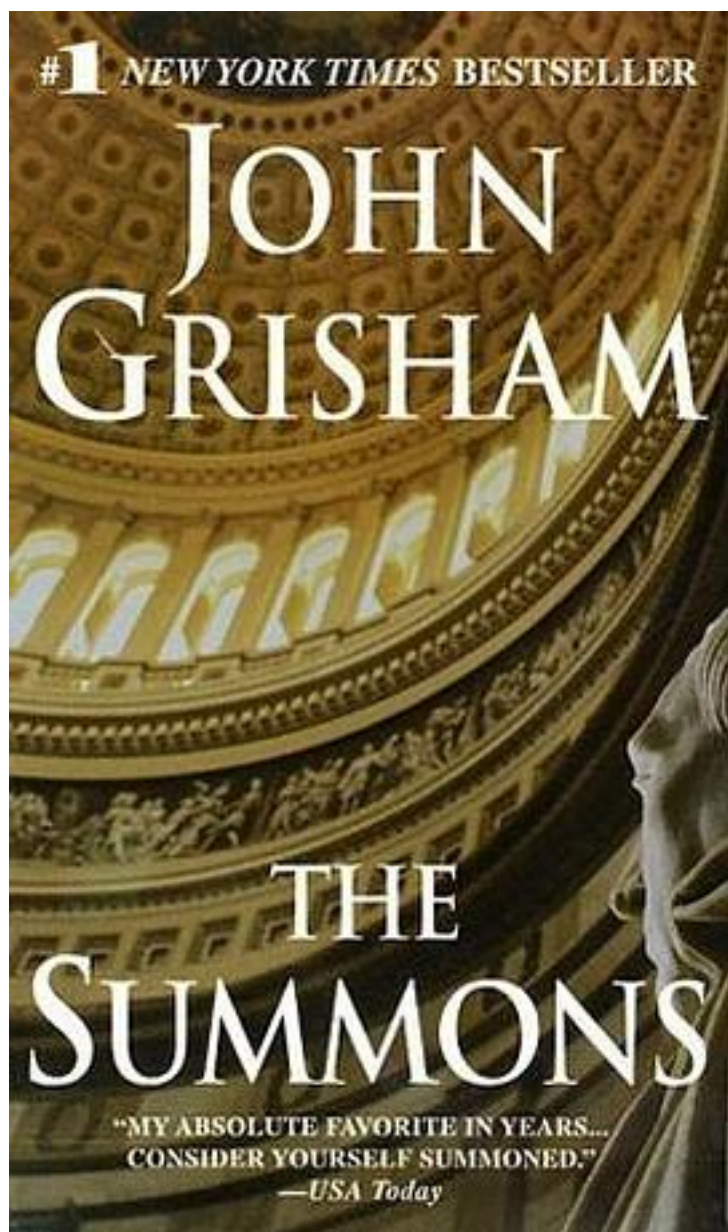


The Summons



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less than four months before the arrest. Sherry sat looking across the
littered dinner table at Jim Clemmons. She tossed her long, light brown
hair over her shoulder and sat back further in the padded, semicircular dinner
chair. With one ear she listened to his uninteresting conversation, a
polite smile plastered on her face. He's really not that good looking, she
observed. That's a short-sleeved shirt, but he rolls up the sleeves anyway to
show off his muscles. Jim carried on with his story, oblivious to any effect it
might be having. "... so I just realized this was the lift that could get me on
the team, and I got total focus, you know?" Sherry nodded. And I
just busted through every barrier with sheer power of will. That 380 pounds just
sailed up! "That sounds like a lot of weight." She raised her eyebrows and
tried to sound interested. "Well, for me it was an incredible weight. I
only weigh 195. So anyway, I figure if I just keep..." Sherry was able to let
her mind wander without Jim realizing it. I bet he's on steroids. I could live with
that if he'd just be real sometimes. Four dates now, and he never talks about
anything real. No interest in using his mind, only his body. He has no
idea what's going on in my life. How could he when he only talks about himself).
She looked out the picture window of the Acropolis restaurant at the river, now almost covered in the falling darkness. Two mallards drifted near the woods
on the far bank. I don't think this relationship's going anywhere, she
thought with resignation. Before long she began to complain about not
feeling well, and got Jim to take her home, which he was all too willing to
do. No doubt he would be expecting another roll in the hay like two weeks ago. It's
not going to happen, Sherry determined. She stopped and faced him at the door to
the cedar wood apartment building, resolved to end the evening right there.
He advanced upon her and kissed her, but she was cold as ice.

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