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The Making of a Country Lawyer

Gerry Spence

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Gerry Spence : The Making of a Country Lawyer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Making of a Country Lawyer:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read!By SamanthaA wonderful narration of a highly successful individual's unfolding life, prior to the huge successes that were to follow.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Awesome Man Lawyer.By T. CherryI got this book because I wanted to see what kind of man he is, I wasn't disappointed. This is an Awesome story, Gerry didn't leave anything out. I don't know if I could be that Honest. I believe everyone should read this book, it's one hang of a story.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A country boy grows upBy CustomerThis is mainly the life story of a boy growing up in Wyoming during the Depression who grew up to become a lawyer.

In an autobiography by the lawyer who has defended Karen Silkwood and Randy Weaver among others, Spence recounts his life growing up in Wyoming and the tragic event that caused him to become an attorney. 350,000 first printing. Lit Guild Feat Alt. Tour.

From Publishers WeeklySpence (How to Argue and Win Every Time) has composed a formidable autobiography, a striking evocation of the closing of the frontier in the Wyoming of the 1930s and '40s. It's also a penetrating look into the heart of a youth torn between the lure of the flesh and the evangelicalism of his mother, between the emotional pull of helping the downtrodden and the intellectual realization that in our society power lies with the rich. The climactic

event of his youth was the suicide of his mother in 1969, who hoped he would become a clergyman? a tragedy he simplistically and egotistically blamed on himself and his dissolute lifestyle, assuming a guilt that was to plague him for years. It is also the story of his two marriages, the first contracted when he and his bride were both 19, the second to a formerly married woman whom he credits with saving his life. He also chronicles several of his cases, and it is interesting to see him at work, from his first halting appearances in court to his assured performances in later years. One wonders if the title of his book is intended as irony, for the multimillionaire Spence is a "country lawyer" the way Nieman-Marcus is the proprietor of a country store. But his story, with dozens of family photos, is a major bit of Americana. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Flamboyant, colorful, buckskin-clad? these terms could describe Spence, whom some consider to be a modern Clarence Darrow. He is certainly all that and more, one of the most successful lawyers in American history. And like Darrow's own classic memoir, *The Story of My Life* (1932), Spence's autobiography is a masterful account of a great lawyer's life, from his birth in Laramie, Wyoming, through the career preparation that led to the landmark legal representation of Karen Silkwood and Randy Weaver. How to explain Spence's success? In his trial lawyer's manual, *How To Argue and Win Every Time* (St. Martin's, 1995), and in his *Trial Lawyers College* in Duboise, Wyoming, Spence sets out a simple formula: listen to the other person. The formula certainly works, and its success puts Spence in that rare class with Darrow. Highly recommended for public libraries. -? Jerry E. Stephens, U.S. Court of Appeals Lib., Oklahoma City Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Spence may be a "country lawyer," but he's no rube. Fresh from a stint on best-seller lists with *How to Argue and Win Every Time* (1995), he's back with a lively autobiography--or partial autobiography. There's a bit of bait-and-switch here: the book ends 25 years ago, when Spence stopped representing banks, insurance companies, and other "non-breathers" (his term), so it includes only passing references to the high-visibility cases--Karen Silkwood, *Miss Wyoming vs. Penthouse*, Imelda Marcos, Randy Weaver--that made him a celebrity lawyer. (One suspects the sequel's contract has already been inked.) This volume covers Spence's first 40-plus years: childhood and bad-boy adolescence in small-town Wyoming; college and law school at the University of Wyoming; marriage and children; two terms as GOP county prosecutor; success as a plaintiff's attorney, which attracted the "non-breather" clients; alcohol abuse; and a passionate affair, divorce, and remarriage. Driving the narrative--and its author's life--is Spence's guilt over his deeply religious mother's startling suicide when he was 20. In print as in the courtroom, Spence is an engaging storyteller with a gift for aphorism. Expect substantial interest. Mary Carroll