

A Time to Kill

John Grisham

Questions – Chapter 3

- Who speaks at the beginning of chapter 3? (13)
- Why should Carl Lee be scared? (13)
- Why is Carl Lee's case not as easy as Lester's? (13-4)
- How much is Jake's fee to defend Carl Lee? (14)
- What do all lawyers love according to one of the deputies? (15)
- How does Jake feel about his publicity? (15)
- What happens on Wednesday at 10 o'clock? (16)
- What do the men talk at the Cobb's? (16)
- Why was Rufus Buckley delighted? (17)
- What is Ethel worried about? (18)
- What does Jake advise her and what does she want Jake to do?
- What is Lucien's advice for Jake? (19)
- According to Lucien, what is Jake's only defence strategy? (20)
- Is Carl Lee able to pay Jake's charge? (20)

Questions – Chapter 4

- Why does Carl Lee have to go in front of a jury of citizens? (21)
- What does Rufus Buckley say about Carl Lee? (21)
- How do the reporters react to Buckley's speech? (21)
- Who meets in a small hut in the forest in Nettles County? (21-22)
- What do they discuss? (22)
- How do they frighten people at night? (23)

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Questions – Chapter 5

How and why do Harry Rex and Jake Brigance exchange cases? (25)

Why is Harry “breathing heavily” when he enters the room? (25)

Why is Harry sure that Buckley will lose the Hailey case? (26)

Why does Jake say, “Relax Rufus...” (26)

Why does Buckley take “three steps in Jake’s direction”? (27)

What is the role of two psychiatrists in an ‘insanity defence’? (26-27)

Give several reasons why Carl would prefer to have the trial sooner. (27-28)

The fundraising for the Hailey family has a nice side-effect for Reverend Ollie Agee. Explain. (28)

How does the Ku Klux Klan behave towards Jake as a ‘nigger-loving lawyer’?

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Questions – Chapter 3

Who speaks at the beginning of chapter 3? (13)

Ozzie Walls and Jake Brigance, later Jake Brigance and Carl Lee Hailey.

Why should Carl Lee be scared? (13)

Because of the electric chair.

Why is Carl Lee's case not as easy as Lester's? (13-4)

Lester killed a black man, Carl Lee murdered two white men. Rufus Buckley would be the prosecutor.

How much is Jake's fee to defend Carl Lee? (14)

They agree on seven thousand, five hundred.

What do all lawyers love according to one of the deputies? (15)

They all love cameras (publicity).

How does Jake feel about his publicity? (15)

He thinks he looks good on TV and enjoys the publicity.

What happens on Wednesday at 10 o'clock? (16)

The two rapists are buried.

What do the men talk at the Cobb's? (16)

They talk about the good old times when niggers knew their place. They also talk about the Ku Klux Klan.

Why was Rufus Buckley delighted? (17)

He was pleased to see his name in the newspaper.

What is Ethel worried about? (18)

She and her husband have received a threatening call the night before.

What does Jake advise her and what does she want Jake to do?

He advises her to change her phone number and she wants him to stop defending Carl Lee.

What is Lucien's advice for Jake? (19)

He should try to get the trial moved to another county. Without enough blacks in the jury he would not have a chance. This county is only 26 percent black.

According to Lucien, what is Jake's only defence strategy? (20)

Jake can't say it was an accident or self-defence, so he has to say Carl Lee was insane.

Is Carl Lee able to pay Jake's charge? (20)

No, they can only pay nine hundred dollars since the banks in town refuse to lend them any money.

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Questions – Chapter 4

Why does Carl Lee have to go in front of a jury of citizens? (21)

They have to decide whether the two murders have happened and if it is reasonable for Carl Lee to stand trial.

What does Rufus Buckley say about Carl Lee? (21)

He accuses Carl Lee of being a lawless man and says he wants the trial to happen soon. He guarantees he will prove that Carl Lee is guilty of murder. He will die on the electrical chair.

How do the reporters react to Buckley's speech? (21)

They gradually leave the place.

Who meets in a small hut in the forest in Nettles County? (21-22)

Stump Sisson and a small group of Klansmen.

What do they discuss? (22)

They discuss what they could do about the murder.

How do they frighten people at night? (23)

The members of the Ku Klux Klan frighten people with burning crosses and threatening phone calls. They say there will also be violence.

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Questions – Chapter 5

How and why do Harry Rex and Jake Brigance exchange cases? (25)

Jake gets Harry's criminal cases and Harry takes Jake's marriage problem cases. They are friends and dislike other lawyers. Each one is good at either criminal or marriage problem cases.

Why is Harry “breathing heavily” when he enters the room? (25)

He weighs over three hundred pounds and has to climb the stairs up to Jake's office. Because of that he is out of breath.

Why is Harry sure that Buckley will lose the Hailey case? (26)

He says they will pick a good jury, twelve good and faithful citizens, and finally they will buy them.

Why does Jake say, “Relax Rufus...” (26)

Jake wants sixty days to prepare the case. Buckley, however, does not want to wait sixty days until the trial begins and the cameras re back again.

Why does Buckley take “three steps in Jake's direction”? (27)

He is angry because of Jake's remark.

What is the role of two psychiatrists in an ‘insanity defence’? (26-27)

They have to agree on the fact that the accused is insane.

Give several reasons why Carl would prefer to have the trial sooner. (27-28)

He says he has to get out of the jail. Gwen has got no money and she can't find a job. He hates to ask his family for help. Gwen has visited on Sunday and cried for an hour.

The fundraising for the Hailey family has a nice side-effect for Reverend Ollie Agee. Explain. (28)

He thinks there might be enough money to buy a new Cadillac for him.

How does the Ku Klux Klan behave towards Jake as a ‘nigger-loving lawyer’?

Several hours before the sun rises, three Klan members put up a wooden cross in the front yard of Jake's house and set fire to it.

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Questions – Chapter 6

1. What is it that Lucien and Dr. W.T. Bass have in common? (the same ‘hobby’)
2. “...they’ll need some reason to let him go.”(29) Explain this and comment critically!
3. p.30: How does Lucien try to win Dr. Bass for the job? (see “Then you won’t be able to ...)
4. Why is Dr. Bass not happy about taking the case?
5. p. 31: What is the problem about arranging the meeting of Dr. Bass with Carl Lee?
6. How is Deputy DeWayne Looney received by his colleagues?

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Questions – Chapter 7

1. How does Judge Noose react (a) to Jake's attempt to move the case to another part of the state and (b) to the great publicity about the case?
2. Speak about the money problems in Jake's firm!
3. What is Ethel's problem – and (b) Why would things get worse if Jake won the Hailey case?
4. Why does Jake need more publicity?
5. Who is the new Klansman and why does he join the Klan?
6. What is Ozzie's message when he presses the doorbell at Jake's house at night?
7. What does the man do with the box / suitcase?
8. How exactly does Ozzie treat the man – and force him to do what?
9. What does Jake say about Ozzie's behaviour?
10. Why is the man's friend also in hospital?

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Questions – Chapter 8

1. What is the role of drinking in Jake's present situation?
2. What is striking about the young woman? (characterise her and say what Jake thinks about her)
3. Speak about 'Boston' and 'the South'!
4. Why is she so interested in the Carl Lee case?

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Questions – Chapter 9

1. What is the role of drinking in Jake's present situation?
2. How many possible jury members are there – and how many are later selected?
3. Why is it important that nobody gets the list too early – and why does this happen anyway?
4. How does Harry Rex help Jake with the list?
5. Why is Harry Rex interested in Ellen Roark?
6. What happens to Bud Twitty and why?
7. How can Ozzie persuade Reverend Agee to give the money raised for Carl Lee to the latter?
8. How do the Ku Klux Klan people frighten the people on the list?