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Playing for Pizza: A Novel

By John Grisham

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Playing for Pizza: A Novel By John Grisham

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Rick Dockery is the third-string quarterback for the Cleveland Browns. In the AFC Championship game, to the surprise and dismay of virtually everyone, Rick actually gets into the game. With a seventeen-point lead and just minutes to go, Rick provides what is arguably the worst single performance in the history of the NFL. Overnight, he becomes a national laughingstock—and is 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.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Playing for Pizza: A Q&A with John Grisham **Q:** American football in Italy seems like an unlikely subject for a John Grisham novel. What was the inspiration for *Playing for Pizza*? **A:** Three years ago when I was in Bologna researching "The Broker", I discovered American football. One of my guides in the area played football for the Bologna Warriors for 10 years. I couldn't believe that American football actually existed there, but the more I heard about it the more intrigued I became. **Q:** There is some great football writing in this novel. What kind of research was involved in capturing how this American institution is played in small town Italy? **A:** The only way to research the book was to go to Parma and watch a game. The coach is an American who played at Illinois State, and he proved to be extremely valuable. I met many of the Italian players and the story simply unfolded. **Q:** Speaking of research, you write lovingly of Italian food and wine in this book. What's your idea of the perfect Italian meal? **A:** First course: prosciutto and melon; second course: stuffed tortellini; third course: roasted stuffed capon, all served with a great Barolo wine. **Q:** Without giving away too much of the plot, your protagonist falls in love by the novel's end. Did you know when you started writing that Rick would get the girl? **A:** Of course. **Q:** You have a new legal thriller coming in January 2008. Can you give us any hints about what to expect? **A:** I really don't like to talk about a book until it's finished. Sorry. But it will not be another work of non-fiction, nor will it be about football. Lots of lawyers in the next one.

From Publishers Weekly

Third-string Cleveland Browns quarterback Rick Dockery becomes the greatest goat ever by throwing three interceptions in the closing minutes of the AFC championship game. Fleeing vengeful fans, he finds refuge in the grungiest corner of professional football, the Italian National Football League as quarterback of the inept but full-of-heart Parma Panthers. What ensues is a winsome football fable, replete with team bonding and character-building as the underdog Panthers challenge the powerhouse Bergamo Lions for a shot at the Italian Superbowl. The book is also the author's love letter to Italy. Rick is first baffled and then enchanted by all things Italian—tiny cars! opera! benign corruption!—and through him Grisham (*The Firm*) instructs his readership in the art of gracious living, featuring sumptuous four-hour, umpteenth-course meals. The writing sometimes lapses into travel-guide ("most Italian cities are sort of configured around a central square, called a piazza") and food porn ("[the veal cutlets are beaten with a small bat, then dipped in eggs, fried in a skillet, and then baked in the oven with a mix of parmigiano cheese and stock until the cheese melts"), but it's invigorated by appealing characters and lively play-by-play. The result is a charming fish-out-of-water story. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Review

"Delightfully comic . . . a deeply satisfying story."—*The Boston Globe*

"Fans of John Grisham live for his legal thrillers, but now and then he serves up something unexpected. That's exactly what he does, with great success, in *Playing for Pizza*."—*USA Today*

"A light-hearted story of football, food and love."—*Richmond Times-Dispatch*

“Enthralling.”—*People*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jack Alexandre:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important normally. The book *Playing for Pizza: A Novel* was making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The book *Playing for Pizza: A Novel* is not only giving you far more new information but also being your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship with all the book *Playing for Pizza: A Novel*. You never sense lose out for everything when you read some books.

Richard Broderick:

This *Playing for Pizza: A Novel* are generally reliable for you who want to become a successful person, why. The key reason why of this *Playing for Pizza: A Novel* can be among the great books you must have is actually giving you more than just simple examining food but feed a person with information that possibly will shock your previous knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed versions. Beside that this *Playing for Pizza: A Novel* forcing you to have an enormous of experience like rich vocabulary, giving you tryout of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

Samantha Smith:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the whole day to reading a guide. The book *Playing for Pizza: A Novel* it is very good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book offers high quality.

Tyler Dean:

Within this era which is the greater particular person or who has ability to do something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you should do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of many books in the top checklist in your reading list is definitely *Playing for Pizza: A Novel*. This book which can be qualified as *The Hungry Hills* can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking way up and review this book you can get many advantages.

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