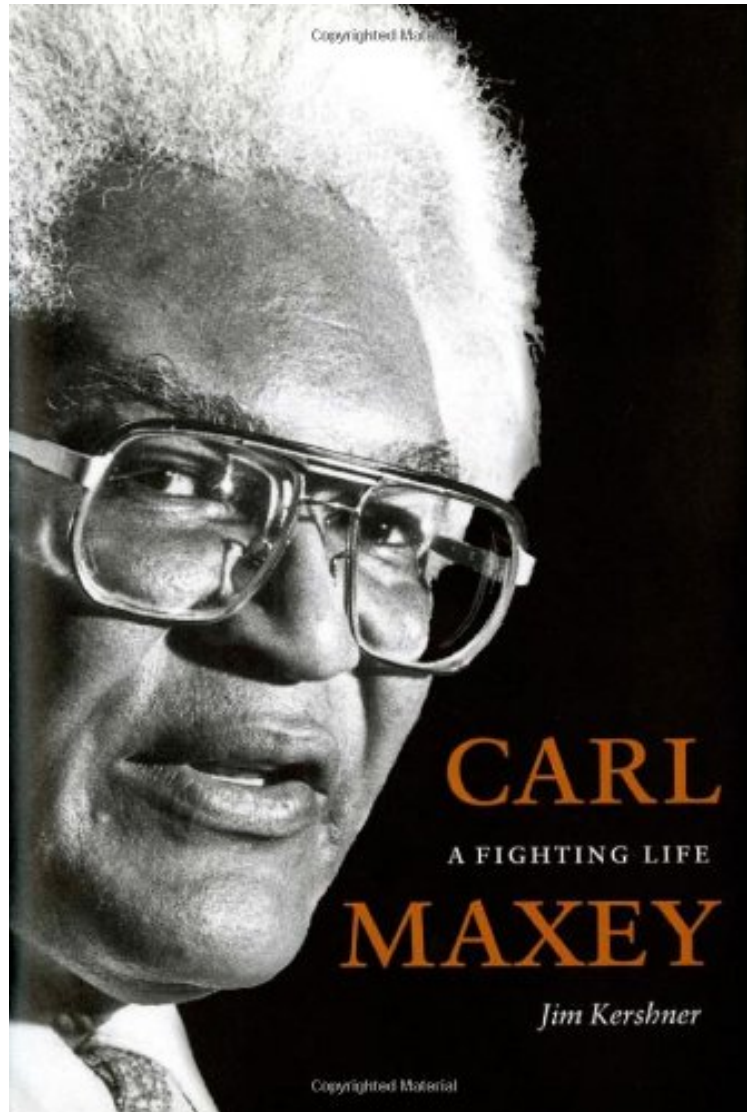


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Carl Maxey: A Fighting Life (V. Ethel Willis White Books)

Jim Kershner

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Jim Kershner : Carl Maxey: A Fighting Life (V. Ethel Willis White Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Carl Maxey: A Fighting Life (V. Ethel Willis White Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book-wrong endingBy MdornquastJim Kershner did a great job writing this book and he labored long and hard in his research. I had the pleasure of knowing Carl personally for many years and working for him for 14 years up to the day he passed away. He did so many wonderful things and reached out to help so many people in Spokane. He was also a person people loved to hate because he was a fierce adversary in the courtroom and stood up for the under privileged. What many people do not know about him is the

kindness and generosity of the man. I loved the book; it made me cry and I will never agree with the ending as I am certain Carl did not end his own life. I will always know it was a tragic accident. RIP Carl, I still hear your laughter!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Carl Maxey--A Champion By Mike Barer Jim Kershner writes a riveting story of Carl Maxey who literally fought his way out of the depths of poverty to become a champion of civil rights and Anti war protests. An African American who practiced in a predominately conservative, white town, Maxey left a huge footprint on the city of Spokane, from challenging "Blue Laws" to fighting segregation. Kershner presents a well rounded picture of Maxey, from his days in a scandal ridden orphan home through his career as an outstanding collegiate boxer at Gonzaga, on to his Anti War candidacy for US Senate. Kershner succeeds in showing that this man who achieved greatness was also a troubled man with many faults. A must read for anyone wanting to read about the turbulent sixties or Northwest political history.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great story about a legendary civil rights pioneer By DONALD NICHOLS A great story about a legendary civil rights pioneer. I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Maxey personally. He fought for the underdog at every turn. A great story.

A finalist for the 2009 Washington State Book Award. Carl Maxey was, in his own words, 'a guy who started from scratch - black scratch.' He was sent, at age five, to the scandal-ridden Spokane Children's Home and then kicked out at age eleven with the only other "colored" orphan. Yet, Maxey managed to make a national name for himself, first as an NCAA championship boxer, and then as eastern Washington's first black lawyer and renowned civil rights attorney who always fought for the underdog. During the tumultuous civil rights and Vietnam War eras, Carl Maxey fought to break down color barriers in his hometown of Spokane and throughout the nation. He participated in Freedom Summer in Mississippi and made national headlines with lurid murder cases and outrageous war-protest trials, including the tumultuous Seattle Seven trial. He even took his commitment to justice and antiwar causes to the political arena, running for the U.S. Senate against the powerhouse Senator Scoop Jackson. In "Carl Maxey: A Fighting Life", Jim Kershner explores the sources of Maxey's passions as well as the price he ultimately paid for his struggles. The result is a moving portrait of a man called a 'Type-A Gandhi' by the "New York Times" and whose own personal misfortune only spurred his lifelong, tireless crusade against injustice. Jim Kershner is a journalist for "The Spokesman-Review" in Spokane.

"A well-written biography ... sympathetic but not fawning. The state has changed ... this is the story of one man who helped change it." --Bruce Ramsey, Seattle Times

"Well-constructed... we finish the book feeling that we have just met someone personally. A fitting tribute to a controversial ground breaker in our state's history." --Robert H. Keller, Columbia, The Magazine of Northwest History

"In Kershner's fascinating and engaging biography, Maxey comes alive as a dynamic force, both in the courtroom and in the ring." --Catherine Hinchliff, HistoryLink.org, The Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History

"An essential biography of one city's civil rights hero, wonderfully written and impeccably researched. . . . Carl Maxey was a man whose complicated life transcended its own gripping details to mirror a turbulent time in our recent history, a time when it seemed as if race and justice would forever run on separate tracks." Jess Walter, author of The Zero

"Jim Kershner's biography of activist Carl Maxey is not only inspirational and informative, but because it is so well written it is also a pleasure to read." Carlos Schwantes, University of Missouri-St. Louis

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