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Operation Greylord: Brockton Lockwood's Story

Brocton Lockwood, Harlan H. Mendenhall

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Brocton Lockwood, Harlan H. Mendenhall : Operation Greylord: Brockton Lockwood's Story before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Operation Greylord: Brockton Lockwood's Story:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Great story, Lockwood's a star...By Susie RigsbyI thought I'd written a review about this book several years ago but maybe not. I have to say it was one of the best non-fiction books that I've had the pleasure to read. It shows how a small town Associate Judge from southern Illinois can go to Chicago and take a big bite of corruption and the big boys in the Justice system. Grant it, nothing changes in Chicago and even though Lockwood's efforts are to be highly commended, since he was risking his own life to uncover the corruption in the court system and law enforcement, he told it like it was and got the FBI's attention. To be honest, I couldn't put the book down.I have to say that I was a little confused about the review by Cindy Mitchell, then I realized that Cindy was upset with the book seller from whom the book was ordered, not the story itself. This is very confusing because most people take it that she's giving the story only a one star, which is not the case at all. I doubt Cindy even read the book. Regardless, I'm an avid reader and I'm giving Operation Greylord a five star rating because it deserves just that. It's history in the making.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. After having read all of the Greylord books, this ...By Jack GilsonAfter having read all of the Greylord books, this is the least informative. It is less than 200 pages. Nonetheless, Judge Lockwood deserves much credit for reporting the corruption in Chicago traffic court and for working undercover.

Judge Brocton Lockwood wore a wire for the FBI to help clean up a corrupt Chicago traffic court. In 1978 newly appointed Associate Judge Lockwood reported to Chicago to fulfill the obligation all southern Illinois judges have to serve six weeks each year to reduce the backlog in the Cook County system. Corruption so pervaded traffic court that Lockwood, who at first merely wanted to complete his Cook County stint and go home, was moved to contact the FBI: "As the time for our meeting approached, I brooded on the potential for leaks. I created all kinds of worrisome scenarios that kept me awake at night." Once committed, Lockwood (codename Winston) had to fight not only a corrupt system and his own fears but also frustration engendered by official timidity and the grindingly slow bureaucracy of the FBI. "My spy duties seemed extremely dull and tedious 99 percent of the time; the other 1 percent was filled with terror." The story is exciting, it is true, it put criminals behind bars, and it effected changes in the Cook County court system. Brocton Lockwood resigned his judgeship after Operation Greylord. He currently practices law in Marion, Illinois.

About the Author Harlan H. Mendenhall is Emeritus Professor of Journalism at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.