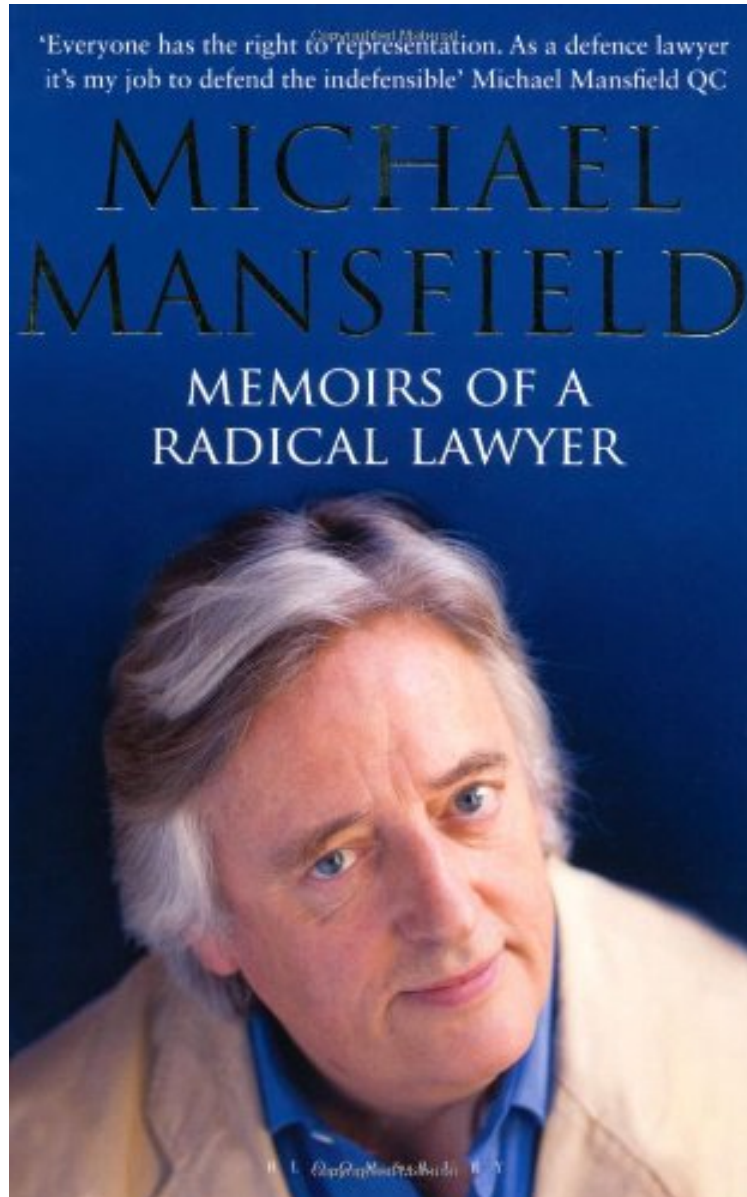


(Download) Memoirs of a Radical Lawyer

Memoirs of a Radical Lawyer

Michael Mansfield

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Michael Mansfield : Memoirs of a Radical Lawyer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Memoirs of a Radical Lawyer:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Counsel at workBy Hande ZMichael Mansfield was born in Whetstone, North London in 1941, the youngest of three brothers who called themselves "The Three Musketeers". He failed to get into Peterhouse, Cambridge, and only succeeded in getting into Keele to read philosophy under Anthony

Flew after he travelled North to confront the admissions tutor and forced an impromptu appeal on him. He later read law in Gray's Inn, and was admitted to the Bar in 1967. He 'took silk', that is, elevated to the rank of Queen's Counsel, in 1989. The account of his childhood and youth in Mansfield's "Memoirs" was brief and the reader will find himself suddenly propelled into the world of court room battles. Mansfield was involved in many fascinating cases, all retold with clarity and a dash of humour and wit. The first major case to be revealed from the 'inside' was the case of Angela Cannings who was charged and initially convicted for the deaths of three of her infant children. Mansfield then gave a riveting of what most experienced criminal lawyers know, but many jury men and, perhaps even some judges, do not know - that forensic evidence such as fingerprint, handwriting, and earprinting analysis is not a science but an art. He explored the flaws in such evidence in each of these fields through three interesting cases. Not surprisingly, Mansfield had a lot to say about DNA and confessions as evidence. The second half of his book was devoted to the heavyweight cases - the 1984 coal mine picket cases, the trial and appeals of the Birmingham Six, the trial and appeal of Barry George in connection with the murder of the news presenter, Jill Dando, the inquiry into the death of Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed. It was in the course of his highly publicised cases that he met the television documentary film maker, Yvette who he eventually married after his marriage to Melian failed. This book is not just about famous cases, it also gives an intriguing look into the life and work of a top English criminal barrister. Mansfield provides a fair bit of the cross-examination in various cases so that the reader will have a clearer idea how cross-examination of witnesses is to be done. Fledgling lawyers will heed Mansfield's advice that the secret is in preparation. Although the cases covered in Mansfield's long and famous career, he admitted that he was not always popular even among his peers, or the court, for he was perceived to be too much of a radical. He fought for lost causes, and the underdogs, but he thought that his friendship with Arthur Scargill and Anne Scargill (who was his age and shared the same birthday) was viewed with disapproval by conservative lawyers. Did that bother him? The last line of his book read: "I will continue to stand alongside those who struggle for peace, justice and truth."

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Justice: Do we look hard enough? By Customer An amazing insight into how the legal process operates is recorded in a book by Michael Mansfield *Memoirs of a Radical Lawyer*. Michael's book opens with his early family memories which includes vivid details of times when the world operated slower and information was held by a few controlling collections of interested parties. Those early days when questioning authorities was a lot more arduous than now. Communication and scientific evidence to prove the truth were often withheld to get a quick result which would satisfy the controlling parties who in turn would communicate to the masses that the result was best for all. The execution of innocent people because the evidence seemed to fit and a result could be produced to satisfy the public. Incarceration of innocent people for years for crimes they did not commit. If it were not for the efforts of people like Michael Mansfield justice would not be done. It is the attention to detail which makes the difference and examining evidence in an impartial manner to get to the truth is the main point which Michael Mansfield constantly strives in this book which we all should read at least once in our lifetime instead of blindly following the mainstream media's representation of news stories, without thinking for ourselves. We have a belief that forensic evidence and DNA will be sufficient to uphold a conviction. After reading this book we owe it to ourselves to look deeper for the truth. Our human mentality sometimes confuses the difference between justice and revenge demanding a swift outcome in preference to accepting reality.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beyond the narrowly legal.... By Phillip Taylor MBE [\[\[VIDEOID:mo26D6VJX0RRIG5\]\]](#) RECOLLECTIONS OF A CONTROVERSIAL CAREER An appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green Chambers 'This is a memoir,' states Michael Mansfield in his preface, 'not an autobiography.... it is a collage of recollections and reminiscences.' On reading this fascinating account of Michael Mansfield's fascinating life, we are still a little puzzled as to why the book is not an autobiography. However you classify it, though, it's worthy of note because of the name and fame of its author. Mansfield, it's fair to say, is Britain's best known defence lawyer, with a towering reputation as a doughty fighter, even for ostensibly lost causes. Presenting a challenge to conventional wisdom and the established view has been his forte. He seems to have had an attraction to controversial cases, all of them difficult, some of them virtually hopeless. Barristers refer to these as 'hard cases' and so they are. A shortlist of the cases he has pugnaciously fought includes Angela Cannings... Jill Dando and Barry George... Dodi Fayed and Princess Diana... Stephen Lawrence, and Jean Charles de Menezes. He has a rather robust, conversational style when he writes and soon, within the first few pages, you're drawn into the quite eventful narrative of his wartime childhood in normally quiet middle class, suburban north London, with references to sirens, bombs, blackouts and rationing, not to mention being bereft of bananas and wondering if the next bomb you hear is going to hit you. You'd think that after all that, he'd have relished a quieter life, but no; it would appear that he rather thrived on conflict -- always the lot of a seeker after justice and truth -- and he certainly found it at the Bar. Interestingly, he reveals that it has been anger which has been the driving force of his career. It all started apparently, when a local police officer charged his mother with a parking offence, from which she strenuously defended herself in court, discovering to her dismay, that there are police officers out there who are not above lying. She was triumphantly acquitted, but warned the young Michael ever after: 'never trust a man in uniform.' The bulk of the book thereafter focuses on Mansfield's cases, mostly the high profile ones that turned him into a high profile lawyer. 'As a defence lawyer,' he says (on the front cover so you can't miss it) 'it's my job to defend

the indefensible. Certainly his cases have generated some sensationally detailed headlines and body copy in the press and in among the personal reminiscences, his book is replete with commentary and insights. Take the Marchioness Riverboat disaster of 1989, for example, the aftermath of which was as murky as the waters of the Thames in which so many young people perished. His comments on the inquests and judicial public inquiries which usually follow such disasters are certainly thought provoking. 'It is one thing to agree about the need to know,' he remarks, 'It is quite another to get answers from institutions, corporations and government departments.' 'Progress', he adds is brought about 'by the extraordinary efforts of ordinary groups of families, friends and individuals...who fight for what is right and who initiate change.' He concludes that they occupy the moral high ground and their courageous stand benefits us all- no one should ever sit back and think there is nothing we can do! This important memoir contains any number of inspirational moments like this. The author's more triumphant and/or controversial cases, described in enthralling detail, serve to create a rich tapestry of some of the most significant and newsworthy events in our recent history, most of which have caused public disquiet, even horror and, it is to be hoped, will ultimately lead to a spirit of reform which is this radical lawyer's real mission.

Michael Mansfield, QC, is Britain's most high-profile defence lawyer, whose unparalleled commitment to his clients and radical approach to forensics, evidence and disclosure have made him a scourge of the establishment and a champion of the individual in many miscarriages of justice cases. Passionate about unveiling corruption and unafraid to challenge received wisdom, he has taken on many of the most controversial cases of our times, including the Bloody Sunday Inquiry, Angela Cannings, Jill Dando and Barry George, Dodi Fayed and Princess Diana, Stephen Lawrence, Arthur Scargill and the miners and, most recently, the tragic death of Jean Charles de Menezes. Dissecting these cases with incisive intelligence, subtlety and humour, and interspersing revealing personal reminiscences he offers a fascinating insight into the idiosyncrasies of the English legal system and how it has changed from the late 1960s to the present.

'Probably the biggest household name at the criminal Bar is Michael Mansfield, QC, a sure-fire role model for students wondering about a career in criminal (or civil rights) law.' The Times Online 'Brilliant...a sophisticated criminal practitioner who has delivered some of the most powerful pieces of advocacy witnessed in this country's courtrooms' Chambers Legal Directory 2009 'A fascinating and passionate record of the author's major cases in courts, inquests and public inquiries, whose context will be as familiar to the general reader as to the lawyer' Spectator 'I hugely admire him ... This book is not just a show-off catalogue of his greatest hits. It is a shaming, chilling list of injustices' A.N Wilson, Daily Mail About the Author Michael Mansfield QC was born in 1941 and educated at Highgate School and Keele University. Called to the Bar in 1967, he established Toops Chambers, in 1984 and became Queen's Counsel in 1989. He has represented defendants in criminal trials, appeals, inquests and inquiries in some of the most controversial legal cases the country has seen, particularly where issues of Civil Liberty have arisen; he is President and Patron of numerous organisations including the Haldane, Amicus and Viva!, Professor and Honorary Fellow of many universities as well as being a regular contributor to public debates on human rights issues.