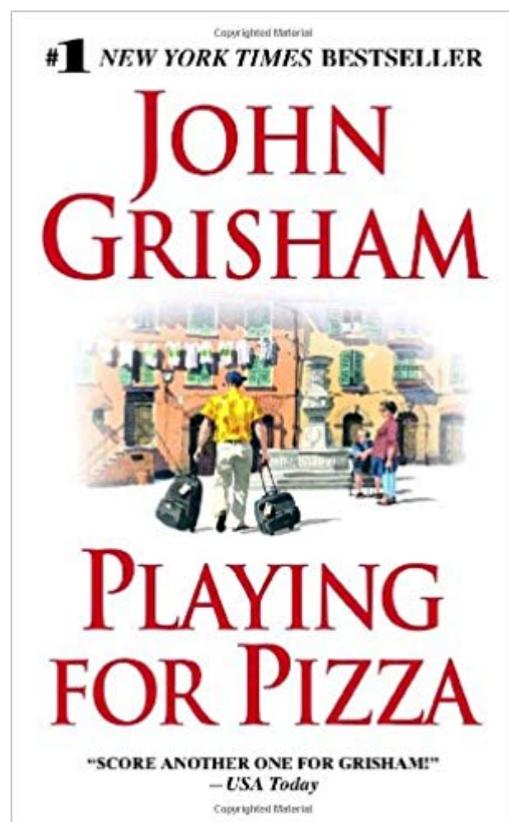


## Playing for Pizza by John Grisham



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**Author:** John Grisham

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Rick Dockery was the third-string quarterback for the Cleveland Browns. In the AFC Championship game, to the surprise and dismay of virtually everyone, Rick actually got into the game. With a 17-point lead and just minutes to go, Rick provided what was arguably the worst single performance in the history of the NFL. Overnight, he became a national laughingstock—and was immediately cut by the Browns and shunned by all other teams. But all Rick knows is football, and he insists that his agent find a team that needs him. Against enormous odds, Rick finally gets a job—as the *starting* quarterback for the Mighty Panthers . . . of Parma, Italy. The Parma Panthers desperately want a former NFL player—any former NFL player—at their helm. And now they've got Rick, who knows nothing about Parma (not even where it is) and doesn't speak a word of Italian. To say that Italy—the land of fine wines, extremely small cars, and *football americano*—holds a few surprises for Rick Dockery would be something of an understatement. . . .



## Reviews of the **Playing for Pizza** by John Grisham

### Lamranily

I loved that the main character was level headed and smart. That he took what was given to him and found a way to make it work. I didn't find it plausible that he spoke no Italian but could communicate

to an Italian team of players so easily on the field. But then, I've never played football so maybe much of the communication is non-verbal. I loved all of the descriptions of the local food.

### **Ximathewi**

Quick John Grisham read--- one of three novels he has written that have sports as a setting (as far as I know). Story of a fallen NFL football player who finds himself playing in a lower-level Italian American-style football league held interest. Liked watching the main character grow as a person and realize sports is secondary to relationships. My mother was Sicilian--- so I enjoyed the Italy travelogue and cultural references. Definitely a light read--- his other two sports-related books (Calico Joe | baseball and Bleachers | Football both have a more serious theme). I recommend Playing for Pizze to football fans--- but others should look for another John Grisham book (he has many). I enjoyed both Cocalico Joe and Bleachers--- would recommend you read them. Which one? Go by the sport you prefer. Not a sport fan? I'd go with Cocalico Joe.

### **Otrytreri**

A blatant political attack on Capital punishment from an emotional rather than rational view point. Drags the reader through multiple, lengthy, repetitive word drizzles [I was going to stay word storm, but too boring too qualify] of unnecessary verbiage. His treatment of the mother of the victim was shameful at best. Should have researched the structure of the LCMS. The church body has neither a bishop or nor a very hierarchical structure.

I skipped through huge parts of this book - it could perhaps have been an acceptable short story or novella.

I expected more from John Grisham.

### **Onoxyleili**

Timely, terrifying, realistic and gripping, "The Confession" takes the reader through the often questionable processes of the criminal and judicial systems, aptly demonstrating that "criminal justice" is often a misnomer and an oxymoron. Grisham deftly weaves current events and recognizable characters into this tale of process and people sacrificed on the altar of expediency, ambition, politics, and personal gain. Literally and figuratively, "ripped from the headlines," the story provides thought-provoking questions to those who struggle with issues of good and evil, retribution and understanding, and the ethics of state-sanctioned murder. A good read, I recommend this book.

### **Wiliniett**

It was a typical Grisham page-turner, so I enjoyed it in that sense. However, it was definitely written with a political agenda in mind. I don't want to give away the book, but the agenda definitely drove the entire story, and the ending was a bit anti-climatic because of it. Since it was fiction, I would have written the ending to be a little bit more sensational, but that wouldn't have served the agenda well.

In summary, the agenda was not so distracting that it wasn't a good book, but it was noticeable enough that I could tell that he started with wanting to make a point and built the story around it.

### **Beahelm**

The Confession is the latest legal thriller from accomplished author John Grisham. I've read many of Grisham's books and have enjoyed almost all of them. In this book I found that in some ways I was more engrossed and captivated by the story than any other Grisham book I've read, and at the same time, very much turned off by Grisham's blatant political agenda in the book.

The basic premise of the book is that a white girl in a small Texas town goes missing. After no evidence is found, the police receive a 'tip' that it was a young black classmate of the girl. During the interrogation the detectives manage to force a confession out of the boy, who is subsequently convicted and sentenced to the death penalty.

Meanwhile, the real killer is free. Days before the scheduled execution, the real killer begins to come

forward with his own confession... The bulk of the book takes place during these tense last hours. From this standpoint, I was enthralled by the tension and the storyline (I don't want to give away anymore details, as it may ruin some of the tension for potential readers of the book).

However, it is clear that Grisham is trying to blast the ethics of capital punishment... along the way, he uses the most common arguments put forth by liberals: the fallibility of the criminal justice system, "excessive" governmental power, the insufficiency of revenge as a motive, and most predominantly in the book - the possibility of executing an innocent person.

Various Christians and pastors are predominant throughout the book - and as a pastor myself, I was intrigued to see how their views were represented. Sadly, Grisham does a very poor job on this crucial element of his book.

In this entry, I do not have the time or space to give a more balanced, thoughtful, and in-depth view of this sensitive issue. However, for anyone interested, I would highly recommend J. Daryl Charles article "The Ethics of Capital Punishment" found here: [...]

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