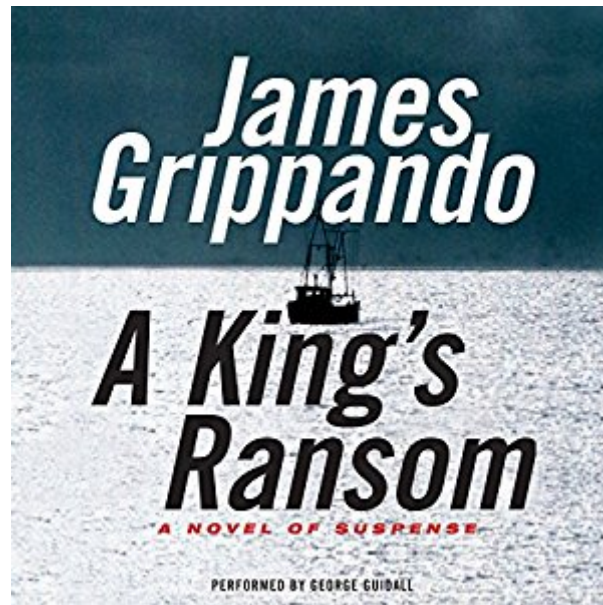


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# A King's Ransom



## Synopsis

Two years out of law school, Nick Rey is already on the fast track at a hot Miami law firm. But his dreams of success are overshadowed when his father, Matthew, is abducted while on a business trip to Colombia. The guerillas demand an impossible \$3 million ransom - the exact sum Matthew's kidnap-and-ransom insurance policy covers. The insurance company suspects fraud, however, and refuses to pay. And, as Nick soon learns, it isn't the guerillas who hold the key to his father's survival. A group of faceless lawyers at a powerful firm has something to hide and will stop at nothing to keep Nick from discovering the truth.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

While on business in Cartagena, Columbia, American businessman Matthew Rey is kidnapped and a \$3 million ransom is demanded for his safe return. His son Nick is a novice attorney who attempts to free him. Nick is thwarted in his efforts by a lawsuit originating from his own firm against his family. It seems that his father had taken out a \$3 million kidnapping insurance policy, and it looks as if the whole kidnapping is a set up by Matthew Rey to commit fraud. Worse yet, the FBI won't help because they believe Matthew is a drug smuggler and is somehow in cahoots with his Nicaraguan business partner. Since Nick cannot raise the money or negotiate his father's release through the usual methods, he enlists the help of a beautiful hostage negotiator, Alex Cabrera, as well as his former fiancée Jenna, who still has feelings for him. A KING'S RANSOM is a taunt, intelligent addition to the genre. Grippando has written a hot thriller, filled with plenty of action and

plot twists. This is an author I would not hesitate to read again.

On a business trip off the coast of Columbia, Matthew Rey, a partner in a seafood business, is kidnapped. The terms of the kidnapping are simple...supply the kidnapers with a three million dollar ransom. Back at home in Miami, Matthew's pregnant wife, and fresh out of law school son Nick, are devastated by the news. Nick, willing to do whatever is needed to free his father, begins looking into his families finances and discovers a kidnapping insurance policy for three million dollars. Shocked by his finding, Nick submits the claim, and is given Alex Cabrera, the young agent assigned to his claim. As Alex begins her discussions with the kidnapers, Nick is approached by the FBI, claiming his father is actually a drug smuggler, and they are investigating every angle, including his father's business partner, and his estranged sister Lindsey, whom the family has not spoken to in months, but is living somewhere in Columbia. As the kidnapper's demands are escalating, Alex is told the insurance company will not pay the ransom. With no one to trust, Nick and Alex begin their own mission to rescue his father, even if it costs them their lives. With the FBI on their tail, and the kidnapers getting anxious, the pair will have to race the clock to bring Matthew home alive. 'A King's Ransom' grabs hold on page one, and plunges you on a suspenseful ride through 400 pages. Non-stop surprises, and action galore will keep the pages turning until the shocking climax. James Grippando has been churning out excellent suspense novels, and his new novel proves he is a master of his craft. The season of the "page-turning beach book" has arrived, and 'A King's Ransom' is the first entry in the category. A MUST read! Nick Gonnella

The parts worth reading are those dealing with the kidnapping of Matthew by Colombian bandits. I'd like to think that this material is realistic i.e. well-researched. It seems to be, and it's horrific. I'm very sorry for the Colombian people and for anyone who falls into the hands of psychopaths like we see here. As for all the shenanigans in the US as the protagonist attempts to come up with a ransom for his dad... it's second-rate at best. What can you think of an "action" author who refers to a 45-caliber Luger pistol!? Situations and events are simply manufactured with no regard for credibility. Grippando has a victim be hanged from a standard room ceiling fan and - get this - be rotating with it! Come on... even hanging someone directly from the motor would probably pull such a fan right out. And no ceiling fan anywhere - much less in a little old house - could take weight like that on one of its blades. This is beyond idiotic, and insulting to the reader. I could go on and on, but will just say that all except the kidnapping scenes are junk writing. I'd be ashamed to have my name on it.

This book reminded me a lot of the recent Russell Crowe/Meg Ryan film *Proof of Life*, not that it was a bad thing. It's just that the two have very similar stories, revolving around the growing problem of "K and R" or kidnap and ransom in Latin American countries. It also has the same sort of alternating storyline, with scenes set among the kidnapers and their victims as they move from one primitive camp to another, and scenes involving the people who are trying to negotiate the ransom. The book has very strong, believable characters and a convincing legal plotline, with quite a bit of courtroom intrigue and so forth. The story follows the efforts of young Nick Rey, a rising star at the law firm of Coolidge, Harding and Cash ("Cool Cash") in Miami, to win the release of his father, Matthew, kidnapped while in Colombia to purchase a trio of fishing boats for his struggling company. The FBI won't get involved because they suspect the elder Rey is a drug smuggler, the insurance company refuses to pay off on the K and R policy because it suspects an inside job, and Nick's own firm accuses his family of trying to defraud the insurance company with a false claim. Nick must deal with all this, while at the same time making several trips to Colombia to arrange the ransom, and to Nicaragua to confer with his father's partner, a seemingly shady character responsible for the suspicions of drug smuggling. Nick has on his side Alex, a former member of the Colombian rebel force FARC, which is one of the largest kidnap for ransom operations in the world, and his ex-fiance Jenna, the only lawyer in town who'll still answer his calls, though she insists she's doing it for his father. It all adds up to a wonderful page-turner of a book, an intelligent thriller that's all too rare in my recent experience. I'll definitely be looking for more of Mr. Grippando's books.

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