

Camino Island Book Review by Gianna

Camino Island John Grisham "Camino Island" is a fascinating thriller by John Grisham. It was my first book I read of his and since then I have been hooked. This book had many plot twists I did not expect and great characters. This is definitely a book I would read again. "Camino Island" is a little different from John Grisham's other books which are typically legal thrillers. This story explored the topic of rare book thefts. The book begins with a heist of the F. Scott Fitzgerald manuscripts which were located at Princeton University. An insurance company and the FBI are determined to track down the manuscripts which they believe to be with a bookstore owner, Bruce Cable, who is located in Camino Island. The insurance company approaches Mercer Mann, a struggling author with lots of debt. She is asked to live in her late grandma's cottage on the island while trying to become part of the "literary mafia" run by Bruce Cable. During her time on the island she develops close friendships especially with Bruce which forces her to question her morality and make difficult decisions. I enjoyed many things including: the suspense, setting, characters, and references to classic literature. The book was very suspenseful and the plot is put together with a lot of thought. I am usually someone who can tell what is coming next in a book, but (SPOILER) I was caught by surprise when I learned at the end of the book Bruce knew Mercer was undercover the whole time! As this was also my first John Grisham book I was not aware of how he can change topics so fast, which I liked. At the beginning of the book I thought the story was going in a whole different direction then it ended up, which was a surprise for me. Next, Grisham paints a beautiful setting of Camino Island. The Island really comes to life and I can picture exactly what he is saying. There is also a lot of mystery behind the island (SPOILER) especially when they talk more about Mercer's grandmother who died in a somewhat mysterious sailing accident with a "companion". The bookstore is also brought to life with the explanation of the background and the liveliness of the activities and people. The characters are nicely developed and each has a lot of background information. Mercer, the protagonist, has a journey of self discovery while on the island which adds a layer of emotional depth. Even the background characters have in depth detail which I really liked. Grisham is an amazing writer and you can tell he loves to write. There are a lot of references to classic literature and it was interesting to watch how the characters with different writing interests would talk to each other and that they each had their own personality based on their writing style. There was nothing I did not like but if I had to say something I think there could have been more exploration of Mercer's moral dilemmas. This was a very enjoyable read. I found the book to have a suspenseful and intriguing plot. The book shows a lot of insight in personal growth for many characters, especially Mercer and Bruce. I think teen readers can relate to the struggles and celebrations of Mercer. The book is engaging and perfectly paced. I also want to mention the book has some mature themes best for older teen readers.