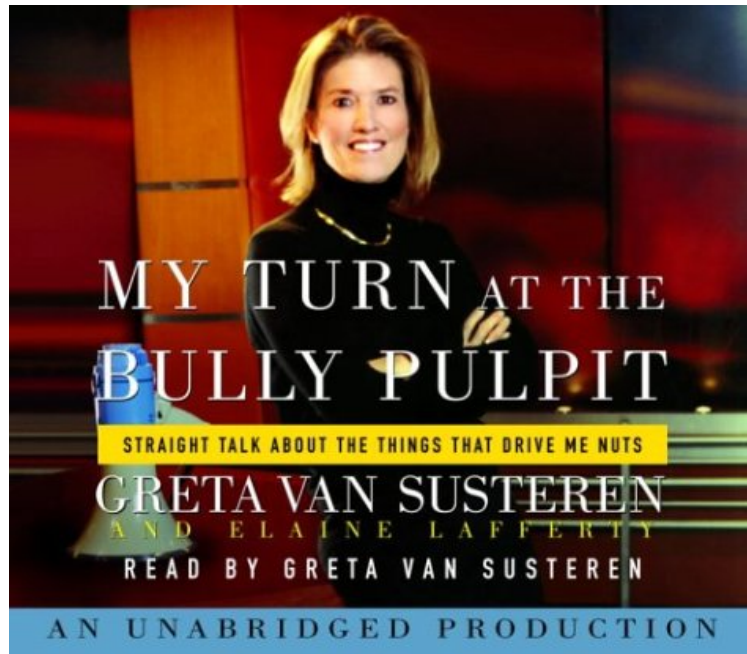


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My Turn at the Bully Pulpit: Straight Talk About the Things that Drive Me Nuts

Greta Van Susteren, Elaine Lafferty

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Welcome to the bully pulpit where opinions fly but common sense rules. Here's where you'll find straight talk about the most pressing issues of the day, all delivered in the trademark commonsense style of one of America's most popular and admired television news anchors. Always resisting the political label that attempts to place people in one ideological camp or another, Greta Van Susteren speaks from the mind and the heart, not as a liberal or a conservative, but as a right-thinking, sensible citizen. Our country is at a critical juncture, she writes, and too many of us are caught up in old definitions of left and right that no longer apply. If I favor the death penalty in some cases, does that make me right-wing? If I think hate crimes legislation is stupid, does that make me a conservative? If I happen to like and

enjoy Ozzy Osbourne and have him on my show, does that make me a liberal? And if I believe that corporations should be held accountable if their products harm citizens and they should be subject to the rulings of a jury ditto for doctors who commit medical malpractice does that make me a leftist trial lawyer? Here's more of Greta in her own words: On the military: Liberty isn't free. As a nation, we must provide for the men and women who put their lives on the line for us. That means good pay, adequate funding for defense, and our heartfelt support. Vietnam was a very long time ago. We Baby Boomers have to wake up and realize that today's military is a different military from the one we grew up with, and we are fighting a very different war. Patriotism is not a conservative or a liberal thing. Patriotism, as far as I am concerned, is the duty and obligation of every American. On the Supreme Court: There should be a litmus test for Supreme Court and federal court judges, and that test should be their opinion about allowing public access to court proceedings. Let cameras inside the courthouse, or at least allow an audio feed to radio. What are they hiding? On the death penalty: It should be legal and available to courts and juries . . . but it should be used extremely rarely, and only when we are absolutely certain that a fair trial has taken place. On how you look: It's your business and nobody else's. Your looks and your life are not a democracy not everybody gets a vote. Make your appearance and your choices a totalitarian regime you are the boss. On fun: It isn't a curse word. It's actually quite serious business, as it makes the hard times livable and the sad times bearable. Fun should be part of a work environment, too. Stuffed shirts and snobs who can't stop and laugh at themselves should be banished! In Greta's company you're guaranteed to get a fresh dose of common sense and a good hearty rant on many of the most important issues we face today. One more guarantee: you'll have some good fun while you're at it. From the Hardcover edition.

From Booklist Van Susteren, former criminal defense attorney and host of *On the Record* on Fox, offers her opinions on a variety of controversial issues and celebrity-driven topics, including her switch to Fox from CNN and her eye tuck. Although she is presumed to be a liberal, Van Susteren maintains that her sensibilities are solidly rooted in her Catholic midwestern background and defy easy categorization. She's as much influenced by the nearly 20 years she spent practicing law as by her fairly recent career as television anchor and talk-show host. She offers a behind-the-scenes look at news shows, including correspondence from viewers; the interviews "from hell"; and the stress and occasional absurdity of "getting the get," the most sought-after guest for a television show. She defends using the controversial Mark Fuhrman as a frequent contributor on her show and recalls interviews and conversations with Henry Kissinger, O. J. Simpson, Ted Turner, and Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne. Van Susteren turns her cogent analysis to the death penalty, cameras in the courtroom, corporate greed, the politics of patriotism, and tort reform. Whether or not readers agree with her positions, they will enjoy Van Susteren's candor and humor. Vanessa Bush Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved From the Inside Flap Welcome to the bully pulpit where opinions fly but common sense rules. Here's where you'll find straight talk about the most pressing issues of the day, all delivered in the trademark commonsense style of one of America's most popular and admired television news anchors. Always resisting the political label that attempts to place people in one ideological camp or another, Greta Van Susteren speaks from the mind and the heart, not as a liberal or a conservative, but as a right-thinking, sensible citizen. "Our country is at a critical juncture," she writes, and "too many of us are caught up in old definitions of left and right that no longer apply. If I favor the death penalty in some cases, does that make me right-wing? If I think hate crimes legislation is stupid, does that make me a conservative? If I happen to like and enjoy Ozzy Osbourne and have him on my show, does that make me a liberal? And if I believe that corporations should be held accountable if their products harm citizens and they should be subject to the rulings of a jury ditto for doctors who commit medical malpractice does that make me a leftist trial lawyer?" Here's more of Greta in her own words: On the military: Liberty isn't free. As a nation, we must provide for the men and women who put their lives on the line for us. That means good pay, adequate funding for defense, and our heartfelt support. Vietnam was a very long time ago. We Baby Boomers have to wake up and realize that today's military is a different military from the one we grew up with, and we are fighting a very different war. Patriotism is not a conservative or a liberal thing. Patriotism, as far as I am concerned, is the duty and obligation of every American. On the Supreme Court: There should be a litmus test for Supreme Court and federal court judges, and that test should be their opinion about allowing public access to court proceedings. Let cameras inside the courthouse, or at least allow an audio feed to radio. What are they hiding? On the death penalty: It should be legal and available to courts and juries . . . but it should be used extremely rarely, and only when we are absolutely certain that a fair trial has taken place. On how you look: It's your business and nobody else's. Your looks and your life are not a democracy not everybody gets a vote. Make your appearance and your choices a totalitarian regime you are the boss. On fun: It isn't a curse word. It's actually quite serious business, as it makes the hard times livable and the sad times bearable. Fun should be part of a work environment, too. Stuffed shirts and snobs who can't stop and laugh at themselves should be banished! In Greta's company you're guaranteed to get a fresh dose of common sense and a good hearty rant on many of the most important issues we face today. One more guarantee: you'll have some good fun while you're at it. From the Hardcover edition. About the Author Greta Van Susteren is host of *On the Record* with Greta Van Susteren on the Fox News Channel. Prior to her television career she was an attorney and adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University. She writes a monthly column for *Mens Health* and lives in the

Washington, D.C., area. Elaine Lafferty is the Editor in Chief of Ms. magazine. She is a highly respected journalist and foreign correspondent who has written for many publications, including Time, The Nation, and The Irish Times.