

LAWYERLAND

Lawrence Joseph

PRAISE FOR *LAWYERLAND*

"Gripping ... charged, often hilarious, always dramatic ... part anthropological, part performance piece. Joseph's lawyers ... come alive on the page with a furious vitality ... second cousins to David Memet's or Eric Bogosian's ranters." --Philip Lopate, *Esquire*

"Joseph, who is a poet with three books of verse to his credit and also a law professor at St. John's University, as constructed a cunning virtual intersection out of his different interests. Lawyerland has the texture of a documentary ... but each vignette is so artfully composed, and the testimony being elicited has so much verbal drama, that it isn't long before we begin to wonder whether we're in the hands of a writer driven by the occult agendas of fiction rather than the more straightforward ones of journalism." --Vijay Seshadri, *The New Yorker*

Joseph is good at catching the way people talk and the details of their mannerisms ... His lively characters fairly jump off the page." --Christopher Lehman-Haupt, *The New York Times*

"Cover[s] everything ... about late-century America ... its justice system, its culture, its racism, its prurience -- everything. Joseph captures the exact fit between legal language and the unsettled life of contemporary America." --Richard Weisberg, *New York Daily News*

"An amazing 'Notes from the Underground' of New York-based American law ... Rapid-fire dialogue ... startling and original and irresistably readable." --Joyce Carol Oates

"Brilliant, insightful, torrentially energetic ... genuinely original." --Colin Harrison

"High speed, high energy, perfectly pitched, provocative as hell -- a masterpiece." --Thom Jones

"The dialogue hums with intuitive truths ... The result: a singular insight into what makes these complex characters tick. It's no wonder the book is creating a buzz." --Robert Kurson, *Chicago Sun Times*

"So amusing, so full of ideas, and just enough like smart, engaging people shooting the breeze, that I'm glad so many accepted Joseph's invitation and gave him an excuse to spin his tales, truth or factual." --Jill Laurie Goodman, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

"With an ear for dialogue that is quick and riveting ... Joseph disrobes the world of Manhattan lawyering in a work that fits no genre -- it's part social commentary and part documentary, with a dash of wit and irony." --Jeffrey Ghannam, *Detroit Free Press*

"Marvelously voyeuristic, frank, fiendish, and delightful ... insightful and well-crafted .. top-notch ... should jump to the head of any lawyer's -- and law student's -- 'must read' list." --Elaine R. Friedman, *New York Law Journal*

"Defies simple classification, but is, above all, a great eavesdropping session on everyone from a federal judge who revels in watching an attorney pick up a woman on the subway to a labor lawyer who spits venom at her corporate counterpart." --Susan Orenstein, *New York Observer*

"Revelatory, intriguing, provocative." --Ruth Coughlin, *Hour Detroit*

"Snappy ... his sense of pace is terrific." --Rob Long, *The Weekly Standard*

"An intriguing and insightful series of real life vignettes ... voices worth hearing, for what they can say has relevance beyond the courtroom." --Steven Richman, *The Trenton Sunday Times*

"Eight chapters of pungent, imagined conversations among Manhattan lawyers revealing a world others rarely see. The talk is by turns funny, sad, touching, discouraging ... the whole range of the human condition." --Jim Dulzo, *Metro Times*