

Grisham and Stevenson on Will Contests

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Scrivener's Quill



• Three Problems

- 1. You don't have a will and there is something to divide
- 2. Confusion in Writing or you don't like what it says
- 3. The Heirs or Beneficiaries of the will



“I love hearing my relations abused. It is the only thing that makes me put up with them at all. Relations are simply a tedious pack of people, who haven't got the remotest knowledge of how to live nor the smallest instinct about when to die.”

— Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*





- “I can't help detesting my relations. I suppose it comes from the fact that none of us can stand other people having the same faults as ourselves.”

- — Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray and Selected Stories*



"Some strand of
our own misdoing
is involved in every
quarrel."

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

**KARMA HAS
NO MENU,
YOU GET
SERVED
WHAT YOU
DESERVE**

PictureQuotes.com





- “I often think the happiest consequences seem to follow when a gentleman consults his lawyer, and takes all the law allows him.”
- — Robert Louis Stevenson, *Kidnapped*





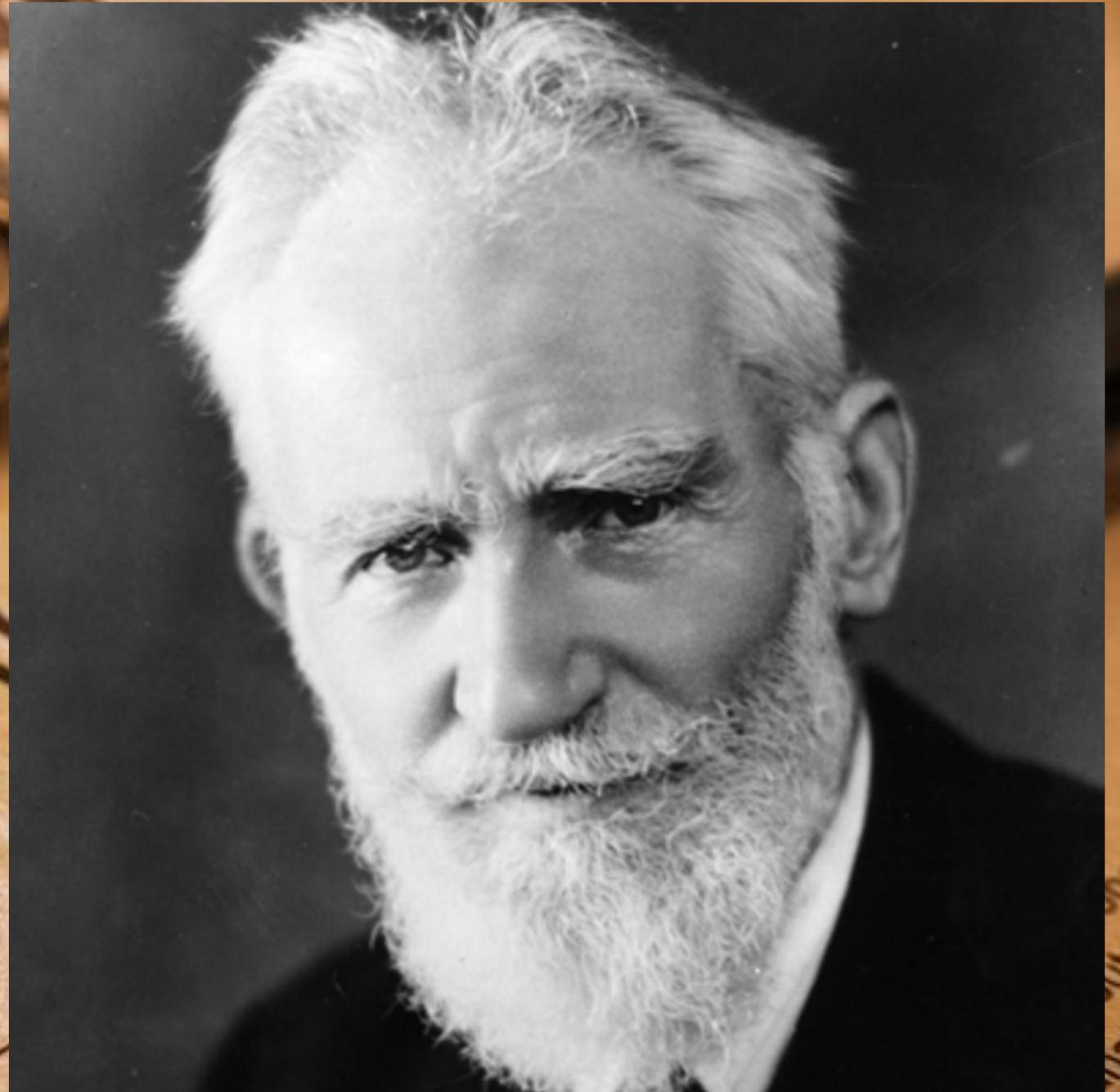


- "What a blessing it is, when undue influence does not survive the grave!"
- — Jane Austen (Emma)



“When our relatives are at home, we have to think of all their good points or it would be impossible to endure them. But when they are away, we console ourselves for their absence by dwelling on their vices.”

**— George Bernard Shaw,
Heartbreak House**





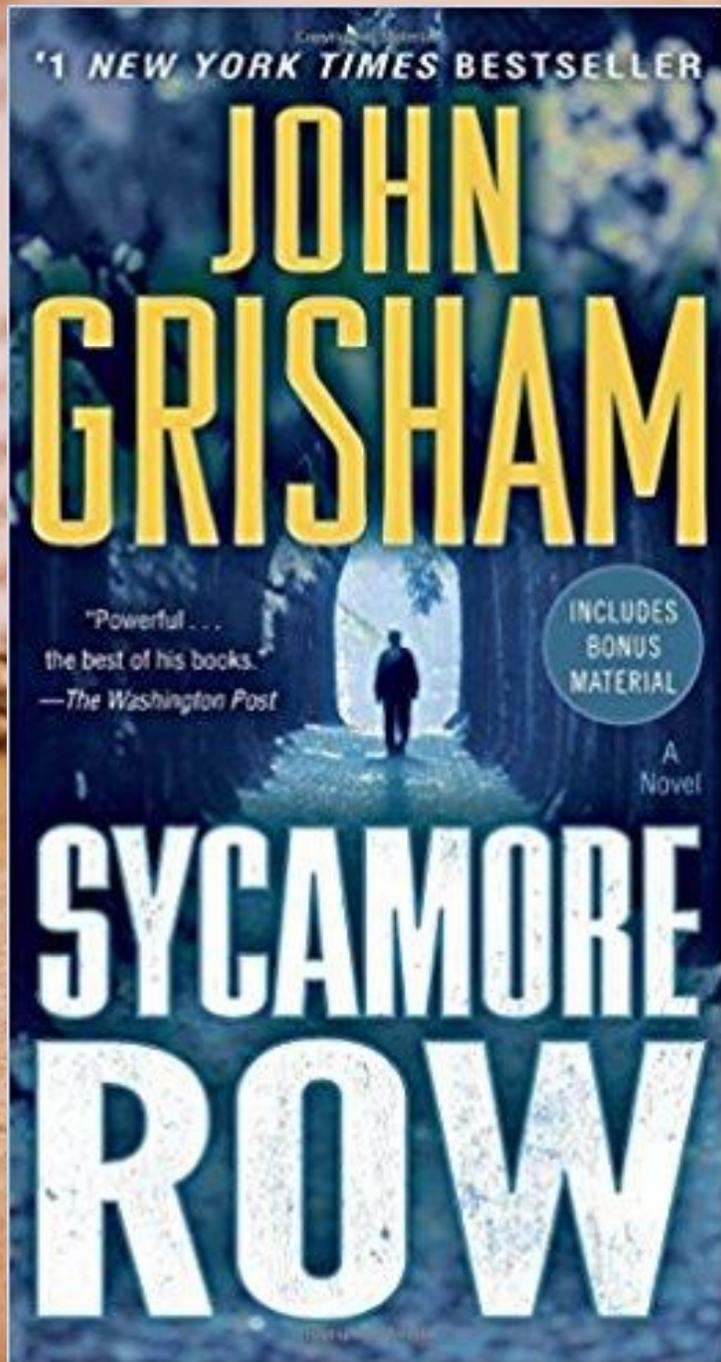


• “All parents damage their children. It cannot be helped. Youth, like pristine glass, absorbs the prints of its handlers. Some parents smudge, others crack, a few shatter childhoods completely into jagged little pieces, beyond repair.”

• — Mitch Albom, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*

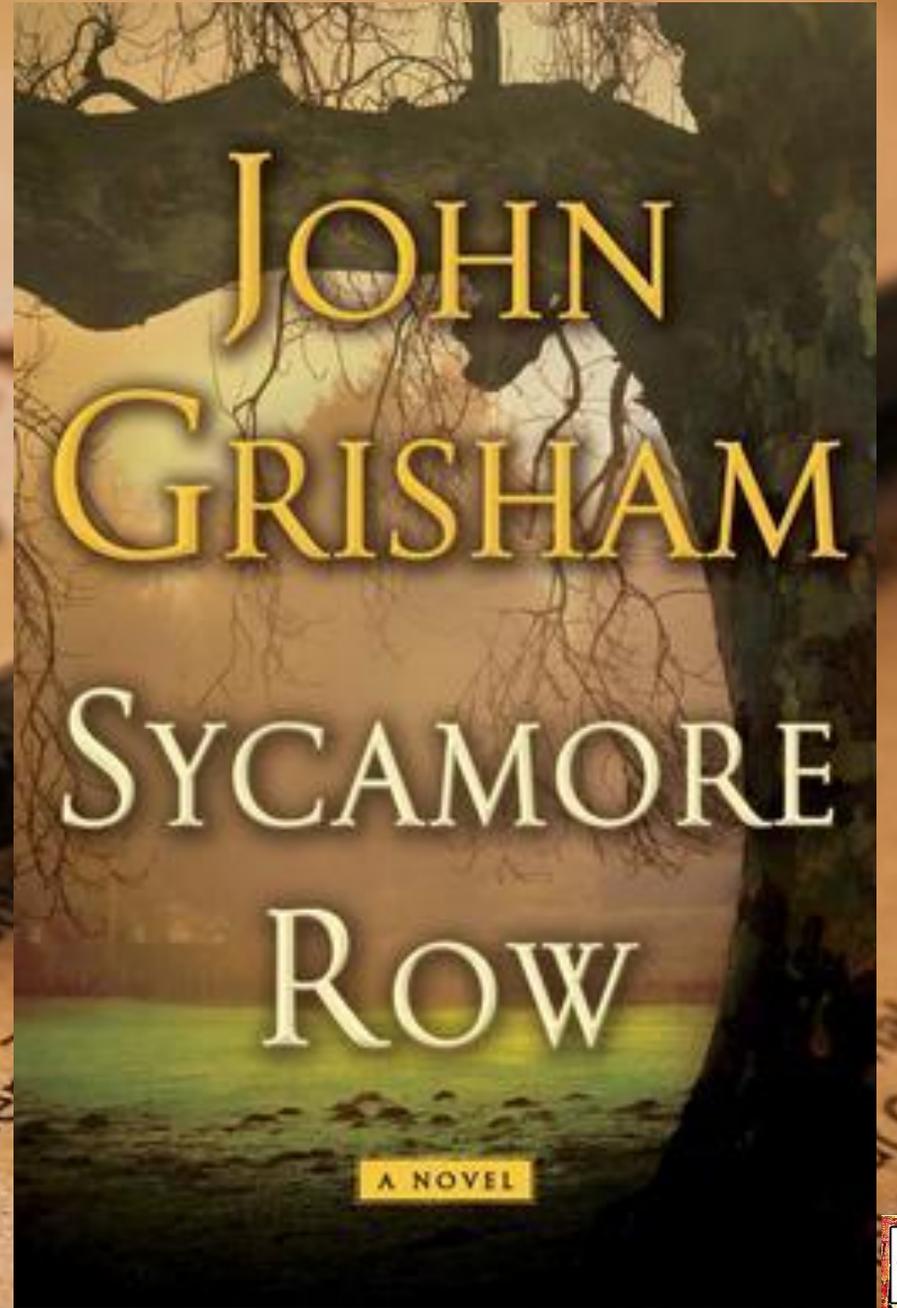


ID.



- “They found Seth Hubbard in the general area where he had promised to be, though not exactly in the condition expected. He was at the end of a rope, six feet off the ground and twisting slightly in the wind.”

- — John Grisham, *Sycamore Row*



“Ethics are determined by what they catch you doing. If you don’t get caught, then you haven’t violated any ethics.”

— John Grisham,
Sycamore Row





- “Booker Sistrunk sat awkwardly with his hands behind him and continued the mouthing: “You oughtta be ashamed of yourself, treating a brother like this.” “The white guy’s gettin’ the same treatment,” Ozzie said. “You’re violating my civil rights.” “And you’re violatin’ mine with your mouth. Now shut up or I’ll lock you under the jail. We got a little basement down there.”
- — John Grisham, Sycamore Row

“Sistrunk looked angrily at Lettie and said, “I’m allowed to be paid for my time and expenses, plus there is the matter of the loans. When can I expect the money?”

“In due course,” Jake said.

“I want it now.”

“Well, you’re not getting it now.”

“Then I’ll sue.”

“Fine. I’ll defend.”

“And I’ll preside,” Judge Atlee said. “I’ll give you a trial date in about four years.”

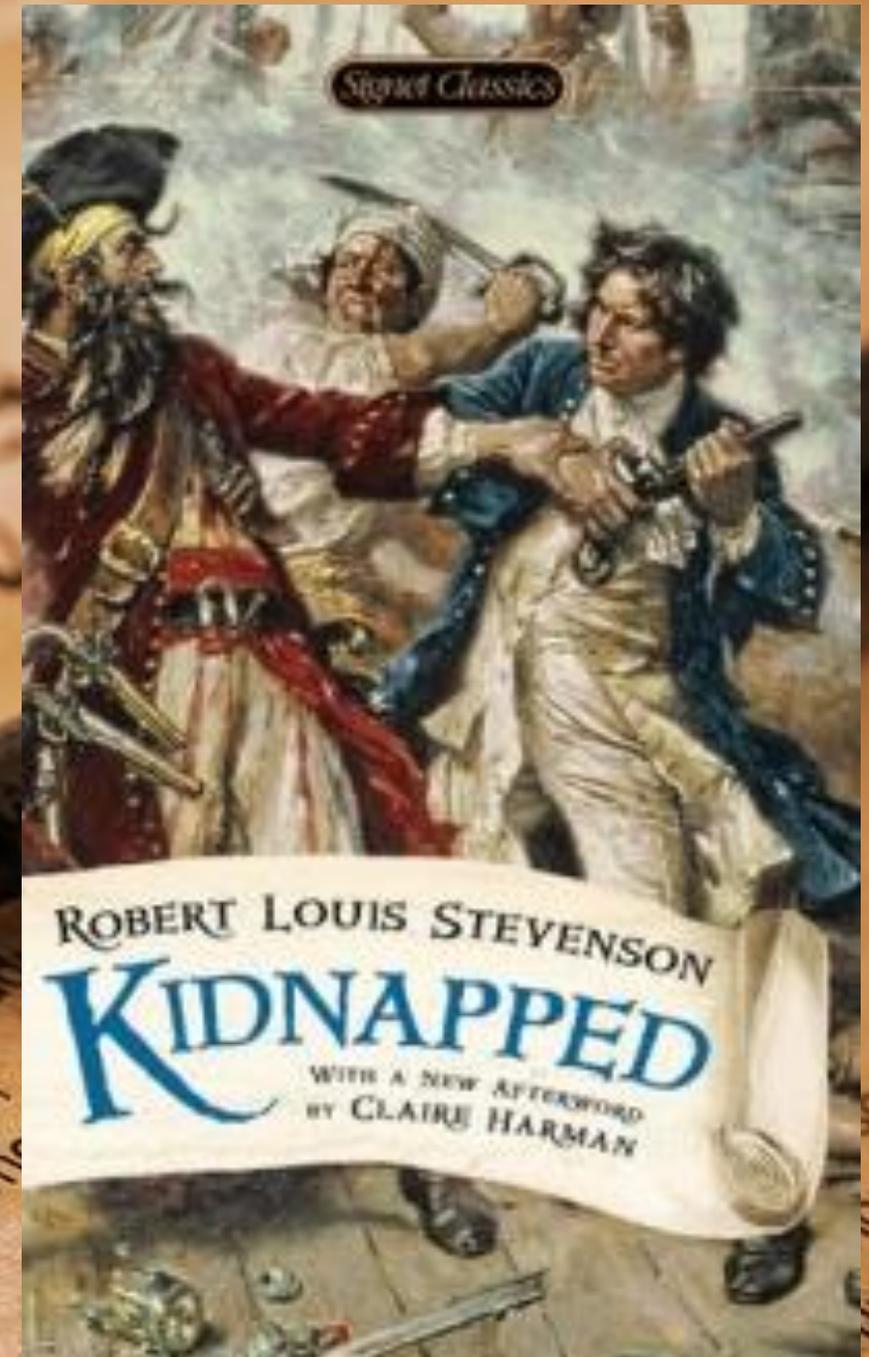
— John Grisham, *Sycamore Row*







17-year-old David Balfour, whose parents recently died, gets a letter from the Minister of Essendean, which indicates he should take it to his uncle's home. The uncle understands that with the passing of his brother, the boy will take over the estate. Thus begins a variety of adventures that start with a near accidental death on a high tower on the estate and really gets underway with a kidnapping.

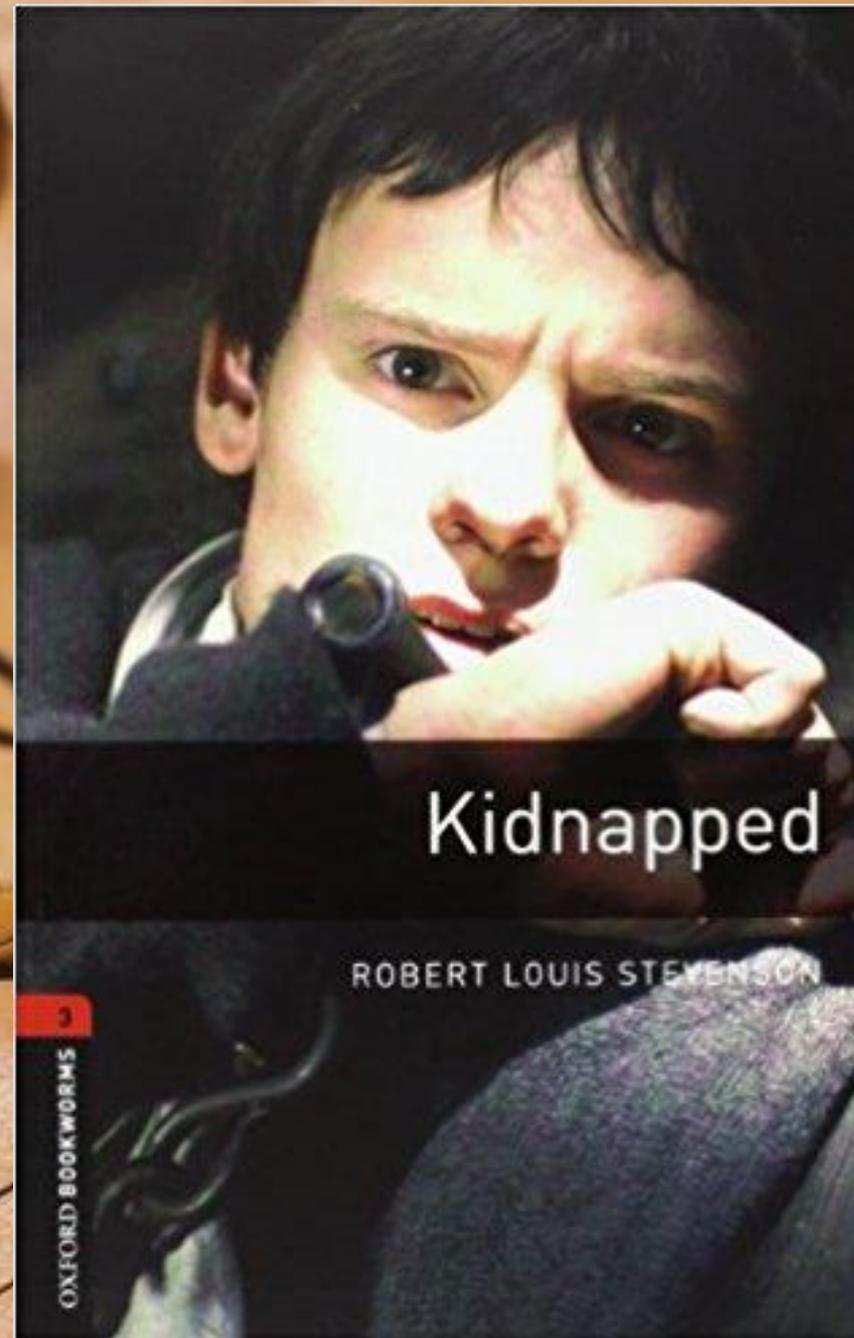




- **Mr. Rankeillor, an attorney, agrees to help David receive his inheritance. Rankeillor explains that David's father and uncle had once quarrelled over a woman, David's mother, and the older Balfour had married her, informally giving the estate to his brother while living as an impoverished schoolteacher with his wife. This agreement had lapsed with his death.**

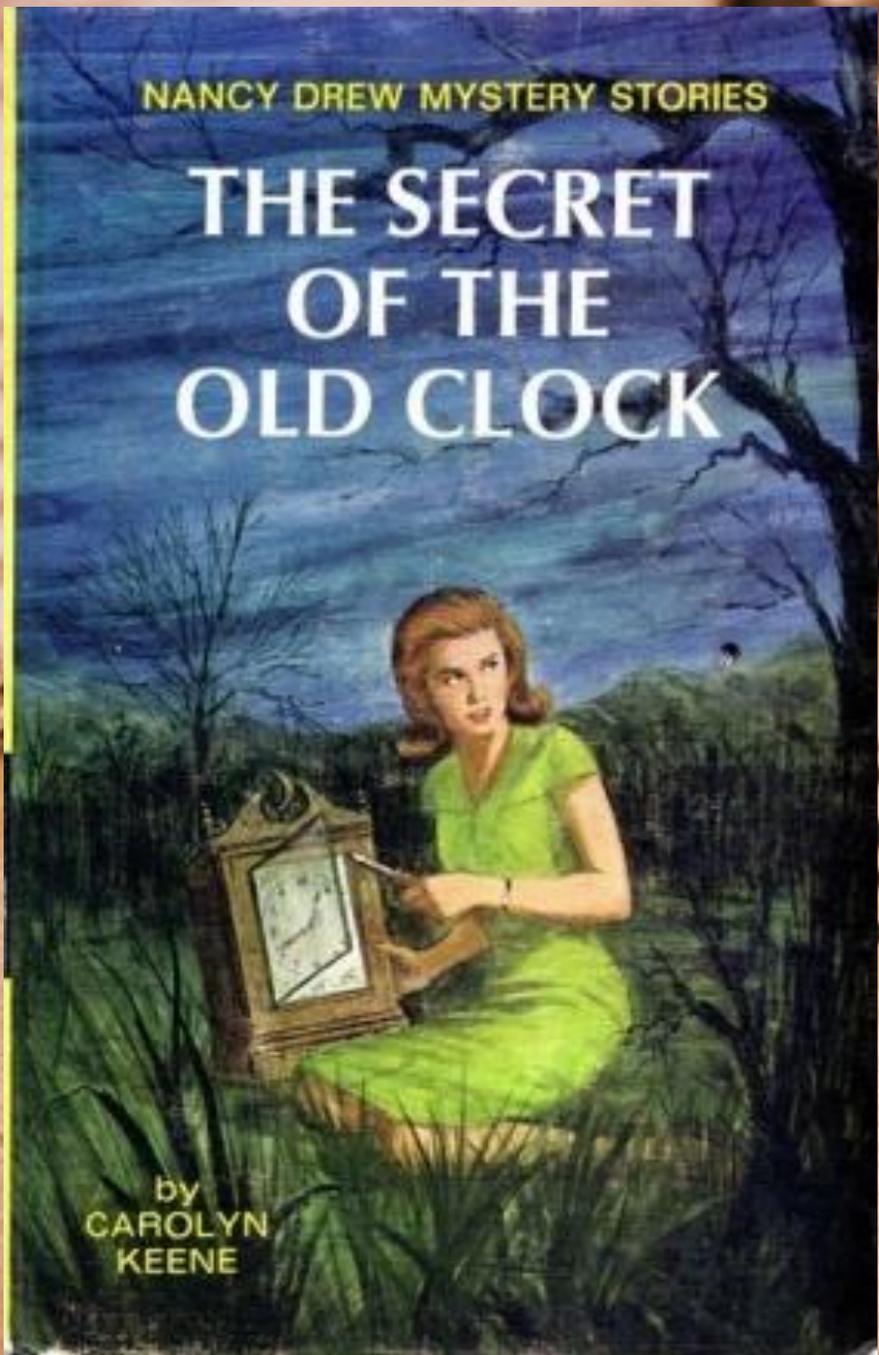
“There are two things that men should never weary of, goodness and humility; we get none too much of them in this rough world among cold, proud people.”

– Robert Louis Stevenson,
Kidnapped





abc family
exclusive
first look



- “Ada and Isabel had been unpopular in high school. They had talked incessantly of money and social position, making themselves very obnoxious to the other students.”
- — Carolyn Keene, *The Secret of the Old Clock*



ELDER ABUSE

→ Hiding in Plain Sight

Last Will

an adult resident of
(city),
Will and Testament. I revoke all wills and
ARTICLE I
as my Personal Representative
serve without Court
or Unlawful





**BLEAK
HOUSE**

BY
CHARLES DICKENS.

Will and Testa

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Jarndyce and Jarndyce droned on. This scarecrow of a suit has, in course of time, become so complicated that no man alive knows what it means. The parties to it understand it least; but it has been observed that no two Chancery lawyers can talk about it for five minutes without coming to a total disagreement as to all the premises. Innumerable children have been born into the cause; innumerable young people have married into it; innumerable old people have died out of it. Scores of persons have deliriously found themselves made parties in Jarndyce and Jarndyce, without knowing how or why; whole families have inherited legendary hatreds with the suit. The little plaintiff or defendant, who was promised a new rocking-horse when Jarndyce and Jarndyce should be settled, has grown up, possessed himself of a real horse, and trotted away into the other world. Fair wards of court have faded into mothers and grandmothers; a long procession of Chancellors has come in and gone out; the legion of bills in the suit have been transformed into mere bills of mortality; there are not three Jarndyces left upon the earth perhaps, since old Tom Jarndyce in despair blew his brains out at a coffee-house in Chancery Lane; but Jarndyce and Jarndyce still drags its dreary length before the Court, perennially hopeless.

Miller v. Cudahy Co., 656 F. Supp. 316 - Dist. Court, D. Kansas 1987



- “The one great principle of the English law is, to **make business for itself**. There is no other principle distinctly, certainly, and consistently maintained through all its narrow turnings. **Viewed by this light it becomes a coherent scheme, and not the monstrous maze the laity are apt to think it. Let them but once clearly perceive that its grand principle is to make business for itself at their expense, and surely they will cease to grumble.**”
- — Charles Dickens, Bleak House





Will and Testam

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OXFORD WORLD'S CLASSICS

CHARLES DICKENS
BLEAK HOUSE



• “There were two classes of charitable people: one, the people who did a little and made a great deal of noise; the other, the people who did a great deal and made no noise at all.”

• — Charles Dickens, Bleak House

