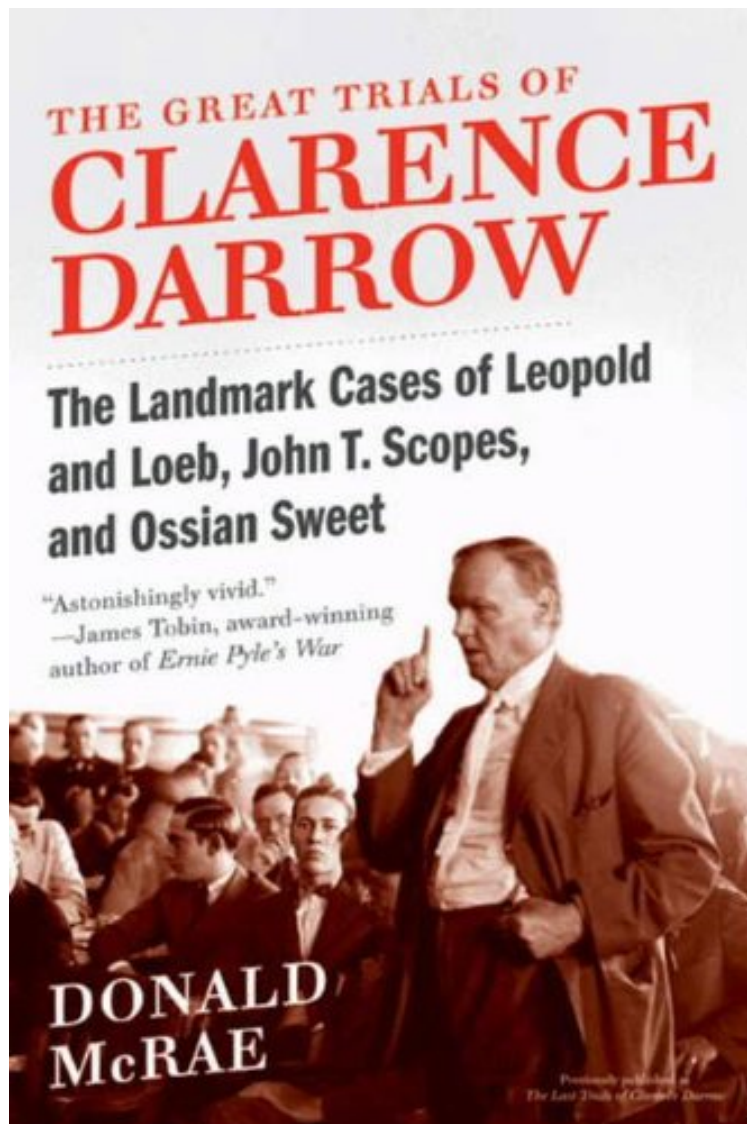


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The Great Trials of Clarence Darrow: The Landmark Cases of Leopold and Loeb, John T. Scopes, and Ossian Sweet

Von Donald McRae

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Von Donald McRae : The Great Trials of Clarence Darrow: The Landmark Cases of Leopold and Loeb, John T. Scopes, and Ossian Sweet before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Trials of Clarence Darrow: The Landmark Cases of Leopold and Loeb, John T. Scopes, and Ossian Sweet:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Humanity, Love, Law and JusticeVon James Gallen"The Last Trials of Clarence Darrow" reads like a novel as it chronicles the closing scenes of one of the premier American legal careers. Author Donald McRae presents the story with an eloquence to rival that with which Darrow swayed juries. Set in the 1920s, the book begins with an aging Darrow fanning the embers of an old affair with Mary Field Parton while trying to reignite his legal career after the flames of his own acquittal for jury tampering. The first trial featured is the Leopold and Loeb murder case which electrified the country after the thrill killing of their friend, Bobby Franks. Unlike many of his other trials in which he championed the poor and downtrodden, Leopold and Loeb, homosexual lovers, were the scions of upper class Chicago who heartlessly bludgeoned a school boy and then stopped for lunch and drove around their houses with his cooling, bleeding body in the car, before hiding the body and making a ransom demand. While the public screamed for the blood, Darrow played a game in which legal moves substituted for chessmen as he attempted to let his clients slip the noose. I enjoyed the suspense of wondering how it would turnout so I will not spoil it for you. Read it yourself. The second trial is the Scopes Monkey Trial of Dayton, Tennessee, which is recorded in books and portrayed on the Silver Screen. This was a different type of challenge. In this the cause was not the lives of despised heirs, but a culture war which still rages today: Creation vs. evolution, science vs. faith, Christianity vs. agnosticism. After Tennessee had prohibited the teaching of evolution, a test case was brought against a new science teacher, John Scopes, in Dayton, a town longing for notoriety. The stakes were high and both sides brought their leading knights to do battle. The state's team was led by William Jennings Bryan, three time candidate for president and former secretary of state, who brought the eloquence which had admonished the nation not to "crucify mankind on a cross of gold." For the defense, but really for those wanting to make a stand for openness vs. censorship and reason vs. faith, strode Darrow. Darrow, a former supporter of Bryan, would make his case by trying to belittle, humiliate, and ultimately, destroy the orator who stood for a world view that Darrow despised. The third trial is more in Darrow's tradition, the defense of the family and friends of Ossian Sweet, a Negro doctor who dared to buy into a white neighborhood in Detroit. After the family moved in, angry mobs congregated in the street. The second night, after passing Negroes were attacked and windows were broken by stones, shots rang out from the house. Two members of the mob were hit, one fatally. In the ensuing murder trial against all eleven people in the house, Darrow poked holes in the state's case as he confronted racism and alleged perjury as he strove to save yet another set of clients from the hangman. Again, I will let you find out the ending for yourself and the train of tragedy that followed. I started out by saying that this book reads like a novel. McRae does an excellent job of weaving several threads into a compelling story. Each case contains the human story of the personae dramatae, the complex character of Darrow himself, the legal maneuvers with which he struggles toward victory and the amorous relationship between Darrow and Mary Field Parton, his illicit paramour. I say that McRae does an excellent job because he is able to incorporate each thread so that it contributes to the overall effect, without any one dominating over the others. There is something here for everyone. For the lawyer, like me, the courtroom scenes are fascinating. I even thought, for a few seconds, of taking up criminal law. Whether you identify with those who society shuns, hunger and thirst for justice, feel the pains of a suppressed love and a betrayed wife, or just like a good story with a bit of mystery, this book is for you. When you get to the end, be sure to read the Afterword, in which Donald McRae relates how the story of Clarence gave encouragement during his South African youth. It helps us Americans see how a man, a life and a cause can be a shining light across the ocean and can contribute to making America a Shining City on a Hill.

KurzbeschreibungWonderfully evocative Donald McRae captures the Great Defender in all his complexity.... A joy to read. Kevin Boyle, National Book Award-winning author of Arc of Justice "Astonishingly vivid." James Tobin, Award-winning author of Ernie Pyles War The story of the three dramatic trials that resurrected the life and career of Americas most colorfuland controversialdefense attorney: Clarence Darrow. Many books, plays, and movies have covered Darrow and the trials of Leopold and Loeb, John T. Scopes, and Ossian Sweet before: Geoffrey Cowans The People v. Clarence Darrow; Simon Baatzs For the Thrill of It; Kevin Boyles Arc of Justice; Meyer Levins Compulsion and the film adaptation of the same name; Inherit the Wind; but few, if any, have achieved the intimacy and immediacy of Donald McRaes The Great Trials of Clarence Darrow.KurzbeschreibungWonderfully evocative Donald McRae captures the Great Defender in all his complexity.... A joy to read. Kevin Boyle, National Book Award-winning author of Arc of Justice "Astonishingly vivid." James Tobin, Award-winning author of Ernie Pyles War The story of the three dramatic trials that resurrected the life and career of Americas most colorfuland controversialdefense attorney: Clarence Darrow. Many books, plays, and movies have covered Darrow and the trials of Leopold and Loeb, John T. Scopes, and Ossian Sweet before: Geoffrey Cowans The People v. Clarence Darrow; Simon Baatzs For the Thrill of It; Kevin Boyles Arc of Justice; Meyer Levins Compulsion and the film adaptation of the same name; Inherit the Wind; but few, if any, have achieved the intimacy and immediacy of Donald McRaes The Great Trials of Clarence Darrow.BuchrckseiteThe courtroom has been a dramatic setting for larger-than-life figures throughout history, but few

have attained the almost mythical status of Clarence Darrow. A legend in his own time, *Variety* called him "America's greatest one-man stage draw." Here was a man whose flair for showmanship went hand in hand with a fierce intellect; a man whose shaky moral compass and staggering conceit collided at all turns with an unrivaled eloquence and an overwhelming compassion for humanity. Darrow had been one of the most revered lawyers in the country, but in 1924 his reputation was still clouded after a narrow escape from a charge of jury tampering in Los Angeles. At the age of sixty-seven he thought his life and career were almost over, until he was offered an impossible assignment—the defense of the teenage "thrill killers" Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb. Darrow then went on to earn even more international acclaim in two other groundbreaking cases: a classic standoff against William Jennings Bryan in the Scopes Monkey Trial in Tennessee, and the Ossian Sweet murder trial in Detroit. Throughout two crammed and dizzying years, this lion of the court held the Western world in awe as he tackled these three starkly different, history-making cases, each in turn dubbed "the Trial of the Century." But these trials, as important as they were to Darrow, were not the only events that helped rejuvenate him and seal his courtroom legacy. There was also his enduring relationship with Mary Field Parton, his lover and soul mate, a woman whose role toward the end of his career was larger than many have realized. With fascinating new research and discoveries, including her private journals and letters, *The Last Trials of Clarence Darrow* is an intimate and riveting depiction of this American icon, one of the greatest lawyers this country has ever seen.