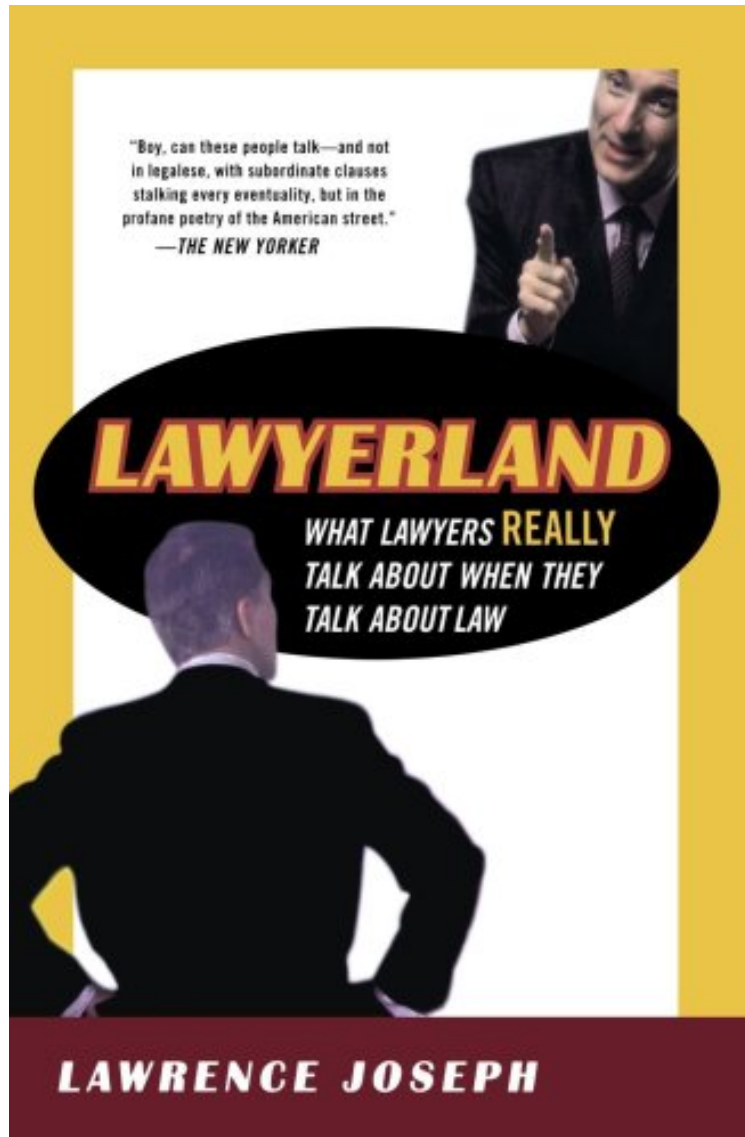


(Ebook pdf) Lawyerland: What Lawyers Talk About When They Talk About Law

# Lawyerland: What Lawyers Talk About When They Talk About Law

Lawrence Joseph

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**Lawrence Joseph : Lawyerland: What Lawyers Talk About When They Talk About Law** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lawyerland: What Lawyers Talk About When They Talk About Law:

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Brings Studs Terkel and "Working" to mind. By Matthew

Weaver What do you call a busload of lawyers plunging into a deep ocean from a high cliff? A good start. We've all heard the lawyer jokes. We've read the John Grisham novels, heard the horror stories about massive bills and dirty cheats, and tuned into the high-profile court cases on TV. (Remember OJ?) We know how we feel about lawyers: They're high-priced ambulance chasers who are only out for themselves and money. They're slime. Right? Author Lawrence Joseph takes a different approach with his 1997 nonfiction work "Lawyerland." He shows what the slime think of us. "They all watch their lawyer TV shows, read these sh---y legal thrillers, like it's one big, suspenseful, meaningful endeavor," rails C. Oliver Robinson, one of the legal eagles interviewed in the book. "They hate lawyers more than anyone else in the world- but law? Law! They love the f-----g law! You see it in jurors' faces- even the most sophisticated and street smart. They're not only intrigued- they're impressed. Reasonable doubt- they go f-----g bananas! Just say the words and their eyes change." With "Lawyerland," Joseph takes the path created by Studs Terkel with "Working," the 1972 book in which Terkel interviewed people in a number of different careers- the school teacher, the steel worker, the drugstore owner, etc. In "Lawyerland," the result is a gritty, profanity-filled reality work that cuts deep into the heart of many aspects of the legal system. As the subtitle states, this is "What Lawyers Really Talk About When They Talk about Law." Joseph interviews criminal justice lawyers, tax attorneys, judges, corporate deal makers and personal injury lawyers. And in a genius move, he simply sits back and lets them gab. Boy, do they talk. They talk about everything under the sun- law and the morality (or lack thereof) within, rival firms, old associates, one-eyed monks, medical malpractice, the fact that Alexander Hamilton and assassin Aaron Burr (got milk?) were both lawyers, how to spot a lawyer in street clothes while riding the subway, and Herman Melville's legal tale "Bartleby the Scrivener." The conversations are fast and furious, filled with banter amongst colleagues or rivals, and thoughts on the profession. What makes "Lawyerland" so hard-hitting and mesmerizing, however, is that these are real people, with real names, like Urquart and Voorhees. This is real life, and Joseph doesn't shy away, even if the result is rarely pretty. What do you call a nonfiction piece that reveals law from a lawyer's perspective, sin and all? A very good start, indeed. 3 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Not Worth My Time By J Bandl The subtitle should have been: "What Lawyers Sometimes Talk About When They Indulge in Aimless Chatter". Knowing a fair amount about lawyers, I was anxious to read the book. I kept waiting for the informative parts, but gave up halfway. Maybe the author quit interviewing lawyers and threw what he had together to make a deadline for a promised 220 pages. And maybe he was more interested in "style" than information. This book could be edited from 225 pages to 75 without important loss. What was also disturbing to me was how many positive quotations by "readers" were secured. There seems to be a system of mutual hype in the publishing industry. Maybe there's automatic deference for a law professor/poet. Can't be so bad? Decide for yourself; read it if you have time to waste. If the book paints some realistic picture, then he should have radically summarized, rather than torture readers. 1 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Superb, searing portrait of lawyers and the human condition By A Customer Written in the tradition of Camus's "The Fall," this truth-telling novel brings the reader face-to-face with the angst, anger, and moral ambiguities that pervade lives lived in the shadow of the legal system. Beautifully and compellingly written; a stunning achievement

"We expect law to get to the bottom of things. But if you ask lawyers, 'Does law get to the bottom of things?' they'll laugh. Lawyers watch other lawyers steal, lawyers watch other lawyers lie all the time." This exchange between lawyers in Lawyerland is true. Names have been changed, but as the author says, his book remains truthful rather than factual, filled with flagrant remarks and unsettling confessions of aberrant behavior and compromised morals. In America's crime-obsessed, law-obsessed society, this series of brilliant, searing, probing dialogues delivers a seldom-seen side of the law-the lawyers' perspectives. The conversations recounted in Lawyerland represent the whole spectrum of law-criminal, medical malpractice, employee relations, corporate finance, real-estate-and a range of ethnicities and genders. These lawyers are literate, articulate, and self-aware. They are masters of contradiction and rebuttal who have learned to navigate in an increasingly chaotic justice system. Lawyerland is sure to engross lawyers and non-lawyers alike-in fact, all who are fascinated by the complexities of our legal system. Rave reviews and extensive press coverage for the hardcover edition. Should appeal to a large audience of lawyers and would-be lawyers.