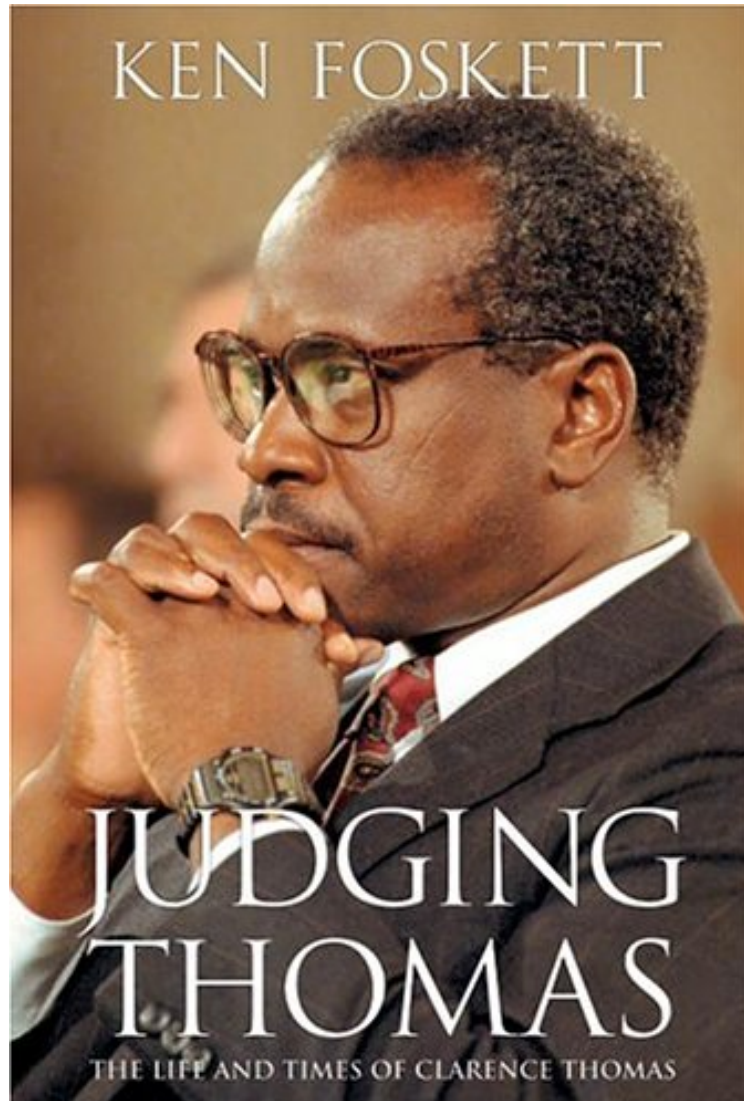


(Ebook free) Judging Thomas : The Life and Times of Clarence Thomas

Judging Thomas : The Life and Times of Clarence Thomas

Ken Foskett

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Ken Foskett : Judging Thomas : The Life and Times of Clarence Thomas before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Judging Thomas : The Life and Times of Clarence Thomas:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Thomas passes his character judgmentBy Jonathan PauleyNicely written, engrossing and fair account of Justice Thomas. Foskett traces Thomas' formative upbringing and experiences in the American south. Thomas' life is an example of overcoming issues like poverty, family dysfunction, racial and personal challenges by strong character and self-determination. These factors translate to his mostly conservative worldview, his judicial outlook (sometimes based on a bit of natural law), and his court opinions. Nice development

here of the strong side of Thomas: always ready to meet a fight head-on and act on his philosophy with dignity and integrity. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Much of what you probably don't know about Judge Thomas By Kindle Customer If you believe we are a product of our environment and upbringing I believe you're in tune with the author. I enjoyed the book as well as the facts as the author sees them. I would recommend as a good read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting man By vernsproat Recommended by a friend. It gave me a much better understanding of the man.

Clarence Thomas, the youngest and most controversial member of the Supreme Court, could become the longest-serving justice in history, influencing American law for decades to come. Who is this enigmatic man? And what does he believe in? *Judging Thomas* tells the remarkable story of Clarence Thomas's improbable journey from hard-scrabble beginnings in the segregated South to the loftiest court in the land. With objectivity and balance, author Ken Fosskett chronicles Thomas's contempt for upper-crust blacks who snubbed his uneducated, working-class roots; his flirtation with the priesthood and, later, Black Power; the resentment that fueled his opposition to affirmative action; the conservative beliefs that ultimately led him to the Supreme Court steps; and the inner resilience that propelled him through the doors. Based on interviews with Thomas himself, fellow justices, family members, and hundreds of friends and associates, *Judging Thomas* skillfully unravels perhaps the most complex, controversial, and powerful public figure in America today.

From Publishers Weekly This in-depth look at the life of Clarence Thomas, who has kept a low public profile for over a decade, is a refreshing change. Fosskett, a journalist for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, focuses on Thomas's growth from his upbringing at the hands of a strict grandfather through his time at Yale Law School and his eventual, albeit controversial, ascension to the Supreme Court. Relying on a mixture of secondary sources and oral interviews, Fosskett delves into Thomas's intellectual development, from a flirtation with black power in college to his embrace of the natural law philosophy that dictates his strict reading of the Constitution. While Fosskett leaves no stone unturned in detailing Thomas's history, he occasionally is less effective at connecting the dots: is there a connection between Thomas's strict upbringing, his attendance at religious schools and his hard-line judicial philosophy? Fosskett is occasionally critical of Thomas (he notes a scandal that dogged Thomas when he headed the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission), but mainly argues that Thomas's legal mind has been unfairly criticized because he's a black conservative. Fosskett's conclusion that Thomas was likely more truthful at his Senate confirmation hearings than Anita Hill will be a turnoff to some. But those able to suspend political judgment will learn a lot about the court's most controversial justice. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine Atlanta Journal-Constitution reporter Fosskett cracked Justice Thomas's media-wary shell by approaching him after a Good Friday service. He deserves points for bravery, but most critics agree that this partially authorized biography leaves much to be desired (Thomas did not grant him access to his private papers). It makes sense that the conservative New York Sun would be the lone rave review, since Fosskett is highly sympathetic towards Thomas throughout, even defending him against Hills charges (she declined to be interviewed for the book). Others excoriate Fosskett for not thoroughly examining the strange pattern of anger and ideological shifts that define Thomas's life; more than one critic called Fosskett's research shoddy. A highlight? Two sitting members of the Supreme Court went on the record (with complimentary remarks) about Thomas. Copyright 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. From Booklist Political journalist Fosskett offers an examination of controversial Supreme Court Justice Thomas through the context of historical forces that have shaped this enigmatic man. Based on interviews with Thomas, his family, friends, teachers, and Supreme Court colleagues, Fosskett's book explores the seeming contradictions of virulent opposition to affirmative action by a man who has personally benefited from considerations of race aimed at correcting past discrimination. Aiming past the well-known background--childhood in poverty-stricken rural Georgia, raised by a strict grandfather and schooled by strict Catholic nuns before receiving an Ivy League education--Fosskett explores the underlying questions that plagued Thomas regarding the stigma of race and assumptions of unworthiness. Subjected to both extremes of race considerations, from soul-killing segregation to elevation to the Supreme Court under the suspect political motivations of his white sponsors, Thomas expresses a desire to help blacks overcome discrimination but fails to provide suggestions for how to replace affirmative action. The contradictions within Thomas' complex personality are fully on display in this absorbing biography, but readers are likely to remain mystified. Vernon Ford Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved