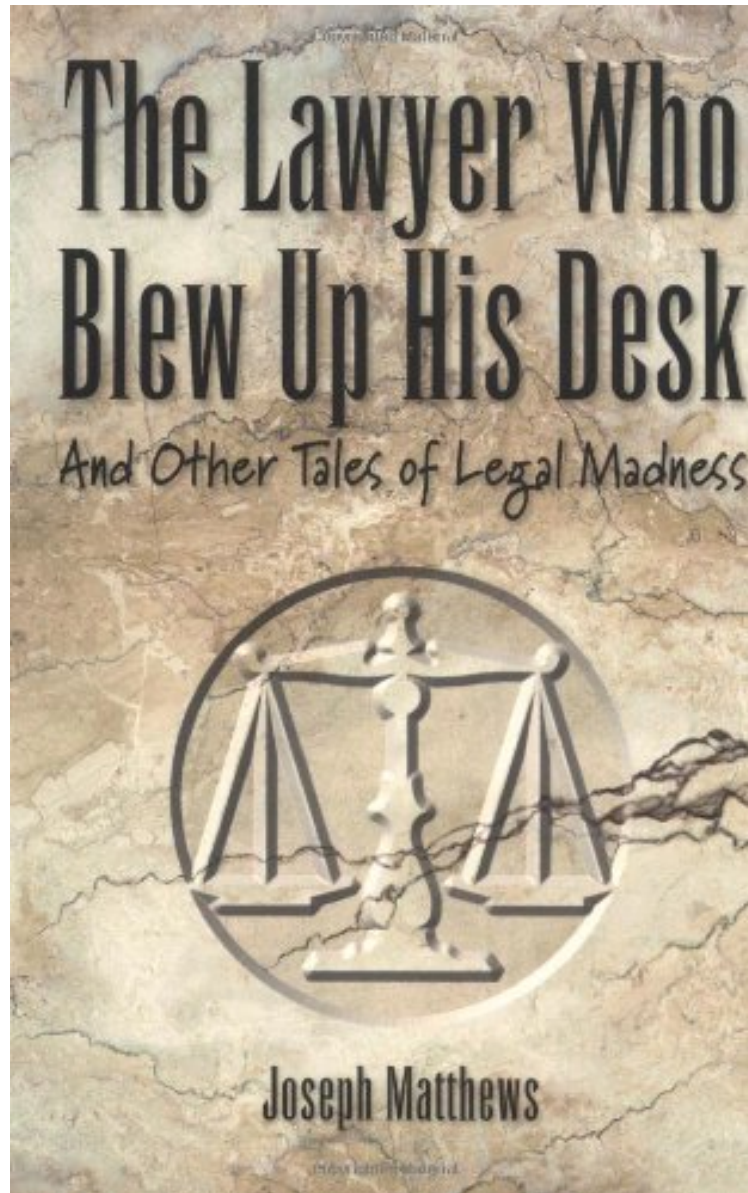


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The Lawyer Who Blew up His Desk: And Other Tales of Legal Madness

Joseph L. Matthews

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Joseph L. Matthews : The Lawyer Who Blew up His Desk: And Other Tales of Legal Madness before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lawyer Who Blew up His Desk: And Other Tales of Legal Madness:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's angry and funny and thoughtful and sadBy Mario DonatoA friend just turned me on to this book, and what a find! It's angry and funny and thoughtful and sad, and gives so much insight into what the world of lawyers -- real courtroom lawyers -- is like. Terrifically written, with so many different voices in the different stories, coming at The Law from so many angles. With lawyers and courts in the news so much these days, it would be great to have this book see the light of day again. It's a real gem.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very amusing and entertaining; makes a great giftBy A CustomerI thoroughly enjoyed reading this book of short stories. I bought 2 of these books as gifts for lawyers. It also makes a great gift for paralegals and legal secretaries.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. funny and touchingBy A CustomerReal-life anecdotes from a criminal defense lawyer. As a third-year law student, it made me alternately hopeful and cynical about the profession I'm about to enter. Some of the stories are downright laugh-out-loud funny, some show you the way justice can be done, some show you how justice is (sadly) often ignored. (The coin-flip story is particularly horrifying, although there's no doubt in my mind that it's absolutely true.) Everyone will be entertained by this book, as Matthews' style is more storyteller than legalese, but it will hit home with lawyers, and defense lawyers in particular.

Trial lawyer Joseph Matthews brings us the view from the legal trenches in a series of witty, dramatic, and often downright absurd looks at our justice system. Whether you are looking to laugh your briefs off or come under the spell of a wild cast of characters, Matthew's book has something for every discerning reader.

From BooklistMatthews, a former criminal trial attorney, affirms popular legal criticism in this collection of short essays. But the system of adversarial jurisprudence is the culprit, and lawyers (at least many of them) are its victims. Matthews doesn't try to excuse or justify lawyers' behavior; he does try to pierce the veil that shields the public from the common humanity of lawyers. A series of incidents illustrate how lawyers struggle to deal with their humanity, for example, sneaking food to a jailed client who is subject to deportation. It is an act of affirmation to counteract numerous instances of inhumanity and legal capriciousness, such as a judge proposing to determine the fate of a client by the flip of a coin. Matthews conveys a dual perspective, empathizing with the complicated human condition but being perceived nonetheless as "the lawyer." For social critics this book confirms the vices of the adversarial system. For all professionals of the baby boom generation, the book reviews the period from the high idealism of the 1960s to a period of declining social consciousness. Vernon Ford ...a wonderfully funny and furious memoir... -- The San Francisco Chronicle, Kathleen Kahn