

The Harrowing True Story of "Civil Action" by Jonathan Harr



A Civil Action by Jonathan Harr

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2252 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 513 pages



Imagine a small town where children are dying of leukemia at an alarming rate. The parents are desperate for answers, but the local authorities are reluctant to investigate. Enter Jan Schlichtmann, a young attorney who takes on the case and uncovers a shocking truth: the town's water supply has been contaminated by a nearby chemical plant.

"Civil Action" by Jonathan Harr is the harrowing true story of this landmark environmental lawsuit. Harr spent years researching the case, interviewing the families of the victims, and piecing together the complex web of events that led to the tragedy.

A Town Under Siege

Woburn, Massachusetts, was a typical New England town in the 1970s. The people worked hard, raised their families, and enjoyed the simple pleasures of life. But beneath the surface, a dark secret was lurking.

In the early 1980s, children in Woburn began to die of leukemia at an alarming rate. At first, the deaths were dismissed as isolated incidents. But as the number of cases grew, the parents became increasingly concerned.

The parents demanded answers, but the local authorities were reluctant to investigate. They feared that a public health crisis would scare away businesses and hurt the town's economy.

Jan Schlichtmann Takes on the Case

Enter Jan Schlichtmann, a young attorney who had recently opened his own practice in Boston. Schlichtmann was known for his idealism and his willingness to take on challenging cases.

When the parents of the Woburn leukemia victims approached Schlichtmann, he was hesitant at first. He knew that the case would be complex and difficult to win. But the more he learned about the case, the more determined he became to help these families get justice.

Uncovering the Truth

Schlichtmann and his team of investigators spent years gathering evidence. They interviewed the families of the victims, reviewed medical records, and tested the town's water supply.

What they uncovered was a shocking truth. The town's water supply had been contaminated with a number of toxic chemicals, including trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchlorethylene (PCE).

These chemicals had been released into the environment by two nearby chemical plants. The plants had known about the contamination for years,

but they had failed to warn the town or take any steps to clean up the mess.

The Trial

The trial of the Woburn leukemia case began in 1986. It was one of the largest and most complex environmental lawsuits in history.

Schlichtmann and his team of attorneys faced an uphill battle. The defense attorneys for the chemical plants argued that the chemicals in the water supply were not harmful and that the leukemia cases were simply a coincidence.

But Schlichtmann and his team refused to give up. They presented a mountain of evidence to the jury, including the results of their own scientific studies and the testimony of experts.

After a nine-month trial, the jury returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiffs. The chemical plants were ordered to pay \$30 million in damages to the families of the victims.

The Legacy of "Civil Action"

"Civil Action" is a powerful and moving account of a landmark environmental lawsuit. It is a story of courage, determination, and justice.

The book has been praised by critics and readers alike. It has been translated into more than 20 languages and has been made into a major motion picture starring John Travolta and Robert Duvall.

"Civil Action" is more than just a legal thriller. It is a story about the importance of holding corporations accountable for their actions. It is a reminder that we must all be vigilant in protecting our environment and our health.

Images

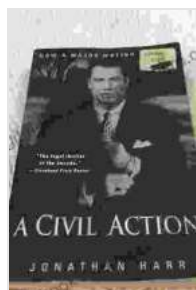




The movie "Civil Action" starring John Travolta and Robert Duvall

Further Reading

- [Civil Action on Amazon](#)
- [Civil Action on Goodreads](#)
- [Civil Action on IMDb](#)



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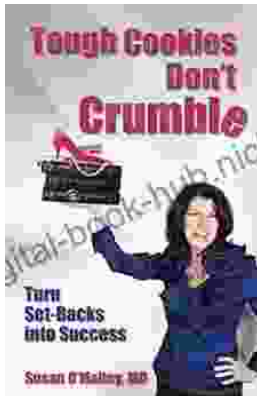
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