



The Autobiography of an Execution

By David R. Dow

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The Autobiography of an Execution By David R. Dow

Near the beginning of *The Autobiography of an Execution*, David Dow lays his cards on the table. "People think that because I am against the death penalty and don't think people should be executed, that I forgive those people for what they did. Well, it isn't my place to forgive people, and if it were, I probably wouldn't. I'm a judgmental and not very forgiving guy. Just ask my wife."

In this spellbinding true crime narrative, Dow takes us inside of prisons, inside the complicated minds of judges, inside execution-administration chambers, into the lives of death row inmates (some shown to be innocent, others not) and even into his own home--where the toll of working on these gnarled and difficult cases is perhaps inevitably paid. He sheds insight onto unexpected phenomena-- how even religious lawyer and justices can evince deep rooted support for putting criminals to death-- and makes palpable the suspense that clings to every word and action when human lives hang in the balance.

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The Autobiography of an Execution By David R. Dow Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In an argument against capital punishment, Dow's capable memoir partially gathers its steam from the emotional toll on all parties involved, especially the overworked legal aid lawyers and their desperate clients. The author, the litigation director of the Texas Defender Service and a professor at the University of Houston Law Center, respects the notion of attorney-client privilege in this handful of real-life legal outcomes, some of them quite tragic, while acknowledging executions are not about the attorneys, but about the victims of murder and sometimes their killers. While trying to maintain a proper balance in his marriage to Katya, a fellow attorney and ballroom dancer, he spells out the maze of legal mumbo-jumbo to get his clients stays or released from confinement in the cases of a hapless Vietnam vet who shot a child, another man who beat his pregnant wife to death and another who killed his wife and children. In the end, Dow's book is a sobering, gripping and candid look into the death penalty. (Feb.)

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Review

"For a lot of good reasons, and some that are not so good, executions in the U.S. are carried out in private. The voters, the vast majority of whom support executions, are not allowed to see them. *The Autobiography of an Execution* is a riveting and compelling account of a Texas execution written and narrated by a lawyer in the thick of the last minute chaos. It should be read by all those who support state sponsored killing."

? **John Grisham, author of *The Innocent Man***

"David Dow's extraordinary memoir lifts the veil on the real world of representing defendants on death row. It will stay with me a long time."

? **Jeffrey Toobin, author of *The Nine***

"I have read much about capital punishment, but David Dow's book leaves all else behind."? **Anthony Lewis**

"In an argument against capital punishment, Dow's capable memoir partially gathers its steam from the emotional toll on all parties involved, especially the overworked legal aid lawyers and their desperate clients. The author, the litigation director of the Texas Defender Service and a professor at the University of Houston Law Center, respects the notion of attorney-client privilege in this handful of real-life legal outcomes, some of them quite tragic, while acknowledging executions are 'not about the attorneys,' but 'about the victims of murder and sometimes their killers.' While trying to maintain a proper balance in his marriage to Katya, a fellow attorney and ballroom dancer, he spells out the maze of legal mumbo-jumbo to get his clients stays or released from confinement in the cases of a hapless Vietnam vet who shot a child, another man who beat his pregnant wife to death and another who killed his wife and children. In the end, **Dow's book is a sobering, gripping and candid look into the death penalty.**"

? **Publishers Weekly**

"Defending the innocent is easy. David Dow fights for the questionable. He is tormented, but relentless, and takes us inside his struggle with candor and insight, shudders and all."

? **Dave Cullen, author of Columbine**

About the Author

David R. Dow is professor of law at the University of Houston Law Center and an internationally recognized figure in the fight against the death penalty. He is the founder and director of the Texas Innocence Project. He lives in Houston, Texas.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Robinson:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book particularly book entitled The Autobiography of an Execution your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a guide then become one contact form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get previous to. The The Autobiography of an Execution giving you one more experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful info for your better life on this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Louis Hudson:

This The Autobiography of an Execution is great guide for you because the content that is full of information for you who all always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. This specific book reveal it info accurately using great organize word or we can state no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but tricky core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having The Autobiography of an Execution in your hand like getting the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no book that offer you world within ten or fifteen moment right but this e-book already do that. So , it is good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. busy do you still doubt that will?

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Hoa Gilkey:

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