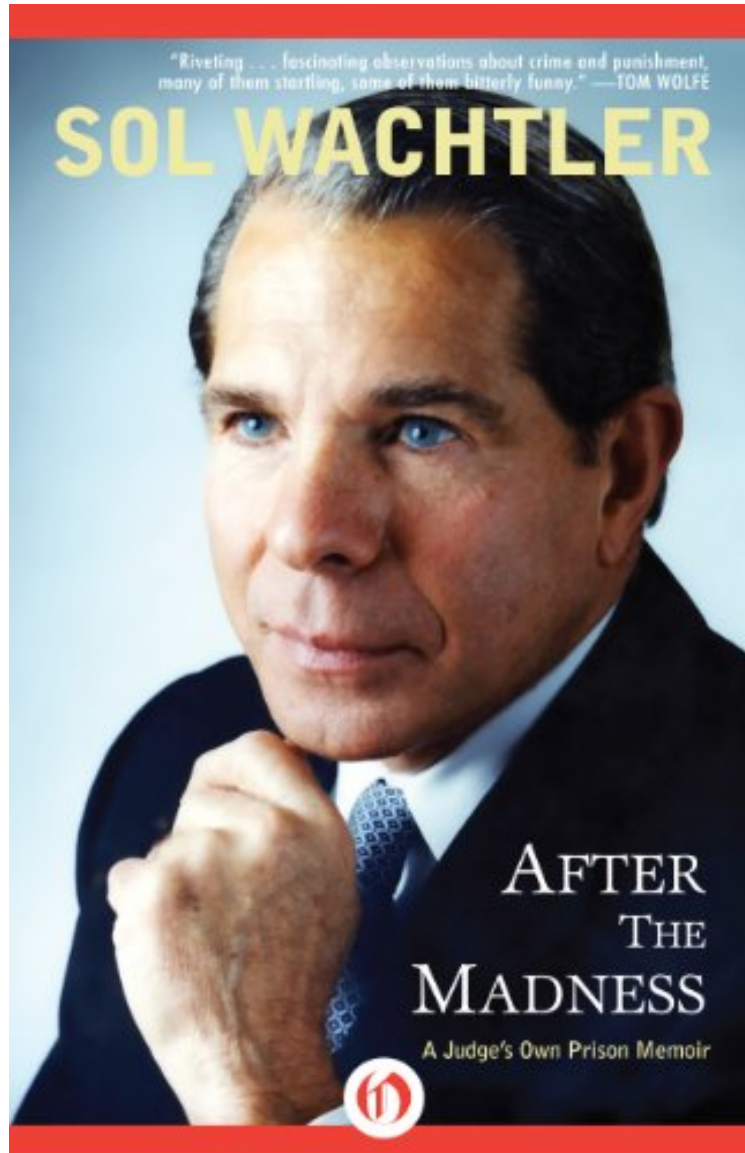


(Free read ebook) After the Madness: A Judge's Own Prison Memoir

After the Madness: A Judge's Own Prison Memoir

Sol Wachtler

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#885604 in Books Wachtler Sol 2014-04-29 2014-04-29Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .93 x 5.50l, 1.04 #File Name: 1497637139320 pagesAfter the Madness A Judge s Own Prison Memoir | File size: 47.Mb

Sol Wachtler : After the Madness: A Judge's Own Prison Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised After the Madness: A Judge's Own Prison Memoir:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Memoir Dated But An Interesting ReadBy Eph PurchaserWhile dated (Judge Wachtler was released from prison over 20 years ago), I enjoyed this memoir a great deal. Most

importantly, it reflects on the insights a formerly eminent jurist gained about the prison system while being incarcerated. While at times there is an inherent arrogance to Judge Wachtler's point of view (while he blames himself for his plight, he also excuses it to his illness to a significant extent) his observations about the Federal sentencing guidelines, the prosecution of low level drug offenders and his anecdotes about the prisoners he met while incarcerated are extremely enlightening. It was a quick read and well worth it, even if I didn't agree with all of his observations. It also chronicles a real tragedy - and he does seem to understand the incredible fall from grace that he underwent and the destruction of his otherwise pristine reputation. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A moving and thoughtful view of our prison system -- still relevant today By Customer Very well written and argued. I found myself drawn into Wachtler's suggested solutions to prison overcrowding and dehumanization of convicted felons. And he does a good job of weaving his ideas about system reform into his personal prison story to keep the reader's interest. This book, although decades old, is still relevant today because we have done so little to address the issues Wachtler raises. However, I'm always a little disappointed that some of the empathy that people in positions of power show seem to too often come when the issues affect them personally. Wachtler is concerned about prison reform after having experienced prison. Many conservative politicians become more liberal on gay rights after discovering that a child or family member is gay. Someday, hopefully, those in office will be able to look beyond their own personal situations and decide on the basis of what is fair and in the best interests of humanity. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Book of Instructions By John A. Johnson Judge Wachtler writes with passion about the life he had and the life he has. Beginning with a brief story of his professional standing and his illness that led to his downfall. Mostly he writes about what he experienced when he committed a crime and was apprehended and imprisoned for it. He describes his life in two prisons where he became intimate friends with convicted fellows of many hues while receiving visits from family, friends, and former colleagues. He also describes his release and subsequent realization that he could not take up where he left off - instead he had to start over, something he has done. Judge Wachtler focuses attention on the injustice from law enforcement practice of entrapments or stings. He also lays bare his soul on the unfair use of sentencing guidelines that do not allow judges to choose a punishment suitable to the crime. I recommend this book to anyone interested in American Justice in the 1990's.

Driving down the Long Island Expressway in November of 1992, Sol Wachtler was New York's chief judge and heir apparent to the New York governorship. Suddenly, three van loads of FBI agents swerved in front of him bringing his car and his legal career to a halt. Wachtler's subsequent arrest, conviction, and incarceration for harassing his longtime lover precipitated a media feeding frenzy, revealing to the world his struggles with romantic attachment, manic depression, and drug abuse. In this, his prison diary, Wachtler reveals the stark reality behind his vertiginous fall from the heights of the legal establishment to the underbelly of the criminal justice system. Sentenced to a medium security prison in Butner, North Carolina, Wachtler is stabbed by an unseen assailant, berated by prison guards, and repeatedly placed in solitary confinement with no explanation. Moreover, as a prisoner he confronts firsthand the inequities of a system his judicial rulings helped to construct and befriends the type of people he once sentenced. With unflinching honesty, Wachtler draws on his unique experience of living life on both sides of the bench to paint a chilling portrait of prison life interwoven with a no-holds-barred analysis of the shortcomings of the American legal justice system.

.com In November of 1992, New York's Chief Judge Sol Wachtler, an heir apparent to the governor's mansion, was arrested. He was charged and convicted for a humiliating crime stemming from his manic, obsessive harassment of his former mistress. A prominent New York socialite, the woman happened to be pals with the director of the FBI. Recorded conversations of the judge's threatening phone calls made for an open and shut case and sent the judge to federal prison for a 15-month stint. In *After the Madness*, the fallen jurist has created a confessional diary that chronicles his prison term. Stories of inmates are interspersed with prison reform recommendations and brief reflections on his crime. He also describes his "illness" and eventual diagnosis as manic-depressive, his incredible appetite (and ability!) to "self-medicate" at the rate of 5,000 pills in an 18-month period while serving on the bench, and the path he has taken to rebuild his name and career. The degree of hubris and the catastrophic fall give this story a classical dimension; the emphasis on psychiatry and self-esteem mark it as a product of our times. From School Library Journal YA. A very readable memoir by the former Chief Judge of New York, Wachtler's story is valuable for its points of view, for the author was a man of enormous power and potential, with a loving wife and family. His dark side, however, unalterably determined the course of his life. Within months of his appointment, Wachtler began an affair with Joy Silverman, the stepdaughter of his wife's uncle. It continued until he succumbed to depression and ended it. Using his prestige, he was able to convince various doctors to prescribe amphetamines, antidepressants, and hypnotics in large amounts, which provoked the development of a severe manic-depressive disorder. In the throes of mental illness, he harassed and threatened Silverman in an attempt to get her back. In November 1992, he was arrested and charged with extortion. A year later, in his mid '60s, he was sentenced to 15 months in prison and 2 years of supervised release. Written as a diary of his prison time, the book contains stories of fellow prisoners, reflections on his situation, and an analysis of the current state of the penal system. It's an interesting, and rare, discussion of both

sides of the fence? a convicted felon who can speak as both guilty party and judge. Having lived through being strip-searched, confined to the "hole," and stabbed, Wachtler can definitively speak about prison life. His opinions of his failings, his actions, and the corrections needed in the prison system could lead to lively moral and ethical discussions. ?Carol DeAngelo, formerly at Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal

In 1993, Wachtler, a former chief judge of the New York State Court of Appeals, was convicted of extortion after demanding money and threatening the lives of his ex-lover and her daughter. In this series of journal entries, he describes the conditions of his imprisonment and ruminates on such diverse topics as the conviction of Jonathan Pollard and the effects of heroin vs. crack on the crime rate. Wachtler peppers his description of prison life with quotes from Montaigne, Kafka, the Old Testament, and several of his own court opinions. His frequent statements of the need to take responsibility for his actions are offset by his equally frequent questioning of the circumstances of his arrest, his treatment in prison, and even why the woman he was convicted of threatening didn't call him instead of the FBI. There is a definite overtone of spin control in this volume, but the author nonetheless appears sincere. A fascinating look inside the mind of a man who was once on the fast track and whose obsession/mania/mental illness, depending on whom you talk to, derailed him. - ?Christine A. Moesch, Buffalo Erie Cty. P.L., N.Y. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.