

# The Life and Times of the Woman Who Brought Abortion from the Back Alley to the Forefront: The Story of Dr. Bernard Nathanson



## Intimate Wars: The Life and Times of the Woman Who Brought Abortion from the Back Alley to the Boardroom

by Merle Hoffman

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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Bernard Nathanson was a prominent abortion doctor in the United States. However, what is less well-known is that he later underwent a profound transformation that led him to become a leading anti-abortion advocate.

Nathanson was born in New York City in 1926. He graduated from medical school in 1950 and began his career as an obstetrician-gynecologist. In the early 1960s, he became involved in the abortion rights movement and quickly became one of the leading providers of abortion services in the United States.

In 1973, Nathanson was one of the doctors who performed the abortion on Norma McCorvey, the plaintiff in the landmark Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*. This case legalized abortion in the United States.

Nathanson's involvement in the abortion rights movement was not without controversy. In 1974, he was convicted of racketeering and conspiracy in connection with his abortion practice. He served 18 months in prison.

After his release from prison, Nathanson began to have a change of heart about abortion. He was influenced by his own experiences as an abortion doctor, as well as by the arguments of anti-abortion activists. In 1979, he publicly renounced his support for abortion and became a leading anti-abortion advocate.

Nathanson's transformation was a major blow to the abortion rights movement. He was one of the most prominent abortion doctors in the United States, and his change of heart gave credibility to the anti-abortion movement.

Nathanson's journey from abortion doctor to anti-abortion advocate is a complex one. He was a man of contradictions, and his views on abortion evolved over time. However, his story is a reminder that even the most entrenched beliefs can change.

### **Factors That Influenced Nathanson's Change of Heart**

There were a number of factors that influenced Nathanson's change of heart about abortion. These included:

- **His own experiences as an abortion doctor.** Nathanson performed thousands of abortions during his career. He said that he came to believe that abortion was a "violent" and "destructive" procedure.
- **The arguments of anti-abortion activists.** Nathanson was influenced by the arguments of anti-abortion activists, who argued that abortion is morally wrong.
- **His religious beliefs.** Nathanson was raised in a Jewish home, but he did not become religious until later in life. He said that his religious beliefs led him to believe that abortion is wrong.

Nathanson's change of heart was a gradual process. He did not wake up one morning and suddenly decide that abortion was wrong. Rather, his views evolved over time as a result of a number of factors.

## **Nathanson's Legacy**

Bernard Nathanson died in 2011. He left behind a complex legacy. He was a controversial figure, but he was also a man of courage and conviction. His story is a reminder that even the most entrenched beliefs can change.

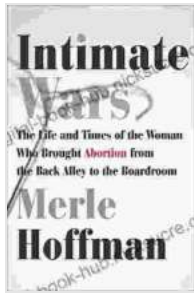
Nathanson's legacy is likely to be debated for many years to come. However, there is no doubt that he was a major figure in the abortion debate. His change of heart was a significant event that helped to shape the debate over abortion in the United States.

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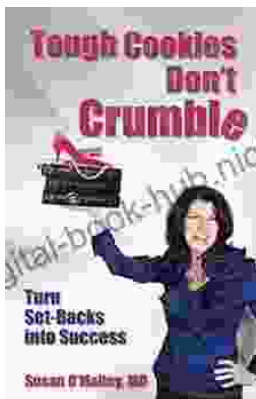
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