



The Von Bülow Affair: The Objective Behind-the-Scenes Account of the Shocking Attempted Murder Case

William Wright

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From Reader Review The Von Bülow Affair: The Objective Behind-the-Scenes Account of the Shocking Attempted Murder Case for online ebook

Laura Leininger says

The mansion was mentioned in an audio tour of Rhode Island mansions in 2008. I remembered reading this when it was a best seller in 1984. Fascinating true murder case! Sunny Von Bülow was in a coma for about 30 years, she died Dec 2008. See also book Reversal of Fortune, and movie of the same name.

Anne says

Dastardly.

C. F. says

Great true crime. Don't tell me he didn't do it, and this tells you how. Poor Sunny!!

Brendan Creecy says

I guess I'll have to read Reversal of Fortune now since this book only covers the first trial. Like many true crime books I've been reading, this one just kind of drops off at the end very abruptly so I'd probably give it 3.5 stars.

Robin says

Eh. It started off in a very promising manner. It was well presented and interesting. It severely dipped during the chapters (That's correct, plural.) on the selection of the jury. It picked back up a little bit during court proceedings and things were going well again.

Then it dropped off completely, right after the summation of the first trial. It didn't tell you about sentencing or appeals or anything. This leaves it as a half done book, in my opinion.

Jessica says

langdradig boek waarin voornamelijk lang wordt stilgestaan bij het proces in de rechtkamer.

Rosey Higgins says

Good Read!

This book seems like a long book, the story tends to drag midway. Very sad story, though more common than you think!

Janet says

The Von Bulow Affair remains yet a mystery 28 years after the events that led to an irreversible coma (and recent death) for 1 and many other lives forever altered or destroyed. The story and evidence are screened through author William Wright's personal experience and encounter with the accused. A trauma nurse, I longed, however, to see actual evidence: lab reports, court testimony, more. Wright presents a tiny window into the unbelievable existence of the fabulously rich, lives cool and seemingly careless/meaningless with an overabundance of wealth, and no religious moral anchor. There is no epilogue either, having read intimately about the family involved, one wonders what became of them.

In a subsequent book, *Reversal of Fortune* by Alan Dershowitz the (liberal) Harvard Law Professor who defended Claus Von Bulow in his appeal and second trial, there may be additional information and intrigue. A (strange) movie based upon this book won Jeremy Irons an Academy Award.

Overview of the Von Bulow Case History: <http://www.trutv.com/library/crime/no...>

New York Times write up on the second trial acquittal: <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage...>

Trailer for the Movie: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfpJth...>

Senior Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz :

“I am not unique in representing guilty defendants. That is what most defense attorneys do most of the time. The Perry Mason image of the heroic defender of innocent victims of frame-ups or mistaken identification is television fiction. Occasionally truly innocent defendants are brought to trial; less frequently they are convicted. In some cases they have even been executed. But these cases—important as they are—are not the daily fare of the criminal lawyer. Any criminal lawyer who tells you that most of his clients are not guilty is either bluffing or deliberately limiting his practice to a few innocent defendants. Since I earn my livelihood as a law professor, I can be selective about the cases I take. I could, if I wanted to, represent only defendants who I believe are innocent or decent. I deliberately do not do that. I select my cases without regard to whether the defendant is guilty or what I think of him personally. Nor do I consider the likelihood of winning. I regard the representation of a guilty and despicable defendant, with little prospect of winning, as a challenge—and, indeed, as one of the highest obligations of my profession. I try to pick the most challenging, the most difficult, and the most precedent-setting cases. Because I am somewhat insulated from the pressures of the courts and the bar, I also feel a responsibility to take on cases from which other lawyers might shy away. I also take on cases that raise novel issues suitable for class discussion, and I try to integrate my courtroom and classroom work.”

Kristal says

Not much to say. Claus was a louse. He got away with attempted murder.

janicec100 says

Found this at my local Metra Train Station bookcase of books to be shared. Not the best book I ever read but it is a true story of a rich couple...and the husband probably killed the wife. Same ol'

Valerie Davies says**A different world**

Excellent look into a life few people can only dream of. Money however does not always buy happiness and I wonder how the family gave coped since.

Ariadna73 says

I read it carefully for one third until I realized that I wasn't finding anything new or different from the film; so I leafed the rest and finally abandoned it with no regrets.

Jill Meyer says

"The Von Bulow Affair: The Objective Behind the Scenes Account of the Shocking Attempted Murder Case", by William Wright, was originally published right after the first Von Bulow trial in 1983. It's now been reissued in ebook form. In that trial, Claus von Bulow was found guilty, but a subsequent appeal trial reversed the decision, and von Bulow went free. Wright's book ends with the first verdict and the book gives no follow-up to the case and the participants. Most readers are familiar with Alan Dershowitz's book, "Reversal of Fortune: Inside the von Bulow Case", which is the story of the second trial.

William Wright's well-written account of both the case and the trial is interesting because it was written at the time. Wright covered the trial and interviewed most of the participants, including a private interview with Claus von Bulow. Wright's courtroom attendance made him privy with the goings-on with the lawyers and the police, as well as the individuals - von Bulow and his family - who were all part of the story.

Did Claus von Bulow attempt - twice - to murder his wife, Martha "Sunny" von Bulow by injecting her with insulin? The jury in the first trial found him guilty, as explained by William Wright. In one of the most important points Wright discusses, he writes about the almost-vilification of the victim, both in this case and in another of the time, Bonnie Garland. Sunny von Bulow was a depressive alcoholic recluse who had

pushed her husband out of her bed years before, as told by Claus von Bulow, to anyone who'd listen. According to others - her children, friends, and the help - she drank very little and certainly didn't take drugs. Von Bulow was trying to claim that Sunny had injected herself with the insulin in order to lose weight. What was the truth? I'm not sure we'll ever really know, though I've always assumed that Claus was guilty as hell. Wright's writing is so even handed that I'm not sure after reading the book what he thought about von Bulow's guilt..

In any case, this book is a good view of the trial as written contemporaneously.

kay keller says

Too Slow

There's nothing in this book that could not have been gleaned from a newspaper. I suggest seeing the movie "Reversal of Fortune".

Zeb Kantrowitz says

Martha "Sunny" von Bulow was an heiress. She was born with a silver spoon in her mouth and never had to worry about money or anything else. She went to the best schools and a 'finishing' school in Switzerland. She married a real life Prince, true he had no money but he did have class and they had two beautiful children (a boy Alexander and a girl called Ala). But he liked to live in Austria and she wanted to bring the children up in America, so they divorced. She gave him a million dollars and said good-bye.

She came back to the States with her two young children. She wanted a husband who would be good with the children and live in New York in the winter and summer in Newport RI. At Newport she was to meet her second husband, Claus von Bulow. Claus was another 'classy' European (he spoke five languages) with no money. But he was working for J Paul Getty and he felt he had an opportunity to make 'real' money.

Everything goes well for a few years until von Bulow begins an affair. He tells everyone that Sunny doesn't care if he has a mistress. After a while the mistress wants to be a wife. Von Bulow tells Sunny that he wants to go back to work and so have his 'own' money. But what kind of job lets you leave every Friday at 1:30 pm and have three and a half months off for the summer? Claus begins telling friends that Sunny is doing drugs and drinks too much.

One Sunday in 1980 Sunny goes into a coma and is taken to the Hospital, her glucose count is ridiculously low and she has too much insulin in her body to be natural. Sunny doesn't remember anything which isn't unusual for coma patients. Less than a year later it happens again and Sunny is now in a vegetative state. How did the insulin get into Sunny's blood? Did Claus do it?

The book purports to be the "objective" behind-the-scenes account, but loses its' objectivity about half way through the book. As we are taken through the court case the book begins to be more and more biased against von Bulow. Did he do it? The jury thought he did....

Zeb Kantrowitz

