

(Download) My Life as a Radical Lawyer

My Life as a Radical Lawyer

William M. Kunstler, Shelia Isenberg, Sheila Isenberg

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William M. Kunstler, Shelia Isenberg, Sheila Isenberg : My Life as a Radical Lawyer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Life as a Radical Lawyer:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. He also had no problems with pointing out the people that he disliked (including JFK)By DebbieIf you are at all interested in the 60's, this book is a must read. Mr. Kunstler was more than just a trial lawyer, he represented an era that was fascinating. He made no apologies for being egotistical and loving the spotlight. He also had no problems with pointing out the people that he disliked (including JFK). From reading this book, one can easily understand why he was so hated by so many during this time period. He even makes it known that he was the reason that his first marriage ended in a divorce. And yet, in spite of your political beliefs, you have to have a respect for this man. The fact that he died soon after this book was published make for a somber reflection of this man and the era that he lived in.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Restores my youthful, idealistic -- perhaps naive -- faith ...By CustomerRestores my youthful, idealistic -- perhaps naive -- faith in the legal system and its guerrilla fighters, such as Mr. Kunstler. The cover photo says it all!Mr. Kunstler wrote a much more middle-of-the-road anthology in 1961, a profiles-in-courage tour of American legal heroes of the past 3 centuries, beginning with Peter Zenger (freedom of the press, challenging the fiats of Duch governor of Nieuw Amsterdam, Peter Stuyvesant). The title escapes me, but contains the word "Courage," and it deserves to be restored to print again and made required reading in American History courses at all levels, and in law schools.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A lawyer who did alot of good -- for free -- tells his storyBy Kujifanya JinaWhen he got rich by handling a millionaire's estate, lawyer William Kuntsler decided to devote his legal career to

representing people and causes he believed in -- most notably Martin Luther King, Jr. This biography is a wonderful memoir about the dedicated and crafty lawyer's personal and professional life, filled with stories of how Kunstler used the law to benefit those who sought to make positive change in America's turbulent 1960s.

America's most controversial lawyer recounts his transformation from liberal to radical during the sixties, recalls his many celebrated cases--from the Chicago Seven trial to the World Trade Center bombing--and explains why he tests democracy by defending social pariahs. Tour.

From Publishers Weekly At 75, the peripatetic and controversial Kunstler steps back to recount his professional and private life. Notable is his candor: Kunstler admits to craving the limelight and enjoying the trappings of celebrity, as when he moved left during the civil-rights era and became radicalized during the 1969 Chicago Seven trial, which helped end his first marriage. After thoughtfully telling of his family, youth and early legal career, Kunstler relates a saga that includes an enormous cast: Martin Luther King, Lenny Bruce (with whom he once shot heroin), the Berrigan brothers, Leonard Peltier, the Central Park "jogger case" defendant Yusuf Salaam, and El Sayyid Nosair, the accused killer of Rabbi Meir Kahane. Though Kunstler never questions the veracity of his clients, he's mostly convincing in portraying himself as a Don Quixote in a system biased toward the rich. While parts of the book could use more detail or reflection, Isenberg (*Women Who Love Men Who Kill*) has tamed Kunstler's memoirs into a readable narrative of a very busy life. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Kunstler, who died in 1995, provoked strong emotions among Americans: conservatives abhorred him, and even liberals and civil libertarians were at times cautious in publicly supporting him. Yet his legal work on behalf of the poor, the disenfranchised, and those accused of some of the most heinous political crimes in U.S. history reveals a man of singular moral purpose who worked to make an America where "equal justice for all" was more than a cliché. In this autobiography, Kunstler recounts some of his most famous cases, including the trials of the Chicago Seven and the World Trade Center bombing, and tells of his early work in the Civil Rights movement. The author reads his own material in deep, passionate tones which is all the more amazing given that he died shortly after the recording was made. Period music and recorded news broadcasts enhance the telling. Recommended for most libraries. My Life is the perfect counterpoint to popular political audio titles such as Rush Limbaugh's *The Way Things Ought To Be* (Audio s, LJ 10/15/92) and Al Franken's *Rush Limbaugh Is a Big Fat Idiot* (Dove, 1996), so shelve it accordingly. Mark Annichiarico, "Library Journal" Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Is Kunstler hero or villain, lightning rod or loudmouth, a brilliant defender of the least powerful Americans or the incarnation of every nasty lawyer joke? Few readers will be neutral about the tall, fuzzy-headed New York attorney who moved from a traditional practice into southern civil rights cases in the early 1960s, dominated headlines and news broadcasts during the 1969 Chicago conspiracy trial, and played a role in many of the most heated legal controversies of the past quarter century. Kunstler sees the conspiracy trial as the turning point of his career: the point when a basically liberal lawyer was radicalized by watching the justice system function as a powerful instrument of repression. Self-effacing modesty has never been among Kunstler's faults, so journalist Isenberg checked the "sometimes mutable versions" of his stories with other participants, seeking "the point of intersection between [his admitted] love of the limelight and the dictates of an integrity and idealism as radical as any the legal profession has known." Though it certainly has flaws, Kunstler's autobiography offers an essential, highly idiosyncratic perspective on recent U.S. political, social, and legal history. Mary Carroll