



Final Verdict

Adela Rogers St. Johns

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First published in 1962, this is the biography of American journalist, novelist and screenwriter Adela Rogers St. Johns' father, Earl Rogers, a renowned Los Angeles criminal defense lawyer in the early 20th century.

St. Johns draws on a succession of her father's well-known court trials, including the trial that centered on perhaps the most famous lawyer-client disagreements recorded in legal history: those that developed between Clarence Darrow, indicted for attempted jury bribery in Los Angeles in 1912, and Earl Rogers himself.

St. Johns' fascinating book was adapted for a TNT television film of the same name in 1991, starring Treat Williams as Earl Rogers and Olivia Burnette as the young Adela Rogers St. Johns.

Final Verdict Details

Date : Published January 12th 2017 by Muriwai Books (first published 1962)

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Author : Adela Rogers St. Johns

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Genre : Crime, True Crime, Nonfiction

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From Reader Review Final Verdict for online ebook

Danath01 says

great legal mind

Katherine says

never read...can't delete

Khris Sellin says

Is the reason why this book is so painful because I have to read it for CE credits??? It's KILLING me. I thought it would be WAY more interesting. Oh well, it's only 500 something pages!

Brent says

I really liked this. Apparently, rumor has it that Earl Rogers was Erle Stanley Gardner's inspiration for the character of Perry Mason.

Rogers must have been an amazing attorney. What comes through most beautifully was the love that his daughter bore for him regardless of his severe alcoholism and relevant behavior.

Debra Pawlak says

Adela Rogers St. Johns has always fascinated me. After all, she was affectionately called 'Mother Confessor' by many early Hollywood greats. She knew them all, the good and the bad. This book, however, was written about her father--the famous attorney Earl Rogers (it is said that he was the inspiration for Perry Mason) who died in 1922. While at times her eyewitness accounts of some of his most famous trials may be a bit jaded, it was always very interesting. They lived in a totally different era where she grew up riding horses in lieu of cars, handwriting letters in lieu of telephones and looking after a famous father who over imbibed. This book is not a quick read, but St. Johns tells her stories with wit and an insider's knowledge. Though her memories may be flawed at times, the fact that she adored her father and he idolized her, shines throughout her commentary. His courtroom antics were legendary and his innovative style influenced many attorneys to come. He was one of the first to introduce ballistics, as well as forensics, to the courtroom. If a man was in trouble, 'Get Earl Rogers' became his mantra. Now, I am intrigued to learn even more.

Steve says

3.75*Enough of interest here if one can keep in mind the context of, and not be put off by the clear bias

found in, the narrator's voice (subject's daughter is the author). No one could argue that Mrs. Rogers St. Johns is a poor writer and I personally appreciated the slant her view gives the many accounts and trial descriptions found in the book. Where her slant may, and in many cases should, cause the reader to question the information as concrete fact, I think it adds so much more back in emotion and feeling. This book would be impossible for any other writer to accomplish with regard to Earl Rogers, as no other writer had the spot in the catbird seat that Mrs. Rogers is kind enough to share with us.
