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AUTHOR OF *PRESUMED INNOCENT* AND *PLEADING GUILTY*

# SCOTT TUROW

"GRIPPING....PANORAMIC....TUROW'S  
MOST STUNNING ACHIEVEMENT."

—*Los Angeles Times*

## THE LAWS IN OF OUR FATHERS

**SCOTT  
TUROW**

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**THE LAWS  
OF OUR  
FATHERS**



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SCOTT TUROW is the author of four previous books, all major bestsellers: the novels *Presumed Innocent* (1987), *The Burden of Proof* (1990), and *Pleading Guilty* (1993), and the memoir *One L* (1977). A former federal prosecutor, he is currently a partner in the law firm of Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal. He lives outside Chicago with his family.

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*Newsweek***

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*For Rachel, Gabriel, and Eve*

# **Part One**

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**ACCUSATION**

**T**HOSE OF US BORN IN THE YEARS OF BOUNTY AFTER World War II knew we had a different outlook than earlier generations of Americans. Blinkered by need, they had come of age with narrower commitments—to the glory of God, the glee of acquisition, or the mean little business of survival. But we took seriously the promise of the Declaration of Independence that the birthright of America was not merely life or liberty, but the pursuit of happiness. Personally, as a child, I always assumed that was the point of growing up. So I'd feel better than I did then.

Which leaves us with the awful doomed inquiry of our middle years, the harpy's voice that whispers in dreams, at sunrise, at those unforeseen instants of drilling isolation: Is this as happy as I will ever be? Do I have the right to just a little more? Or is there nothing better I should hope for?

—MICHAEL FRAIN

"The Survivor's Guide,"

September 7, 1995

*September 7, 1995*

## **H A R D C O R E**

**Dawn. The air is brackish, although this place is miles from water. The four high-rise towers hulk amid a hardened landscape of brick, of tar and pavement broken by weeds, of crushed Coke cups and candy wrappers, of fly-about newspaper pages. A silvery bedding of broken glass, the remnants of smashed bottles, glitters prettily—one more false promise. It is a time of uncommon quiet. In the night, there are often sounds of life at the extreme: outcries and drunken yells, machines at volume. Sometimes gunfire. The day brings voices, children, the many standabouts, the species at large. Now the wind is up, whistling in the fence links and on the bricks. At the prospect of motion, the man walking this way looks up**