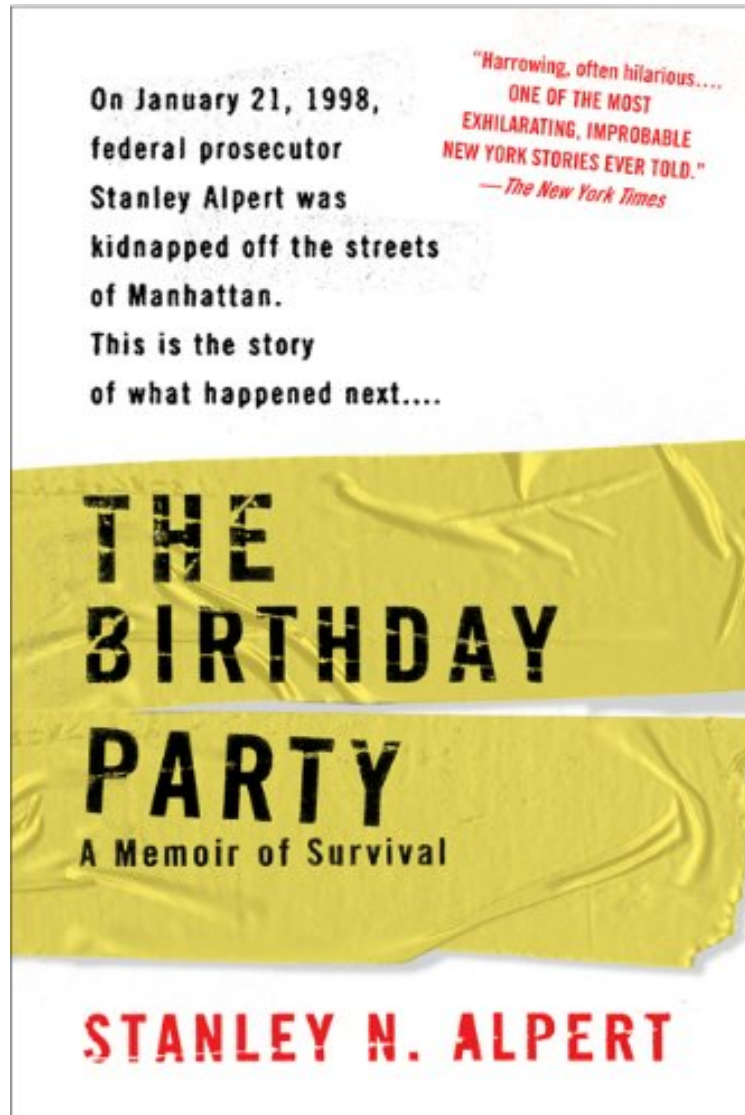


(Download ebook) The Birthday Party: A Memoir of Survival

The Birthday Party: A Memoir of Survival

Stanley N. Alpert

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Stanley N. Alpert : The Birthday Party: A Memoir of Survival before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Birthday Party: A Memoir of Survival:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. This could have happened to you - well worth the readBy CustomerFascinating true story - with just enough humor to keep it moving and interesting. A true wonder that the author made it out alive.11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. The Birthday Party--An Amazing Story and Even Better BookBy Brett FieldI just finished reading The Birthday Party by Stanley Alpert and I was completely taken by it. On its surface the book tells the true story of a regular guy who gets snatched from the streets of New York

City and is plunged into another world where his life hangs in the balance at the whim of the thugs who kidnapped him. But the book is really about much more than that. It is about friends, about family, and about the incredible blessing each of us have to wake up each morning and to be alive. As the author relates in the book nothing makes you more appreciative of your friends, family and the ones you love than the prospect of never seeing them again. Along the way the book is exciting, harrowing, scary and pretty darn funny. It paints a vivid picture of New York City from the late 90s that people may have never seen (or if they lived through it they may not remember how crazy those times were in NYC). It also explores all sorts of relationships--between father and son, buddy and buddy, boyfriend and girlfriend, captor and captive--that will both remind you of what you already know about those relationships and offer new perspectives on them. The book is fantastic, well written, and an easy read as it quickly takes us from scene to scene. I hung on every page and shed a few tears when it was done. I highly recommend *The Birthday Party*. Read it. You will be glad you did. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Story By William E. Liberatore A story so unbelievable that the police didn't believe the victim when he told it made even better because in the end he survives the ordeal with no physical injuries and the perpetrators were brought to justice. I thought it was very well written. I read the entire book in one sitting so it didn't seem to have any problem keeping my attention. I thought it was well worth my time spent reading it. If you buy it I hope you enjoy.

On January 21, 1998, the night before his thirty-eighth birthday, federal prosecutor Stanley N. Alpert was kidnapped off the streets of Manhattan by a car full of gun-toting thugs looking to use his ATM card. He ended up blindfolded in a Brooklyn apartment as his captors changed their plans, alternately threatening him and his family, seeking legal advice, expounding on the "gangsta" life, and offering him the services of their prostitute girlfriends as a birthday present. All the while, Alpert, still blindfolded, talked with them, played on their attitudes and fears, and memorized every detail he could in the event that he ever managed to get out of there alive. Filled with immediacy, drama, and extraordinary characters, *The Birthday Party* reads like a thriller-but every word is true.

From Publishers Weekly In this tartly written memoir recalling his 1998 kidnapping, Alpert, a former assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, describes his abduction and release, and the subsequent trial of the kidnapers, with an impressive amount of detail and only the occasional note of self-congratulation for how he handled the ordeal. On the night before his 38th birthday, Alpert was forced at gunpoint into a car near his Greenwich Village apartment, blindfolded, made to relinquish his ATM and PIN, and driven to Brooklyn, where he was kept in an apartment full of oddly personable, gun-wielding youths and teenage prostitutes. In between violent threats, the criminals solicited legal advice concerning past crimes and offered him pot and sexual favors in honor of his birthday. After 25 hours, they handed their hostage \$20 cab money and left him in Prospect Park. Though the second part of the account, detailing the mechanics of the arrests and sentencing of the perpetrators, along with Alpert's return to normalcy, is relatively dry and slow, Alpert delivers an honest, vivid chronicle of the suspenseful event itself in the memoir's first half. (Jan.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist The view from inside the trunk of a car is delivered in this harrowing, first-person account of kidnapping, robbery, and revenge. Alpert, who now heads his own law firm, worked for 13 years as an assistant U. S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York. On January 21, 1988, the eve of Alpert's thirty-eighth birthday, he was snatched from a Greenwich Village sidewalk by a carful of thugs, blindfolded and held at gunpoint, and taken to a Brooklyn apartment where his captors tried to figure out how to profit from their big catch. This story is told in two parts, effectively giving a satisfying narrative arc to Alpert's complex ordeal: the first part is "Mouse," recounting Alpert's victimization; the second part is "Cat," in which Alpert pursues his former captors. A street-smart prosecutor, Alpert delivers an unflinching look at the humiliating, terrifying role of the victim, lacing his plight with commentary on contemporary crime and the creaking judicial system. The second part reads as compellingly as the first and with every bit as much suspense. An effective, one-two punch of a memoir. Connie Fletcher Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Riveting." -Entertainment Weekly "Too wild to be fiction. The movie should be directed by Martin Scorsese and Woody Allen working in tandem." -Joseph Wambaugh "Alternately funny, appalling, fascinating and scary." -Los Angeles Times "Hypnotizing, bizarre, scary, even weirdly funny at times." -Jeffrey Toobin "I read it in one big gulp." -John Sandford