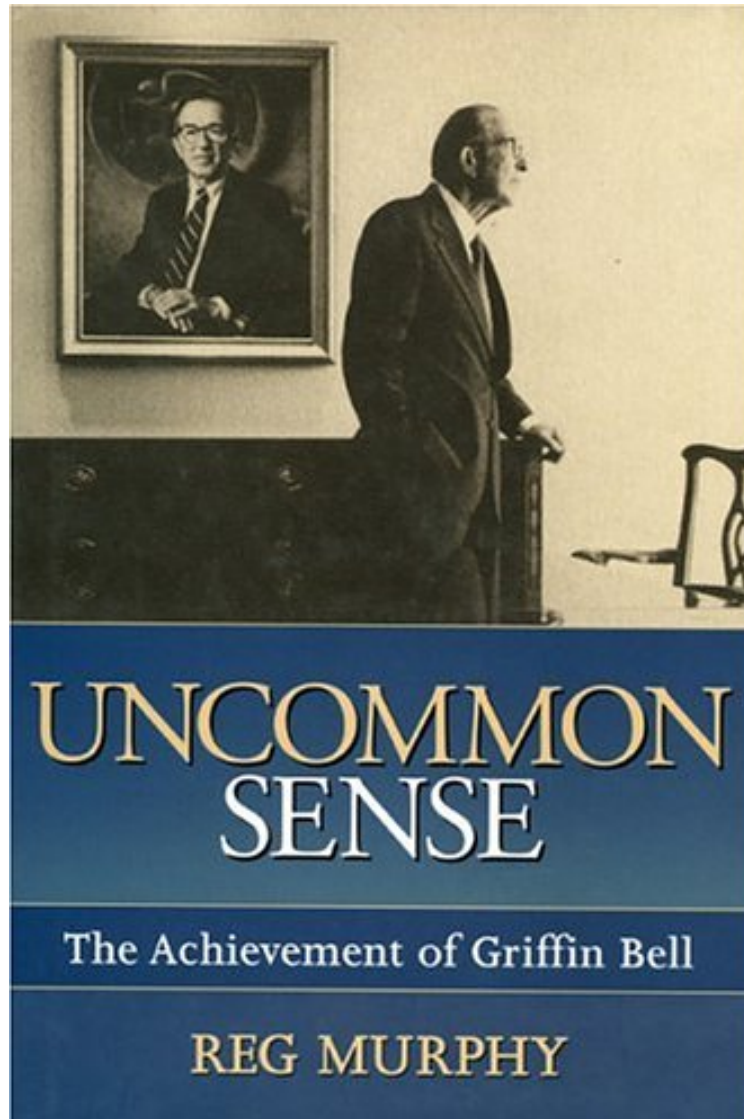


(Mobile ebook) Uncommon Sense: The Achievement of Griffin Bell

Uncommon Sense: The Achievement of Griffin Bell

Reg Murphy

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Reg Murphy : Uncommon Sense: The Achievement of Griffin Bell before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Uncommon Sense: The Achievement of Griffin Bell:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Uncommonly GoodBy Stewart McDowellThis was recommended by a friend who knew the Judge from Sea Island, Ga. The story combines themes of the civil rights movement, the rise of the "New South", the Carter administration, and of course the life of Judge Bell. His simple and straight forward approach to business and politics was refreshing and he was accepted and revered by people from all walks of life. This true son of the South achieved great success in law and politics during his life. Stewart McDowell.0 of 0 people

found the following review helpful. Uncommon - Great History By A Customer Excellent writing by someone who obviously lived and played with Bell. Very interesting to a new "Southerner".

A biography of former attorney general Griffin Bell that addresses his influence on modern legal history.

From Library Journal Murphy, a vice-chair of the National Geographic Society, pays homage to former U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell while offering glimpses into Southern legal history. Murphy chronicles Bell's life from his Depression-era youth in Americus, GA, to his service at the Department of Justice under President Carter and his subsequent return to private practice in Atlanta. Unfortunately, Murphy's approach is casually journalistic, not scholarly; apart from a few interviews with Griffin's associates, he shies away from documentary history and sometimes (curiously) writes in a first-person, editorial way. Unsuccessful as a narrative writer, Murphy overuses saccharine and overwrought phrases to paint an uncritical portrait of Bell and a lopsided view of Southern civil rights history. Libraries with comprehensive Southern history collections may want to purchase, but all others should take a pass; those who would rather read Bell's own words should try to locate his out-of-print *Taking Care of the Law* (1986). A Steven Anderson, Gordon Feinblatt Rothman Hoffberger Hollander, Towson, MD Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s Although marketed as a balanced biography, this effort reads more like an extended piece of promotional material paid for by either the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce or Griffin Bells law firm for distribution to potential clients. Former Atlanta Constitution editor Reg Murphy (*The Southern Strategy*, 1971) has obvious affection for Bell, a man who sprang from modest rural Georgia roots to become one of the countrys most successful lawyers: federal judge, United States Attorney General under President Carter, and managing partner of Atlantas largest law firm. As Murphy tells the tale, Bells life, which has spanned most of the century, mirrors the development of the nation and, more specifically, the South. Like his native region, Bells career has forced him to confront difficult historical realities, particularly segregation. As a federal judge, Bell played a major role in enforcing the Supreme Courts desegregation directives. Unfortunately, Murphy chooses to avoid the moral ambiguities that pervade Bells life (or, for that matter, any white Southerners life during the evolution of the civil rights movement). For instance, Bell acquiesced when his friend Ernest Vandiver pandered to segregationists during a campaign for governor with the phrase, No, not one, which alluded to the number of black children who would attend white schools under a Vandiver administration. Rather than discuss the trade-offs that Bell made in the hope of encouraging enlightened policies, Murphy brushes past the subject with the comment that Vandiver showed great courage in dealing with desegregation issues, but black voters never forgave him for the phrase. On the level of personal relationships, Murphy shows himself to be equally simplistic: Griffin Bell was not a fellow to take it easy, and his wife was wise enough to help without carping about the time his practice took. Griffin Bell has lived a complex life; it deserves a more thoughtful assessment. -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.