling involves four to ten people meeting with one or two trained counselors to talk about things that are concerning them. The group provides a safe environment because group membership and everything said in group is confidential. Group members learn new ways of behaving and interacting with others by expressing their own feelings about what someone says or does. With the guidance of the counselor(s), the group provides support and offers alternatives to members so that they may resolve difficulties and develop new ways of relating to people.

Group counseling also provides the opportunity for people to see that they are not alone with their problems. How much you talk about yourself depends on what you are comfortable with. You can benefit from group even when you are saying little because you will learn about yourself as others talk about their concerns.

SCS COUNSELING GROUPS FOR SUMMER 1994

If you feel that a particular group may be of help to you, make an appointment at the Student Counseling Service, in Henderson Hall, to speak to a screening counselor. The counselor can help you determine if group counseling would benefit you. If you have any questions concerning group counseling, call Dr. Laura Bettor (845-4427 ext. 126) at the Student Counseling Service.

ADULT CHILDREN OR ALCOHOLICS/ADULT CHILDREN OF DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY SYSTEMS

Monday 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Group 1
Tuesday 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Group 2
Support and counseling group for students who grew up in a dysfunctional family system. Topics of discussion include divorce, physical and/or emotional abuse, substance abuse, etc.
Co-leaders: Robert Carter & Janet Olson Gay - Group 1
Larry Alford & Jeff Hird - Group 2

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
This group provides support for African-American students and explores issues related to gender-based expectations of performance. Issues such as self-awareness, sexuality, and self-discovery will be explored.
Leader: Brian Williams

BIOFEEDBACK WORKSHOPS

Wednesday 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
Thursday 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
One-session workshops designed to give students an introduction to relaxation techniques, including how biofeedback aids in relaxation.
Individual follow-up consultation available.
Leader: Nick Dobrovolsky

EMPOWERING YOURSELF I: SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN MOLESTED AS CHILDREN

Tuesday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
A group for women with sexual molestation in their past and who are at the beginning stages of the healing process. Emphasis is on handling relationships, building self-esteem, and gaining personal power.
Co-Leaders: Laura Bettor & Janet Olson Gay

EMPOWERING YOURSELF II: SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN AND MEN MOLESTED AS CHILDREN

Monday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
A group for women and men with sexual molestation in their past. Identifying and exploring aftereffects of the abuse will be the focus. Emphasis is on handling relationships, building self-esteem, and gaining personal power.
Co-leaders: Laura Bettor & Larry Alford

GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL GROUP

Tuesday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
This group will consist of 4-12 gay/lesbian/bisexual students. The primary focus of the group will not be limited to sexual orientation issues. Topics may include: relationship issues, coming out to family and friends, religious concerns, and self-esteem, etc.
Co-leaders: Mary Ann Moore & Maralyn Billings

GRADUATE STUDENT GROUP

Thursday 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
A group for graduate students wanting more meaningful relationships. Self-disclosure and exploring interpersonal power in a safe environment will be emphasized.
Co-leaders: Ron Lutz & Gisela Lin

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT GROUP

Friday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
International students meet on a weekly basis to support each other as they cope with adjusting to the University, the community, and the U.S., making friends, improving their relationships with others; etc. This is also a place to explore cultural differences and practice English speaking skills.
Co-leaders: Gisela Lin & Wade Birch

OLDER THAN TRADITIONAL AGE GROUP

Thursday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
This group is for students whose concerns are related to issues which are different from traditional undergraduate concerns. Marriage, divorce, office politics, committee chairpersons, dissertation projects, and dealing with children and spouses are potential group topics.
Co-leaders: Nick Dobrovolsky & Michael Penticuff

UNDERGRADUATE GROUP

Wednesday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
The purpose of this group for undergraduates is to facilitate self-exploration and personal growth through interaction with other students.
Co-leaders: Laura Bettor & Jeff Hird

DISSERTATION/THESIS SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
This group is for graduate students who are struggling in the process of writing their theses/dissertations. Potential group topics are issues of competence, procrastination, anxiety, goal-setting, and struggles with bureaucratic hurdles.
Co-leaders: Michael Penticuff & Jeff Hird

Texas A&M University has a strong institutional commitment to the principle of diversity in all areas. In that spirit, admission to Texas A&M University and any of its sponsored programs is open to all qualified individuals without regard to any subgroup classification or stereotype.



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