



One L: The Turbulent True Story of a First Year at Harvard Law School

By Scott Turow

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One L, Scott Turow's journal of his first year at law school introduces and a best-seller when it was first published in 1977, has gone on to become a virtual bible for prospective law students. Not only does it introduce with remarkable clarity the ideas and issues that are the stuff of legal education; it brings alive the anxiety and competitiveness--with others and, even more, with oneself--that set the tone in this crucible of character building. Turow's multidimensional delving into his protagonists' psyches and his marvelous gift for suspense prefigure the achievements of his celebrated first novel, *Presumed Innocent*, one of the best-selling and most talked about books of 1987.

Each September, a new crop of students enter Harvard Law School to begin an intense, often grueling, sometimes harrowing year of introduction to the law. Turow's group of One Ls are fresh, bright, ambitious, and more than a little daunting. Even more impressive are the faculty: Perini, the dazzling, combative professor of contracts, who presents himself as the students' antagonist in their struggle to master his subject; Zechman, the reserved professor of torts who seems so indecisive the students fear he cannot teach; and Nicky Morris, a young, appealing man who stressed the humanistic aspects of law.

Will the One Ls survive? Will they excel? Will they make the *Law Review*, the outward and visible sign of success in this ultra-conservative microcosm? With remarkable insight into both his fellows and himself, Turow leads us through the ups and downs, the small triumphs and tragedies of the year, in an absorbing and thought-provoking narrative that teaches the reader not only about law school and the law but about the human beings who make them what they are.

In the new afterword for this edition of *One L*, the author looks back on law school from the perspective of ten years' work as a lawyer and offers some suggestions for reforming legal education.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Actor Paul Rudd deftly narrates this fascinating story of author Turow's experience as a first-year Harvard Law School student. Moreover, Rudd's voice sounds remarkably like Turow's, who provides an introduction. Personal narratives written by successful, famous persons should have to pass a humility test in which all references to entrance exam scores, grade point averages, and collegial or professional honors are stricken from the text, and editors' jobs should depend on how well they apply that test. The editor of this production would receive a solid A-. Even though we know he goes on to fabulous success as both a lawyer and a writer, Turow's initial ego is beautifully subdued by the end of his year as a "One L."?Mark Pumphrey, Polk Cty. P.L., Columbus, NC

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Review

"The most accurate, complete, and balanced description yet of a century-old rite of passage in America."--Bruce Bortz, *Baltimore Sun*

"A sensitive, dramatically paced account of the author's first year at Harvard Law School...I read the book as if it were the most absorbing of thrillers, losing track of the time I spent with it, and resenting the hours I had to be away from it...It should be read by anyone who has ever contemplated going to law school. or anyone who has ever worried about being human."--Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, *The New York Times*

About the Author

SCOTT TUROW is the author of five worldwide bestselling novels. He recently published a work of non-fiction, *Ultimate Punishment*, after serving on the Illinois commission that investigated the administration of the death penalty and influenced Governor George Ryan's unprecedented commutation of the sentences of 164 death row inmates on his last day in office. He lives with his family outside Chicago, where he is partner in the firm of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal.

Holter Graham, winner of *AudioFile*'s 2008 Best Voice in Science Fiction & Fantasy for Sherrilyn Kenyon's *Acheron*, is a stage, television, and screen actor. A recipient of an *AudioFile* Earphones Award, he has recorded numerous audiobooks, including multiple books from Sherrilyn Kenyon's sensationally bestselling Dark-Hunter series. He has also narrated audiobooks for such authors as Scott Turow, Dean Koontz, John Berendt, and Stephen Frey. His film credits include *Fly Away Home*, *Maximum Overdrive*, *Hairspray*, and *The Diversion*, a short film which he produced and as well as acted in. On television, he has appeared in *Army Wives*, *Damages*, *As The World Turns*, *Rescue Me*, *Law & Order* and *New York Undercover*. He received a B.A. from Skidmore College and an M.F.A. from Vermont College.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Vivian Bennett:

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Concepcion Shaw:

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