



Discussion Guide

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

JOHN GRISHAM



PLAYING FOR PIZZA

"SCORE ANOTHER ONE FOR GRISHAM!"
—USA Today

About the Book

Book Title: Playing for Pizza

Author: John Grisham

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Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. Rick Dockery just got chewed up and kicked out of American professional football. What did you think about the way Grisham told this story? Did you relate to the story in some way? Why or why not?
3. How did the Italian football league compare and contrast to American football?
4. Grisham tells the story of Italian community which revolves around the game of football. What did you enjoy about the Italian community? Did anything surprise you?
5. How did Rick's character adapt to Italian society? How did he change as a person? Would you say that Italy was good for Rick? Why or why not?
6. Have you read other Grisham books? If so, how did this book compare? If not, would you like to read more by him?
7. If you were a football player, would you rather play in the USA or Italy? Explain.
8. When you watch Grisham's YouTube video, you'll learn that he did this book to take a 'write-off' trip to Italy and to write a lighter, funny book. If you were an author, where would you go on a trip to right a fun book
9. Read over the MAMs comments on the book. Which of them do you most agree with and why?
10. In what ways, if any, will this change your life or perspective?

Enjoy these YouTube Videos to meet John Grisham in person:

John Grisham tackles football in new novel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtAZ-iMxqCI>

John Grisham On His Writing Style | genConnect All <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edfz5jepVb0>

Top 10 Best John Grisham Books https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFcRO_r5Bus



NANCY: It's good to read a light book now and then. I enjoyed the window into Italian society, opening into a view of comradery around football, food, wine and a different sort of Super Bowl. In this case, taking something American and making it Italian adds value. I loved the descriptions of the Italian meals and the way they loved their American football player, who could totally screw up on the American scene but still be a hero in their small town of Parma. Makes me want to go to Italy and experience some of that generosity and love.



SALLIE: I understand that John Grisham went on a Italian vacation, looking for a story, after writing a heavier book. A tax write-off. But I think his wife dragged him around to tourist sites, he didn't cover them with much depth. I'd like to know more about some of the stuff, like the dairy production! You know I grew up on a dairy farm. How do they make that great Parmesan cheese? This book's written from a man's point of view. What did I expect?



ABIGAIL: I'm with Sallie. I'd like to hear more about these places from a woman's point of view. He should have let his girlfriend exclaim over things. Maybe he should let his wife write the descriptions. If you watch the YouTube video, you'll learn his wife told him to take out some of the football and let the other stuff be more important. Personally, I enjoyed the football story, that was okay, but the descriptions were half-hearted.



MOLLY: I didn't know about these Italian football leagues. The black guys seemed to be a little like fish out of water. I appreciated how the Italians accepted them, but it seemed like they were just doing time until they could get back home with their families and friends. That's how it is when you visit a different county, you know? You're an outsider. I admire people who are able to live in a different country for awhile. It's not easy.



PRISCILLA: Well, I didn't care for the football stories so much, but I loved the descriptions of the towns. I wish Rick were a little more excited about the tourist thing, then John's descriptions might be better, too. In terms of romance, I wanted the Opera Singer to become a bigger part of the story. I loved the way her story mirrored Ricks. Why did John drop her out? A perfect love story!



KATHARINE: There's so much history, art and religion in Italy. I agree with Sallie and Priscilla on this one. Grisham didn't do the country justice. I've toured some of those churches and museums over there and they are really spectacular. I could say the problem is focusing on football! But I did enjoy learning about



JANE: Now here you've got some people using their money around their passion. One guy pays for the team, without much in return, other than the opportunity to have football in Parma. And the old farts get to live their dreams. You gotta love it. We all need to follow their lead and use our resources to do something we really enjoy and not rule out possibilities in old age! Hear! Hear!