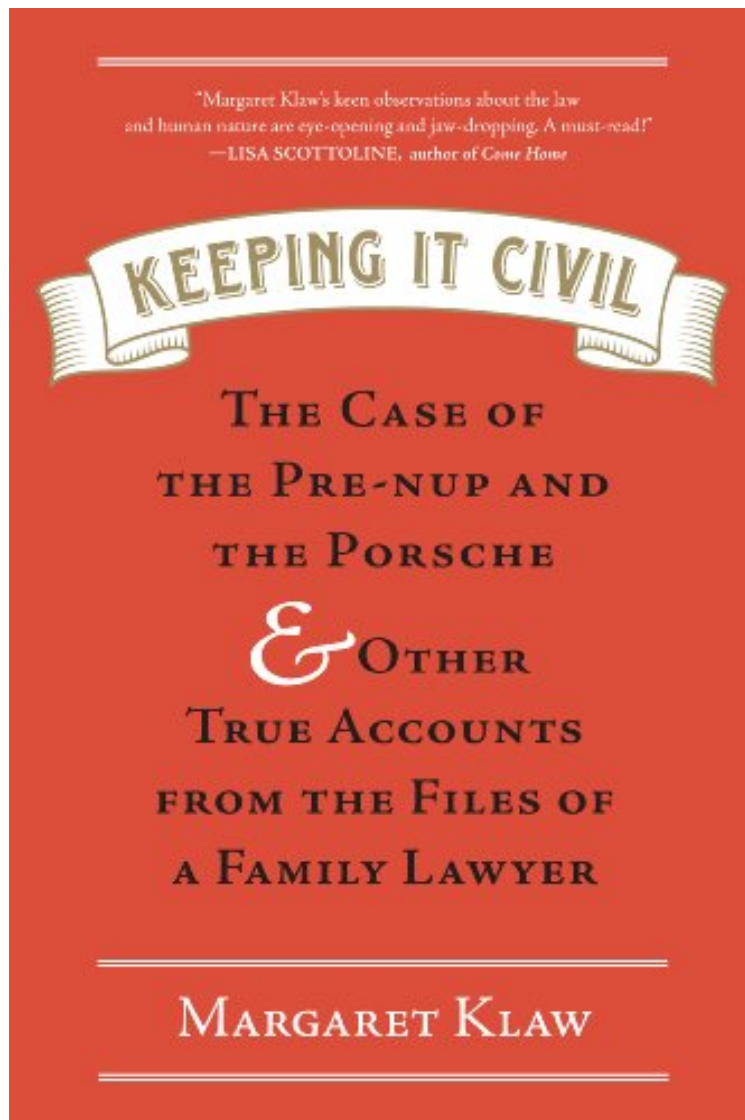


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## Keeping It Civil: The Case of the Pre-nup and the Porsche Other True Accounts from the Files of a Family Lawyer

*Margaret Klaw*

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**Margaret Klaw : Keeping It Civil: The Case of the Pre-nup and the Porsche Other True Accounts from the Files of a Family Lawyer** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Keeping It Civil: The Case of the Pre-nup and the Porsche Other True Accounts from the Files of a Family Lawyer:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A lot to think aboutBy AJCIt's hard to believe that this book is only 250 pages; there is so much in it. In some parts, it is a behind-the-scenes look at how family law operates. As a non-lawyer who has not been divorced, I now have pretty solid grasp on the rudiments of current legal frameworks for dividing joint property, general guidelines used for custody etc. In other parts, the book is an exploration of how family law is rapidly changing in a world of gay marriage, surrogacy, female breadwinners etc. It is also a meditation on the need for professional boundaries, even in a field of law particularly fraught with intense emotion, and a discussion of when those boundaries intentionally or inadvertently break down. Additionally, the book is a memoir of Margaret Klaw's own journey--one that many women can learn from as they read about how she managed to become a successful lawyer with a fulfilling family life. And, perhaps most compellingly, it is the story of a heartbreaking but not atypical custody case that is told in segments interspersed throughout the book. What holds this varied narrative together is Keeping it Civil's greatest asset: the author's voice. In spite of the sometimes complex legal subject matter being presented, as I read I continually felt that I was having a long talk with a good friend. An attorney friend who I had asked to explain something about a family law-related issue in that day's headlines, or who was telling me about a particularly interesting event in her work life, or who was explaining why she made some of the choices she did both personally and professionally. The consistently clear, straightforward, and disarmingly informal style of prose allows Klaw to flow from describing the murder of a client to later describing her own daughters' questionable choices of attire in elementary school in a seamless and natural manner. I certainly hope that I NEVER, EVER have to experience the pain of divorce myself--but having read Keeping it Civil, I wish that all people who divorce or face similar challenges could be represented by someone as informed, caring, smart, and sensitive as the person who I feel that I have come to know in these 250 thought-provoking pages. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Cleverly writtenBy AmandaAnecdotal stories are used to walk us through the family law process, and the emotional ups and downs family law attorneys grapple with every day. The author's passion shines through, making the read that much more enjoyable. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Jeff PoulterA very interesting read on the insides of the "system". I learned something new on every page.

Provocative true cases that explore the intersection of our most intimate relationships and the law and offer a window into how we define a family today. A woman seeking a divorce has no idea of the family finances her husband doled out money only after she gave him requisition slips for her intended purchases. A lesbian couple wants to include their sperm donor in their child's life; the sperm donor is the brother of one partner, so he will be the biological father as well as the child's uncle. These are the clients who come knocking on family lawyer Margaret Klaw's door, hoping for resolution.

With a lawyer's mind and a writer's heart, Klaw brings a deeper understanding of the way cultural attitudes about sex, money, women and relationships influence the law--and vice versa. Keeping It Civil grants access to Klaw's most intriguing cases, exploring today's hot button issues through the lens of ordinary people seeking counsel." Philadelphia Tribune What doesn't happen very often is that I read a book straight through, but that's what I did with Keeping It Civil. I just couldn't stop myself. That's because author and Pennsylvania 'Super Lawyer' Margaret Klaw shares her cases with excitement, energy, and compassion here. The Bookworm Sez It is both Klaw's legal expertise and her warmheartedness that make this book so approachable--and her terrific prose doesn't hurt, either. I especially recommend this for book groups, where discussions about these ethical and legal dilemmas will no doubt be spirited. Bookpage An excellent, non-technical crash course on how and why lawyers do what they do . . . This book accomplishes an admirable goal: to foreground the humanity in the halls of justice. Publishers Weekly, starred review Love can be messy, and law is just as complicated. Klaw's book reminds readers that nothing about law is impersonal. Instead, human emotion remains the glue of the legal system, societal norms, and family law. Foreword s Conversational, entertaining . . . Informative and smart . . . An accessible description of an intricate field of law, examined in an open-hearted style. Kirkus s Margaret Klaw's keen observations about the law and human nature are eye-opening and jaw-dropping. This book shows how today's cultural conflicts are played out in the lives of ordinary families in true-life cases that involve love, money, sex, betrayal, and power. A must read! Lisa Scottoline, New York Times bestselling author of the legal thrillers Save Me, Think Twice, and others