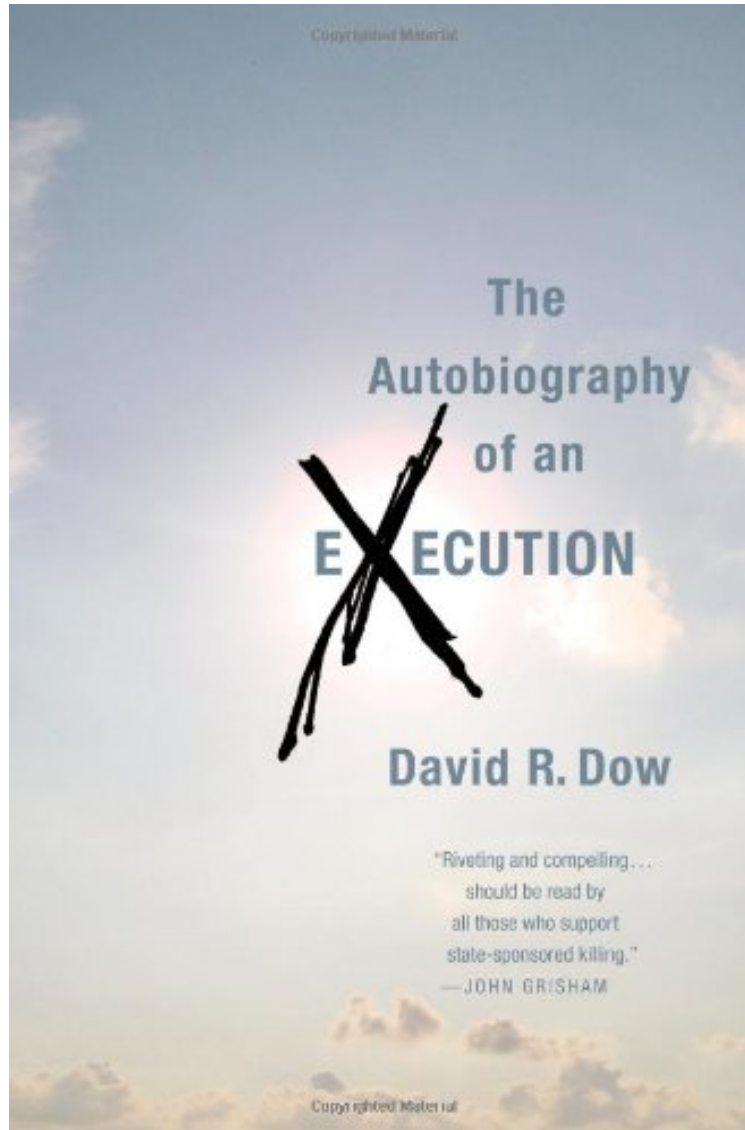


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The Autobiography of an Execution

David R. Dow

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David R. Dow : The Autobiography of an Execution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Autobiography of an Execution:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not for those looking for an uplifting story, but a new look on a dark topicBy Kentucky9Dark and twisty, but a long book. Struggling to get through it but enjoy this perspective on a touchy subject.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Unique View of Executions in the United StatesBy Frederick S. GoethelI had high hopes that this book would provide a unique view of the death penalty process in the

United States and was not disappointed. The author, as a lawyer specializing in death row appeals, has a special view into the process of death penalty cases, as well as the inmates that are convicted of capital crimes. The author uses his expertise to detail the toll taken on all sides (families, lawyers, inmates) of the process, while admitting that the majority of his clients are guilty. The ones that seem to haunt him are those that are most likely innocent, yet are beyond help due to the way the system is set up. It is certainly a revealing look into the process. The main detraction from the book is the writing style, which rambles, jumps and is rather unfocused. The book could have been great had it been written in a more readable style. Reading this book as written is a challenge, and that detracts from the message the author is attempting to convey. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. David Dow's books on capital punishment

By Laura C. Theurer I have read David Dow's books "Things I've Learned From Dying", and "The Autobiography of An Execution". I am looking forward to reading "Machinery of Death", by David Dow and Mark Dow. These books expose serious flaws in the legal system. David Dow powerfully describes his observations through compelling true case stories. These books are difficult to put down, as they draw the reader in to the struggles of the stories. I would certainly recommend these well written books

Near the beginning of *The Autobiography of an Execution*, David Dow lays his cards on the table. "People think that because I am against the death penalty and don't think people should be executed, that I forgive those people for what they did. Well, it isn't my place to forgive people, and if it were, I probably wouldn't. I'm a judgmental and not very forgiving guy. Just ask my wife." It is this spellbinding true crime narrative, Dow takes us inside of prisons, inside the complicated minds of judges, inside execution-administration chambers, into the lives of death row inmates (some shown to be innocent, others not) and even into his own home--where the toll of working on these gnarled and difficult cases is perhaps inevitably paid. He sheds insight onto unexpected phenomena-- how even religious lawyer and justices can evince deep rooted support for putting criminals to death-- and makes palpable the suspense that clings to every word and action when human lives hang in the balance.

From *Publishers Weekly* In an argument against capital punishment, Dow's capable memoir partially gathers its steam from the emotional toll on all parties involved, especially the overworked legal aid lawyers and their desperate clients. The author, the litigation director of the Texas Defender Service and a professor at the University of Houston Law Center, respects the notion of attorney-client privilege in this handful of real-life legal outcomes, some of them quite tragic, while acknowledging executions are not about the attorneys, but about the victims of murder and sometimes their killers. While trying to maintain a proper balance in his marriage to Katya, a fellow attorney and ballroom dancer, he spells out the maze of legal mumbo-jumbo to get his clients stays or released from confinement in the cases of a hapless Vietnam vet who shot a child, another man who beat his pregnant wife to death and another who killed his wife and children. In the end, Dow's book is a sobering, gripping and candid look into the death penalty. (Feb.)

Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "For a lot of good reasons, and some that are not so good, executions in the U.S. are carried out in private. The voters, the vast majority of whom support executions, are not allowed to see them. *The Autobiography of an Execution* is a riveting and compelling account of a Texas execution written and narrated by a lawyer in the thick of the last minute chaos. It should be read by all those who support state sponsored killing." John Grisham, author of *The Innocent Man* "David Dow's extraordinary memoir lifts the veil on the real world of representing defendants on death row. It will stay with me a long time." Jeffrey Toobin, author of *The Nine* "I have read much about capital punishment, but David Dow's book leaves all else behind." Anthony Lewis

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"Publishers Weekly" "Defending the innocent" is easy. David Dow fights for the questionable. He is tormented, but relentless, and takes us inside his struggle with candor and insight, shudders and all." Dave Cullen, author of *Columbine*

About the Author David R. Dow is professor of law at the University of Houston Law Center and an internationally recognized figure in the fight against the death penalty. He is the founder and director of the Texas Innocence Project. He lives in Houston, Texas.