

BIGLAW: A NOVEL BY LINDSAY CAMERON



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Review

"Get ready for an insider's fast-paced, entertaining tale about the boardrooms, cubicles and war rooms of big law firms. Told with bone chilling accuracy and wry humour from an endearingly whip-smart female associate's point of view, **BIGLAW** is a must read for anyone fascinated with the law, lawyers, corporate America or anyone looking for a great read." --Isabelle Laflèche, author *J'adore New York* and *J'adore Paris*.

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About the Author

Lindsay Cameron (New York, NY) worked for six years as a corporate attorney at large law firms in both the United States and Canada, including one of New York's most profitable firms. **BIGLAW** is her debut novel.

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The Devil Wears Prada meets One L, BIGLAW provides an insider's view of the cut-throat world of big New York law firms.

Mackenzie Corbett has always dreamed of living in New York City. Now, almost two years into her job as an associate at a premier Manhattan law firm, she's living her fantasy--big salary, high profile deals, cute boyfriend, designer bag on her arm. The giant bags under her eyes from lack of sleep don't fit into the fantasy, though. To make matters worse, she's being tormented by a bitter, bitchy senior associate, her boyfriend is annoyed she never has time for him, and now she's stuck on the deal from hell with a partner whose biggest claim to fame is throwing a stapler at a cleaning lady because she touched his ficus plant.

With the opportunity to secure a prestigious secondment on line, the overachiever in her is determined to endure whatever it takes to close the biggest deal in the firm's history. But when Mackenzie finds herself the focus of a devastating investigation her dream job begins spiraling into a nightmare.

In this pitch perfect, frightening accurate novel, Lindsay Cameron throws back the curtain to this intriguing world exposing the truth about life in Biglaw.

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Most helpful customer reviews

26 of 27 people found the following review helpful.

The Life of an Associate in a Rough and Demanding Manhattan Law Firm

By Ronald H. Clark

Recenty I have reviewed several novels written by former big law firm associates, but I think this is probably the most realistic. How it stands as a novel is another matter which I discuss below. The author is a former associate in both Canadian and American big law firms. It seems pretty obvious that she has incorporated significant aspects of her personal experiences into the story, which is one reason it strikes me (a former associate and partner in two major firms) as so authentic. In fact, there is hardly an episode told in the story that I didn't also experience myself. I think this is a good book for law students contemplating which legal career paths to explore, especially if they are at the second year summer associate stage. While some episodes are probably a bit over-dramatized to make for a good story, this book is probably the closest a reader can come to experiencing the rewarding and maddening world of large law firm life as an associate.

Any former or current associate will recognize and remember associate committees, holiday parties, and recruitment lunches. Working extremely long hours, over long periods, coupled with harsh partner reprimands and criticism, and always mounting exhaustion, are well portrayed here. One disturbing element I found was to work in an environment in which one's fellow associates are all too happy to sabotage your career and knock out another competitor for the grand prize of partnership. Being on call 24/7 no matter one's own plans or holiday responsibilities, and being caught between the workloads of separate matters and two separate partners, are other unpleasant givens of the associate's world. However, as the author makes clear, there are some nice aspects as well: making loads of money; riding around in limos; being able to charge expenses to clients; and working with some excellent lawyers on matters of prime commercial importance. It all depends upon what you want to do with your life, and this novel should wake up new associates-to-be as to the choices they will have to make.

As a novel, there are some major weaknesses to go along with an engrossing story. The author develops a subplot that is so obvious to the reader that one can accurately predict what will happen long before the novel concludes. It is so obvious, that one wonders how the central character Mackenzie who is pretty sharp manages to overlook it. Also, all the good folks are in their 20's and early 30's, while the partners play the heavies. In fact, I don't remember one well-balanced, helpful, emotionally stable partner in the entire book. Things are bit more compliated than that even in the worse "sweatshop" firms. Incidentally, such firms are not limited to Manhattan.

This is one of the books published by the American Bar Association through its Ankerwycke division. I have read several of their books and the quality level has been consistently high, including the one. I think it was somewhat daring for the ABA to publish a book that paints such a rough view of big firm life, given the influence of large firms in that organization. In any regard, the bottom line is that this is an authentic and engrossing novel of associate life in a large law firm well worth reading even by non-lawyers.

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

Frighteningly Realistic, Yet Hilarious

By Margaret J. Walrath

Cameron perfectly captures the surreal experience of working in Biglaw--the bizarre personalities, the foxhole friendships, the sleep deprivation and the psychological abuse—and somehow makes it laugh out loud funny. For those who have walked the Biglaw career path, there will be several scenes that trigger flashbacks and rising blood pressure, but it is worth it in the end. For anyone considering a Biglaw future, this book should be required reading. Be warned: the craziest things that you think she must have made up are the ones that are 100% true.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Very suspenseful, solid book

By Justin Knapp

Very entertaining read for anyone, working in law or not. I read it in a few hours, very suspenseful and you won't want to put it down. Good mix of realistic portrayal of the big law firm environment and entertainment. I recommend reading this book.

See all 120 customer reviews...

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