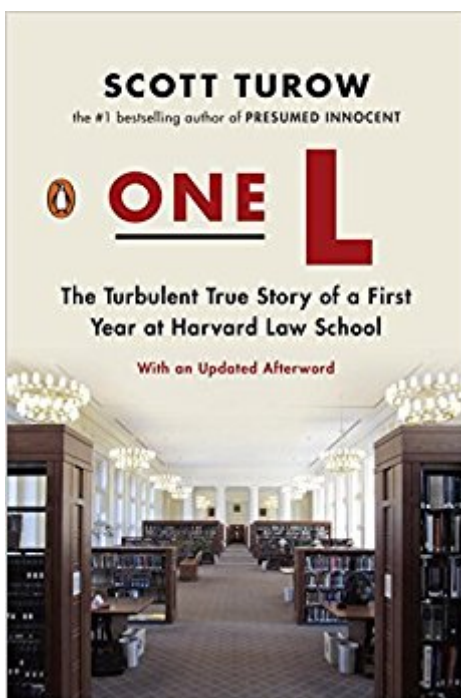


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# One L: The Turbulent True Story Of A First Year At Harvard Law School



## Synopsis

"A wonderful book...it should be read by anyone who has ever contemplated going to law school. Or anyone who has ever worried about being human." —The New York Times

It was a year of terrors and triumphs, of depressions and elations, of compulsive work, pitiless competition, and, finally, mass hysteria. It was Scott Turow's first year at the oldest, biggest, most esteemed center of legal education in the United States. Turow's experiences at Harvard Law School, where freshmen are dubbed One Ls, parallel those of first-year law students everywhere. His gripping account of this critical, formative year in the life of a lawyer is as suspenseful, said The New York Times, as "the most absorbing of thrillers."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Actor Paul Rudd deftly narrates this fascinating story of author Turow's experience as a first-year Harvard Law School student. Moreover, Rudd's voice sounds remarkably like Turow's, who provides an introduction. Personal narratives written by successful, famous persons should have to pass a humility test in which all references to entrance exam scores, grade point averages, and collegial or professional honors are stricken from the text, and editors' jobs should depend on how well they apply that test. The editor of this production would receive a solid A-. Even though we know he goes on to fabulous success as both a lawyer and a writer, Turow's initial ego is beautifully subdued by the end of his year as a "One L." —Mark Pumphrey, Polk Cty. P.L., Columbus, NC

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"The most accurate, complete, and balanced description yet of a century-old rite of passage in America."--Bruce Bortz, Baltimore Sun  
"A sensitive, dramatically paced account of the author's first year at Harvard Law School...I read the book as if it were the most absorbing of thrillers, losing track of the time I spent with it, and resenting the hours I had to be away from it...It should be read by anyone who has ever contemplated going to law school. or anyone who has ever worried about being human."--Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, The New York Times --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Hard to believe that novelist-lawyer Scott Turow wrote this extraordinary book while still at Harvard Law School -- hard to believe because it was his first book, written at the end of his turbulent first year at law school; hard to believe because his writing skills are so well developed; and hard to believe that such a young writer could capture the environment and ethos of a formidable institution so perfectly. This is quite possibly the best nonfiction book I've read in decades.

Good behind the scenes take on law school. I always studied in law library while in dental school and knew many law students and lawyers. The education is a lot different than other professions. Book is a classic; but if one was to only have time to read one book, Andrew J. McGlurg's "1L of a Ride" is a newer take and humorous, as opposed to paranoid (yet very realist viewpoints).

Great read prior to starting law school. Pretty sure my highlighting/pen coloring system is based on Scott's in this book.

Unlike many autobiographical work, I find One L to be relatively honest and open. Because it is non-fiction, the circumstances make it an interesting read in the beginning, but it does not have a plot nor a direction, nothing really gets 'developed' and once you are acquainted with the setting, it becomes less interesting towards the end. I had to google the author (I didn't know who he was) and only after reading his Wiki entry could I motivate myself to finish the book. Also, I am reading it as a thirty-something who's had more life experience than the author did at the point of his writing. Thus some of the difficulties he faced are things I can identify with but consider trivial now. It may be more interesting and useful as a heads up to a slightly younger audience.

Interesting to a point. A photo of life in a law school back in the 70's.

It's a good story. As I read it I kept wondering if anyone who hadn't been to law school would like it. I am going to have my dad, who hasn't been to law school, read it and see. I personally am in my second year and read this book on the two weeks I had off from classes. Despite 38 years going by between him writing this and my first year, I must say, not much seems to have changed in legal education. I could relate to so many of the stories, fears and thoughts running through his head. I felt like the last half dragged a little, but maybe that was him adapting to the lifestyle and having the shock wear off. Overall I enjoyed it, I found myself saving sections to read to my fellow classmates, a fun bonding tool.

Engaging, informative, emotional, and just an overall good read. The writing strong, and the author can pump himself up a bit (particularly in the afterward), but overall it is a no-nonsense, genuine account. Definitely a must-read for future law students, and worth reading in and of itself.

I feel like I've been through law school myself, or at least the first year thereof. I have some reverse snobbery about attending Harvard. He may very well have received a better education in California, for heaven's sake. Twenty five years have elapsed since this book was written; has there been any improvement? But Turow grinds his argument to bits, discussing every subtle permutation until you want to scream "stop!" I was growing tired of his style at the end of the book. Perhaps his novels are better.

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