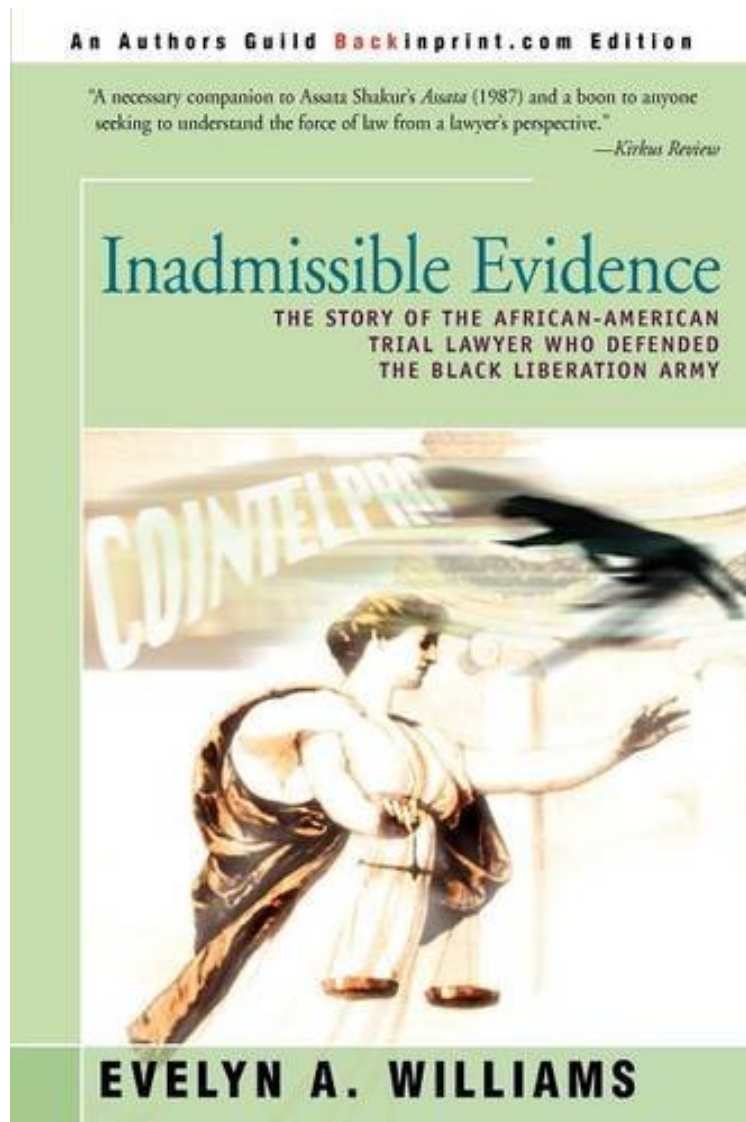


(Download free pdf) Inadmissible Evidence: The Story of the African-American Trial Lawyer Who Defended the Black Liberation Army

Inadmissible Evidence: The Story of the African-American Trial Lawyer Who Defended the Black Liberation Army

Evelyn Williams

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Evelyn Williams : Inadmissible Evidence: The Story of the African-American Trial Lawyer Who Defended the Black Liberation Army before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inadmissible Evidence: The Story of the African-American Trial Lawyer Who Defended the Black Liberation Army:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Required reading in the 21st century

By R. Wood

I am 60 years old, old enough to have been alive during the purely criminal tyranny of the state called COINTELPRO back in the days of J Edgar Hoover. Ms. Hoover is now dead, as is America's beloved Reagan [who arrogantly pardoned the only two FBI officials convicted for COINTELPRO's years of criminal activities]. But, sadly, we Americans so often fail to learn from the mistakes of the past. So we repeat them. This book is a valuable resource, an accurate historical record, of just how bestial our executive branch, and in particular the FBI, became when we the people failed to live up to our duty as citizens of what is supposed to be a free society. Freedom is not free. With it comes the duty, the responsibility, to hold our government accountable for the evil that it does in our name. When the State steps outside the bounds clearly spelled out in the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights, we as citizens have a duty, a responsibility, to reign in our lawless government, in particular the FBI which possesses the power and might to most egregiously cause domestic harm. I read this book --- its detailed descriptions of purely illegal activities of the FBI, up to and including murder, unlawful detention, witness tampering, and torture. And I was most saddened by the fact that we are, now, in the year 2013, suffering thru an emergence of all the abuses of power that COINTELPRO entailed. Truth be told, things are much worse now, thanks to the existence of the Department of Homeland Security, the availability of drones to police, the stockpiling of hollow point ammo for 'security' of government offices, and the signing of the NDAA into law by President Barack 'Just War' Obama. Consider what has transpired in just the past year. Law enforcement shot two innocent bystanders, women, one of them in the back, in their rush to judge, convict, and execute Chris Dorner without benefit of due process. And our government chased Julian Assange all over the globe seeking to get him back here on American soil where they know they can torture and indefinitely imprison him without even the pretense of due process. And Bradley Manning is behind bars, perhaps for the rest of his life, for the high crime of telling the truth about what our War On Terror is really about. And our executive branch drove Aaron Swartz to commit suicide for, the high crime, again, of telling the truth to the American people about the evil that our government does in our name. And now, just a few days ago, the FBI informed us that they added the first woman to their most wanted list, complete with a \$2 million dollar bounty on her head. Who is this horrible terrorist, this woman who our handlers warn us is even now plotting to kill us all? A frail, black, 65 year old senior citizen. A political prisoner from the COINTELPRO days now living in Cuba --- Assata Shakur. A woman who has never even so much as spit on the sidewalk in the three decades since she escaped America's pretense of criminal justice and began a life in exile under the protection of Cuba. Assata is the subject of much, but not all, of this book. It is really about the inspiring, heroic, life of Evelyn Williams who in addition to being everything Obama is not is also the aunt of Assata Shakur. I read comments on the internet from so many clueless American coppers who are outraged that anyone would defend Ms. Shakur, who they call a cop-killer and worse. And, occasionally, I respond in this way: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--- That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,-- That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security." Power To The People!

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

Inadmissible Evidence

By Whitney

This book truly does compliment "Assata; An Autobiography." I am a graduate student who is researching radical and revolutionary organizations for her thesis. One of the groups who I have been writing about is the Black Liberation Army (BLA). It is very difficult to find scholarly and good information regarding that particular organization. Primary sources are also quite limited. This book is one of the few sources I have been able to use effectively for my thesis. While Ms. Williams is an intelligent, intriguing individual with an interesting life story she is also a great resource because of her involvement in her nieces legal cases and other cases during the time period that involved members of the BLA. If you are interested in the history of political violence, revolutionary politics and organizations, race and ethnicity in America, or Black Nationalist Movements this is a great read.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. More than worthy

By Dr PA

s a person who calls sistah Evelyn my colleague and sistah jurist I can only write that once again she is a brilliant with a pen as she is in the courtroom Thank you sistah!

Excerpts from Kirkus Review (11-1-1993) Any analysis of the American Black experience demands close attention to both the political and the personal, and this extraordinary memoir by Williams offers just that, as well as making a noteworthy contribution to recent American legal History. Becoming a Childrens Court probation officer she contended with the political pressures of placing the children of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg In the early 70s, the author

took on her most important case, defending her niece, Assata Shakur, leader of the Black Liberation Army.

From Publishers Weekly Criminal trial lawyer Williams pays attention to gritty details while relating the events of her life: growing up black and female in pre-World War II America; coursing through a white-male-dominated legal academy; being aunt and legal counsel to JoAnne Chesimard, aka Assata Shakur, a Black Liberation Army member hunted by the FBI. Williams's parents had migrated north to escape the virulent racism of the South, but they made sure their daughter knew the history and condition of blacks in America. As a trial lawyer, Williams dedicated herself to protecting the rights of poor blacks in New York City. With Shakur implicated in reports of violence by the Black Liberation Army, Williams's family endured increased assaults and surveillance by federal officers. Shakur's notoriety climaxed in the spring of 1973, with her involvement in a shootout on the New Jersey Turnpike that left one state trooper and a civilian dead. Williams's account of the trial, in which she defended Shakur, is the pragmatic, legal counterpart of her niece's own sensational autobiography; Williams is keenly dispassionate about the events leading to the latter's famed escape attempt from a maximum security prison in 1979. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Williams offers here a historical and personal account chronicling her experiences from law school to her becoming one of the first African American female trial lawyers. She also describes in vivid detail the story of her defense of her niece Assata Shakur (formerly JoAnne Chesimard)--the alleged Black Liberation Army leader during the explosive era of the Sixties. Written in a compelling narrative style, this memoir gives students of history a firsthand account of the legal system in practice and of race relations in the United States. Williams also allows readers to catch a glimpse of her personal relationships with her family members. Recommended.- Angela Washington- Blair, Texas Woman's Univ., Denton Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s Any analysis of the American black experience demands close attention to both the political and the personal, and this extraordinary memoir by Williams--the country's first African- American trial lawyer--offers just that, as well as making a noteworthy contribution to recent American legal history. Williams--a child of Depression-era N.Y.C.--tells how youthful visits to the segregated South shaped her passion for justice, while ambitious parents shaped her belief that she need not submit to injustice. Not surprisingly, she chose a career in social work, becoming a Children's Court probation officer: In her first major case, she contended with the political pressures of placing the children of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. Soon weary of bureaucratic manipulations, and in order ``to center my life," Williams pursued a legal career, managing to build a practice in poverty law--this at a time when there ``were so few black lawyers" (not to mention black women lawyers) that there ``wasn't any effort to count them." In the early 70's, the author took on her most important case, defending her niece, Assata Shakur, ``leader" of the Black Liberation Army. It's obvious from Williams's discussion of this case that she loves legal work: Her words glow with the fire and intensity of the period. With the legal and the political inextricably linked during Shakur's trials, the author shows how frustrating, and often futile, defending the poor and other non- mainstream groups can be--especially, in her case, while burdened with finding a balance between concerned aunt and objective legal strategist. Moreover, after Shakur's escape, Williams had to contend with wiretaps, character assassination, and other aspects of the FBI's counterintelligence program. Now semiretired, she's reached the same conclusion ``that Assata reached a long time ago: direct action by the people is the only hope for change." A necessary companion to Assata Shakur's Assata (1987)--and a boon to anyone seeking to understand the force of law from a lawyer's perspective. -- Copyright 1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.