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# Life After Johnnie Cochran

*Barbara C. Berry*

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**Barbara C. Berry : Life After Johnnie Cochran** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Life After Johnnie Cochran:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerInformative.2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. OH JOHNNYBy JUDYVERY GOOD READ3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. THE FIRST WIFE OF THE LEAD SIMPSON DEFENSE ATTORNEY ACCUSES HIMBy Steven H ProppBarbara Cochran Berry wrote in the first chapter of this 1995 book that she was called by a reporter, who had been assured that she would deny her allegations [in their divorce proceedings 18 years earlier] of physical abuse from her former husband, and she told him, I am not denying anything, I said to the waiting reporter. He was shocked. John has assured him that I would take back everything I sat there and fumed. John has simply assumed that if he told me to lie for him, I would nod and do it. But I was out of the habit of wifely compliance and had been for years. When the reporter confronted John with the allegations, why didnt John simply admit that they were true? He could have said that he regretted what had happened, that it was a long time ago, and that he had grown as a person since that time the whole incident might have blown over in a few days as reporters chased new revelations about the case or other participants. But taking responsibility for his actions has never been Johns style---indeed, knowing how to avoid doing so may be one reason why hes so skillful at helping his often guilty clients escape responsibility for their acts. (Pg. xi)She says, There was another aspect of his work that troubled me. It seemed to me that many times his clients had obviously committed the acts they denied committing that I wondered why John himself wasnt troubled within my lay sense of things, the obligation to provide legal representation did not necessarily include an obligation to cloud the

facts of the case. Wasnt there a proper role for lawyers that did not involve manipulating the facts To pull off these tough wins, John was learning all the tricks in the game, learning how to throw up smoke screens and lots of legal mumbo-jumbo which didnt enlighten the jury but confused it---stuff that had nothing to do with guilt or innocence but only with the need to create a reasonable doubt in at least one jury members mind about what really did happen. (Pg. 69-70)She begins to suspect his infidelity. The long nights at work continued. If I brought up the subject of his late hours he immediately took the offensive, saying I was crazy, that he wasnt doing anything or seeing anyone and that I was letting busybodies wreck our wonderful marriage. But he still didnt come home at night. (Pg. 75)She continues, we began to argue over everything His disposition was rapidly changing. It took nothing, absolutely nothing, to start an argument. Was he in some tiny hidden part of him guilty over the destruction of our marriage? Or was he frustrated because he would have liked to dump me but was afraid his professional reputation as defender of African Americans might suffer if he left his wife for a white woman as soon as he amassed a little fame and money? (Pg. 78)After an incident pf physical abuse, she recalls, The next morning he as all contrition But a nagging question remained. Would this become the pattern? Would I end up the way my cousin Doris had, badly injured by a man who professed his love for me? How long do you wait before you discover you have waited too long? (Pg. 80)She hired a detective, and Johns parents response to the detectives report of Johns infidelity was a new dimension---I suppose you could call it playing the race card. They intimated that since the detective I hired was white, he might have been prejudiced against John. I should have known, they explained, that the opportunity to contribute to the public shame of one of L.A.s leading African-American figure would prove too much temptation for some people to resist. (Pg. 87)She admits, I hated his infidelity. It hurt me deeply He had promised to love and cherish me until death do us part, but this forever had lasted less than seven years, if in fact it had lasted that long I would learn that to him being a better husband meant covering his tracks more carefully so I could live in blissful denial of his philandering. (Pg. 92-93)She notes, walking into one of those staid social functions and introducing his blonde, blue-eyed mistress to all the wives in attendance wouldnt have fostered the kind of impression of respectability John felt he needed to foster, and might even cost him some business. And he certainly wouldnt have been able to cultivate the image of a bona fide defender of racial justice if word got around that he had abandoned his black wife for a white woman as soon as he found some success. (Pg. 115)She says of O.J. Simpson, unlike the Rodney Kings of the world, he is hardly a typical, powerless black ghetto dweller that a few rogue police officers might decide to pick on. Would those allegedly racist cops really risk getting caught and do jail time simply because O.J. had a white wife? Call me nave, but I just dont get it. (Pg. 195)She predicts, I fully expect my ex-husband, the father of my children, Johnnie Cochran, to attack me in whatever way he can for writing this book. I expect him to impute the basest of motives to me, and to sneer at my values and accomplishments, just as he would work to undermine the credibility of any witness for the prosecution in a case he is trying. (Pg. 206)Obviously controversial, Ms. Berry comes across in the book as a reliable witness. But there are always two sides to every story

The ex-wife of attorney Johnnie Cochran, the head of O. J. Simpson's defense team, reveals how she suffered his philandering, physical abuse, and infidelity before she found the strength to leave him. 30,000 first printing. \$75,000 ad/promo. Tour.

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