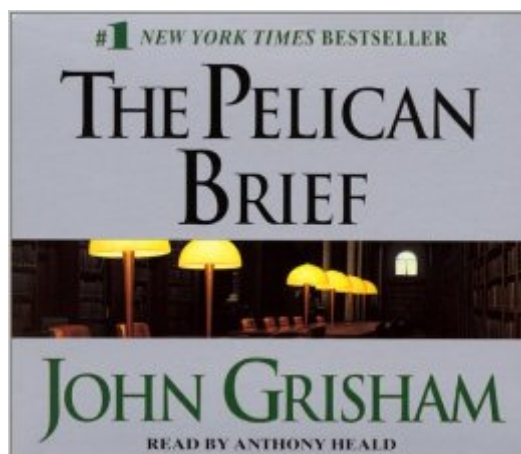


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# The Pelican Brief (John Grisham)



## Synopsis

Five CDs, 6 hrs. performance by Anthony Heald  
Late one October night Justice Abe Rosenberg, at ninety-one the Supreme Court's Liberal legend, is shot to death in his Georgetown home. Two hours later Glenn Jensen, the Court's youngest and most conservative justice, is strangled. The country is stunned; the FBI has no clues. But Darby Shaw, a brilliant law student at Tulane, thinks she has the answer. Days of digging through the law library's computers have led her to draft a brief speculating on an obscure connection between the two justices and a most unlikely suspect. Her suspect has powerful friends: one evening, outside a New Orleans restaurant, Darby narrowly escapes an assassin's car bomb. Someone has read her brief "someone who wants her dead. Alone and frightened, Darby disappears into the anonymous shadows of the French Quarter, where she contacts the investigative reporter Gary Grantham and convinces him that Washington's position on the killings amounts to the biggest cover-up since Watergate. Together they go underground on the run, trying to stay alive long enough to expose the real truth contained in the Pelican Brief.

## Book Information

Series: John Grisham

Audio CD

Publisher: Random House Audio; Abridged edition (February 6, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0553712675

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Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 1.1 x 4.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (493 customer reviews)

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[Authors, A-Z > \( G \) > Grisham, John](#) #553 in [Books > Books on CD > General](#) #638 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged](#)

## Customer Reviews

"The Pelican Brief" by John Grisham is an exciting novel with an amazing plot. It begins by introducing the character Khamel, a crazed killer who is paid to murder two Supreme Court Justices, named Rosenberg and Jensen, both who have received many death threats but refuse to let the FBI protect them. In New Orleans at Tulane University, Darby Shaw, an attractive second year law

student, was trying to solve the mystery behind the killings. Darby had a thirteen page brief on who she thought killed the justices. The brief was passed on to many people and it finally came to the President, who after reading the report became very scared. The FBI wanted to pursue the lead, but after a phone call from the President that told them to back off it, they decided to look at other suspects. In the meantime, reporter Gray Grantham received a call in the middle of the night from "Garcia" who said that he might know something about the case. Darby was on a date with her lover/professor when he got a little too drunk to drive. Darby insisted that she drive or walk, and to her surprise, he told her to walk. When the professor got into his car and started the engine, the car exploded, killing him on the spot. Darby called a friend of the professor, Gavin, and told him what happened because he was the first to see the brief which was later named "The Pelican Brief". Through all of this chaos, Darby managed to stay alive and found time to meet Gray Grantham in Washington D.C. He learned her entire story and in order to confirm it all, they had to find "Garcia". They knew that he was a lawyer at a small firm in Washington D.C., so they asked the many interns there if they recognized a picture of him. One out of seven did, so they go to meet him.

This is obviously the era of Grisham's finer works. The Pelican Brief certainly belongs in that category. Though I do wonder about a theme in the author's books where there's an inappropriate relationship going on (i.e. affairs, suggested affairs.) Here, it's a law student who's sleeping with her professor. Thankfully, she's smart on her own, or I'd really hate this book. So let's delve into Darby Shaw. She's awesome! For starters, I like her name, "Darby". I've never heard it before but it works so well. Like I said, she's smart...exceptionally smart in fact, and that's always a huge plus with me. The fact that she soon finds herself in peril because of what she knows or might know and is consequently in fear for her life makes her human, and that again is a plus for me. Her dialogue is also witty and worth listening to. We need more female protagonists like her out there. The reporter, Gray Grantham, was good too, though Darby wins. He was smart for sure, but he never showed himself as being as smart as her. I'm absolutely thankful that he wasn't made out to be her hero or knight in shining armor. These two actually work together to expose the conspiracy at hand and I enjoyed every bit of the ride. My main problem, apart from this audio book being abridged, is the villain. I'm completely fine with there being an unseen menace for the protagonists to deal with, but this villain, Victor Mattiece, appears once and only briefly. I'd have liked it better if he never appeared in the book and was only talked about as was the case most of the time. His brief appearance without any encores was just too out-of-place for me. Also, there was a hint of romance in the book, which I could have done without.

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