

Scott Turow

Attorney and Best-Selling Author

A Novelist Goes to Hollywood. A discussion of the rewards and perils when the movies buy your books. Six of my books have been purchased in Hollywood with one movie and two TV miniseries resulting. I recount the fun-interaction with stars and many good creative experiences-and the follies of Hollywood's complex business calculations, which sometimes make sense when you understand their perspectives.

How I Got To Be Two Things. Humorous reflections on having two careers. Tracing my early ambition to be a novelist, my many early failures and how the great break of my literary career turned out to be my decision to go to law school, with the ensuing challenges of maintaining careers as both a writer and a lawyer.

Where Are You Perry Mason? A discussion of the popular image of lawyers, focusing on the dizzying ambivalence Americans feel about lawyers and tracing the reasons for both their liking and loathing: attorneys' power in American society, their perceived dark sides and their ideals as reflected in stories in books, movies and TV.

Confessions of a Death Penalty Agnostic. A balanced discussion of capital punishment. As a prosecutor I supported the death penalty reluctantly, but my experiences as a defense lawyer and as a member of the Illinois Capital Punishment Commission made me realize that the important question about capital punishment is not whether it's moral but whether it can work as a legal institution to give Americans what they want from it.

The Billable Hour Must Die. Reflections on how contemporary billing practices interfere with the practice of law.

Storytelling in the Courtroom. A novelist talks to lawyers.