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David J. Garrow

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(Free download) Liberty and Sexuality, the Right to Privacy and the Making of Roe v. Wade

Liberty and Sexuality, the Right to Privacy and the Making of Roe v. Wade

David J. Garrow : Liberty and Sexuality, the Right to Privacy and the Making of Roe v. Wade before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Liberty and Sexuality, the Right to Privacy and the Making of Roe v. Wade:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. It's a legal history, but you should read thisBy Christine N. EthierDisclaimer: Read as an ARC via Netgalley. But note, I did purchase when it was released.3.5Okay, to say that this book is dry would be fair. At the most basic, it is a legal history of birth control and abortion from the later days of Sanger to the 1990s. Undoubtedly, a legal student or scholar would get more out of it than a general reader. But Garrow does a very good job at making what is dry in subject matter, very readable. So the dry feeling is not from Garrow's writing. Yet, this is a book that you must read if you are woman regardless of how you feel about abortion. And you should read it if you are a man. Hell, you should read it if you live in the United States. I use to tell people that to talk about abortion they needed to read Roe vs. Wade in some form an edited version of the dissent and decision at the very least. Now, I am going to say Roe vs. Wade and Garrows work. I understand more about the debate and history then I did before. Garrow does humanize some of the players (and not just the ones you would think); he also illustrates the history that gets lost in the argument. Everyone knows about the coat hangers and such because of buttons, but there are facts in here that are even more shocking and disturbing the development of the law.

Its true, most of the focus is on the East Coast but considering the history, this isnt all that surprising. And it is a legal history, not a general one. And I really don't know what else to say about this book. Isn't that enough? Okay, one more thing: I want to thank Open Road Media. Long ago, they became one of the reliable publishers for me. You know a publisher where if you havent heard of the author, you are still willing to try it simply because of the publishing house.

A good portion of what Open Road does is make back listed books available for the ereader. I applaud the fact that much of these books are connected to important topics or important topics in history for instance their Forbidden Library Series. I applaud the fact that Open Road Media publishes a great many books for women that deal with womens issues. Honestly, I cant thank them enough for it. I would not have read this book at this time (perhaps ever) without their reissue. Garrows book makes a good companion to another Open Road re-Issue The Search for An Abortionist. (Open Road Media may not be a strictly Feminist Press, but it does seem to be feminist in a great many books). 19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Dry, but informative By Robin Orlovski I purchased this text for an Independent Study course, figuring I could at least flip through the book and gain a summary idea of the case's depths and legal foundation. Although I prided myself on a good grasp of Roe prior to this point, reading the expansive text gave me a greater understanding and appreciation for the case. While this book might be better suited for policy wonks and/or those with some legal training, the substantial read is definently worth it. Even if it is not as animated or lively as other histories of the historic 1973 Supreme Court decision, it is essential to understanding that case in the larger context of constitutional law and public policy. The right to privacy had gradually been building prior to the Roe case, and did not happen in a vaccum as some opponents would later claim. The book concludes with an equally impressive account of the years following Roe and the combined impact of subsequent/rulings and legislation. Because this book does not rely on the "interest groups/grassroots" perspective, individuals in search of such information need to be prepared for further research. 7 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

Informative, but horribly edited By A Customer I bought this book not for its material on Roe but actually for research on Griswold. I have to say, it is full of well researched information dating back to about the 1920s debates on the 1879 Connecticut law banning contraceptives. You can't go much further back to the foundations of Roe than this book takes you, but it will be a difficult read. The editor of this book seriously failed at the job. It comes out to about 739 pages of material, minus notes, bibliography and whatnot, but there are only 9 chapters and an epilogue. To make things worse, there are NO HEADINGS ANYWHERE. Garrow jumps from character to character, year to year, and event to event with no clear breaks or organization. If you're looking for an interesting read about Roe, stay away from this book. If you're looking for information about Roe or the right to privacy, this book will probably have it, but be prepared to go through hell to find it.

Employs material taken from hundreds of interviews and archival research to trace the fifty-year-long legal and political struggle that led to Roe v. Wade, discussing the women involved in the fight. 60,000 first printing. \$50,000 ad/promo. Tour.

.com In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade legalized abortion in America. The somewhat shaky scaffold supporting that decision drew together social struggles; the rights of women, physicians, and the state; and a slew of earlier cases on birth control and sexuality that had crafted a right to privacy never written into the Constitution. The vast size of David J. Garrow's gloriously sprawling *Liberty and Sexuality* allows him to tease out the miniscule fibers that would eventually be woven into Roe. While heavy hitters like Margaret Sanger and Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun are well drawn, it's the bit players who really have a chance to shine here. When James G. Morris, a Roman Catholic father of five, reads in the newspapers about a birth control clinic violating an antiquated Connecticut law in the 1960s, he doggedly calls police, prosecutor, and mayor until a reluctant investigation is kicked off. Marie Wilson Tindall, who had been to the clinic, agrees to have her testimony and contraband contraceptive jelly duly entered into the record to start a landmark court battle that would lay the foundation for Roe. And over the years, a veritable army of legal scholars, law clerks, judges, and regular citizens took part in an increasingly acrimonious debate over reproductive rights and free expression of sexuality. Well-crafted prose and meticulous journalistic footwork make this a definitive book for anyone intrigued by the ponderous mechanisms of legal and social change. --Francesca Coltrera From Publishers Weekly Behind the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision guaranteeing a woman's right to abortion lay 50 years of legal struggle. In this massively detailed, stirring chronicle, Garrow, Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer of Martin Luther King Jr. (*Bearing the Cross*), shows how the courage and initiative of ordinary women and men made a crucial difference in establishing that right. He begins with Katharine Houghton Hepburn, an outspoken Connecticut activist who opened birth control clinics in the 1930s in defiance of a state law. Following in Hepburn's footsteps, Estelle Griswold, executive director of Connecticut Planned Parenthood, succeeded in having her own criminal conviction reversed by the Supreme Court: the 1965 *Griswold v. Connecticut* decision, which declared unconstitutional an 1879 statute criminalizing the use or counseling of birth control, paved the way for challenges to anti-abortion statutes across the U.S. Drawing on hundreds of interviews, Garrow profiles key advocates of the liberalization or repeal of anti-abortion laws in the decades preceding Roe. In a cogent final chapter he argues that

Roe v . Wade has sustained "far greater wounds from the friendly fire of professed supporters than from the explicit attacks of candid opponents." Activists and students of legal history will be the most likely audience for this tome.

Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalWhen Garrow writes, the discerning reader ought to read. The author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of Martin Luther King Jr. (Bearing the Cross , LJ 11/15/86), Garrow has set an exacting standard for the presentation of the history of public policy issues. Here, he examines the 50-year struggle for birth control, culminating in the Supreme Court's recognition of a constitutionally protected right to abortion procedures. Much has already been written on abortion, e.g., Lawrence Tribe's Abortion: A

Clash of Absolutes (LJ 6/15/90) and Roger Rosenblatt's Life Itself (LJ 3/15/92), which focus on legal and social policy issues, and Ronald Dworkin's Life's Dominion (LJ 5/1/93), which constructs an intellectual framework for the abstract moral principles at issue. Because of its length, Garrow's work won't appeal to every reader. But this is truly indispensable to understanding how the abortion controversy arose. Highly recommended for public and academic libraries. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 9/1/93.- Jerry E. Stephens, U.S. Court of Appeals Lib., Oklahoma City

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