

Fighting Words: Independent Journalists in Texas



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by James McEnteer

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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In the heart of the Lone Star State, where freedom is supposedly revered, a group of independent journalists are fighting for their right to tell the truth. They are facing censorship, intimidation, and even violence. But they are not backing down. They are fighting for the right to tell the stories that matter.

One of these journalists is Jenni Monet. She is the founder and editor of the Texas Observer, a nonprofit news organization that covers politics, culture, and the environment. Monet has been a vocal critic of the state government, and she has been targeted by the governor and other state officials. In 2017, she was arrested for trespassing while covering a protest at the Texas Capitol. She was later acquitted, but the charges against her were a clear attempt to silence her.

Another journalist who has been targeted by the state government is Brandon Darby. He is the founder and editor of the Austin Chronicle, a weekly newspaper that covers news, culture, and music. Darby has been a vocal critic of the state government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, he was subpoenaed by the state attorney general's office for his reporting on the pandemic. Darby refused to comply with the subpoena, and he was later found in contempt of court. He is currently appealing the contempt finding.

Monet and Darby are just two of the many independent journalists in Texas who are facing censorship, intimidation, and violence. These journalists are essential to a healthy democracy. They provide a voice for the voiceless and hold the powerful accountable. But they are under attack. The state government is trying to silence them, and they need our help.

We can support independent journalists by subscribing to their publications, donating to their organizations, and sharing their work on social media. We can also speak out against censorship and intimidation. We must not allow the state government to silence the truth.

The Importance of Independent Journalism

Independent journalism is essential to a healthy democracy. It provides a voice for the voiceless and holds the powerful accountable. Independent journalists are not beholden to any political party or special interest group. They are free to report on the stories that matter, even if those stories are unpopular or controversial.

In recent years, independent journalism has come under attack. The rise of social media has made it easier for people to spread misinformation and

propaganda. At the same time, the traditional media has been struggling financially. As a result, many independent journalists have been forced to close their doors.

The loss of independent journalism is a serious threat to our democracy. Without independent journalists, we would be left with only the information that the government and corporations want us to have. We would be unable to hold the powerful accountable, and our democracy would suffer.

How to Support Independent Journalism

There are many ways to support independent journalism. Here are a few ideas:

- Subscribe to independent publications.
- Donate to independent organizations.
- Share independent work on social media.
- Speak out against censorship and intimidation.

By supporting independent journalism, we are supporting democracy. We are ensuring that we have a voice in our government and that the powerful are held accountable.

The independent journalists of Texas are fighting for the truth. They are facing censorship, intimidation, and even violence. But they are not backing down. They are fighting for the right to tell the stories that matter. We must support them in their fight. We must not allow the state government to silence the truth.

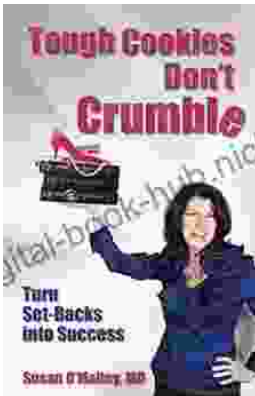


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