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From: John Grisham <~~john.grisham@deloitte.com~~>

To: Reader <~~reader@deloitte.com~~>

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021, 03:03:16 PM EDT

Subject: Meet the Real-Life Cullen Post

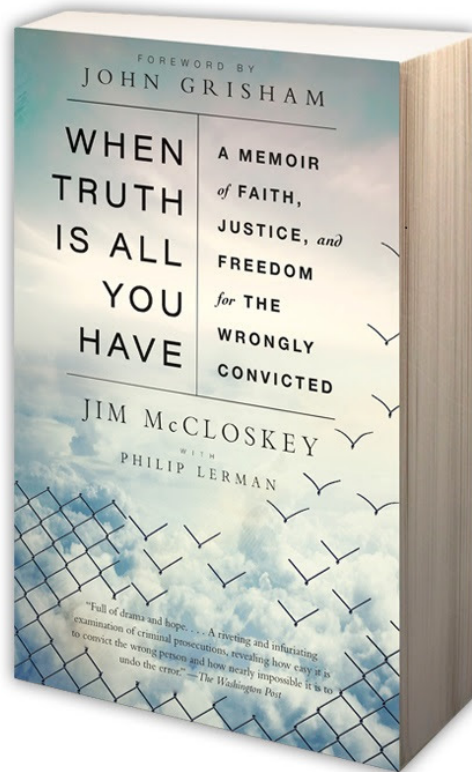


Dear Reader,

Jim McCloskey's life story served as inspiration for my book *The Guardians*. Like Cullen Post, he is committed to the tireless work of freeing wrongfully convicted people. His memoir, *When Truth Is All You Have: A Memoir of Faith, Justice, and Freedom for the Wrongly Convicted* is now available in paperback.

I had the privilege of writing the foreword to the book, and wanted to share an excerpt with you on why Jim's work is so important.

Read an Excerpt from My Foreword of *When Truth Is All You Have*



There are thousands of innocent people convicted and locked away in prison. Most Americans, or most white ones anyway, do not believe this. Those with darker skin know better because they have seen and lived this reality. But since the vast majority of Americans will never be affected by wrongful convictions they are not concerned with them. They see another sensational story of an exoneration and pause long enough to say, “What a shame.” Which is usually followed by: “But he was probably guilty of something or he wouldn’t have been convicted in the first place.”

Few people care enough about wrongful convictions to volunteer with an innocence organization. Few even know how their elected officials vote on innocence issues. Wrongful convictions are on no one’s list of our most important problems. Occasionally, when an exoneree retaliates with a big lawsuit and the taxpayers are forced

to pay millions in damages, this gets some attention and causes some resentment but nothing changes. We hear the common refrain that “the system is broken” but there is little effort to fix it. So wrongful convictions continue, and the few lucky inmates are exonerated years later, while the majority serve long sentences for crimes committed by someone else. Life goes on for the rest of us.

...

Convicting an innocent person is relatively easy. Just put together a few of the usual causes — lying snitches, bogus forensic experts, cheating cops and prosecutors, a sleeping judge — and the jury can be convinced. On the other hand, exonerating that same defendant is virtually impossible. It takes years, some luck, and at least \$200,000 squeezed from private donors.

And it also takes an advocate who is tireless, fearless, and dedicated to justice.

A man like Jim McCloskey, the dean of all innocence advocates —
The Exonerator.

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“A riveting and infuriating examination of criminal prosecutions, revealing how easy it is to convict the wrong person and how nearly impossible it is to undo the error.”

—*The Washington Post*

“No one has illuminated this problem more thoughtfully and persistently.”

—Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy*

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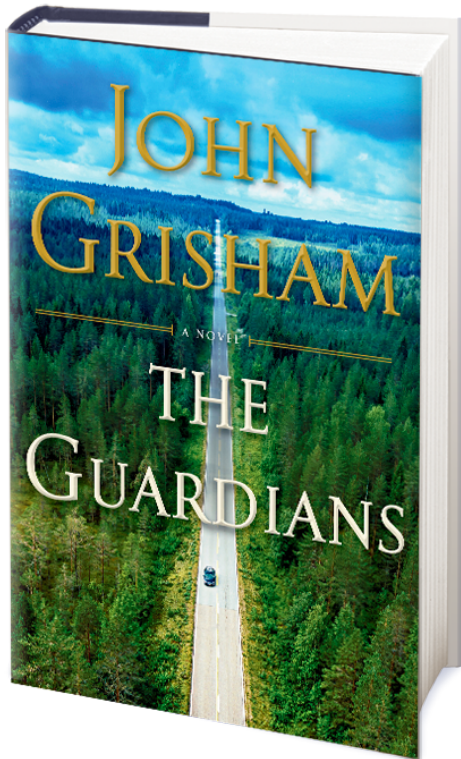
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Read the Novel Inspired by Jim McCloskey



The Guardians

#1 New York Times Bestseller

In the small Florida town of Seabrook, a young lawyer named Keith Russo was shot dead at his desk as he worked late one night. The killer left no clues. There were no witnesses, no one with a motive. But the police soon came to suspect Quincy Miller, a young black man who was once a client of Russo's.

Quincy was tried, convicted, and sent to prison for life. For twenty-two years he languished in prison, maintaining his innocence. But no one was listening. He had no lawyer, no advocate on the outside.

In desperation, he writes a letter to Guardian Ministries, a small nonprofit run by Cullen Post, a lawyer who is also an Episcopal minister.

Guardian accepts only a few innocence cases at a time. Cullen Post travels the country fighting wrongful convictions and taking on clients forgotten by the system. With Quincy Miller, though, he gets far more than he bargained for. Powerful, ruthless people murdered Keith Russo, and they do not want Quincy Miller exonerated.

They killed one lawyer twenty-two years ago, and they will kill another without a second thought.

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