***The Whistler***   
John Grisham, 2016Knopf Doubleday384 pp.ISBN-13: 9780385541190  
  
  
**Summary**  
A high-stakes thrill ride through the darkest corners of the Sunshine State.  
   
We expect our judges to be honest and wise. Their integrity is the bedrock of the entire judicial system. We trust them to ensure fair trials, to protect the rights of all litigants, to punish those who do wrong, and to oversee the flow of justice.  
  
But what happens when a judge bends the law or takes a bribe?  
  
Lacy Stoltz is an investigator for the Florida Board on Judicial Conduct. It is her job to respond to complaints dealing with judicial misconduct. After nine years with the Board, she knows that most problems are caused by incompetence, not corruption.  
  
But a corruption case eventually crosses her desk. A previously disbarred lawyer is back in business, and he claims to know of a Florida judge who has stolen more money than all other crooked judges combined.  
  
And not just crooked judges in Florida. All judges, from all states, and throughout United States history. And now he wants to put a stop to it.  
  
His only client is a person who knows the truth and wants to blow the whistle and collect millions under Florida law. When the case is assigned to Lacy, she immediately suspects that this one could be dangerous.  
  
Dangerous is one thing. Deadly is something else. (From the publisher.)

**Discussion Questions**  
We'll add publisher questions if and when they're  available; in the meantime, consider these LitLovers talking points to help start a discussion for The Whistler...then take off on your own:  
  
1. Talk about Lacy Stoltz. Grisham has been accused of ignoring strong females for his lead characters. Does Stoltz satisfy that lack? What do you think of her?  
  
2. Do you find anything enviable about Lacy's life in the following passage? If so what? If you're a woman, do you ever envision a life like Stoltz's?

The truth was that, at the age of 36, Lacy was content to live alone, to sleep in the center of the bed, to clean up only after herself, to make and spend her own money, to come and go as she pleased, to pursue her career without worrying about his, to plan her evenings with input from no one else, to cook or not to cook, and to have sole possession of the remote control.m. Describe Judge Claudia McDover.

3. Grisham's writing contains some sharp observations about lawyers. Pick out a few passages, like the lawyer he describes here as a "ham-and-egg street hustler." Are Grisham's observations about the legal profession in general fair? What things does he reveal about the law that perhaps we'd rather not know?  
  
4. Talk about the Coast Mafia and the crimes they commit. What about Vonn Dubose?  
  
5. Had you figured out the whistle blower's motive before the reveal?  
  
6. How does Grisham ratchet up the suspense in The Whistler? What about that mysterious late night meeting near the Tappacola reservation? Realistically, why would Lacy and Hugo have gone?  
  
7. Can you describe the elaborate crime scheme? Did you understand it...or is it too complicated to grasp?  
  
8. Read other Grisham novels? If so, how does this one compare?  
(Questions by LitLovers. Please feel free to use them, online or off, with attribution. Thanks.)