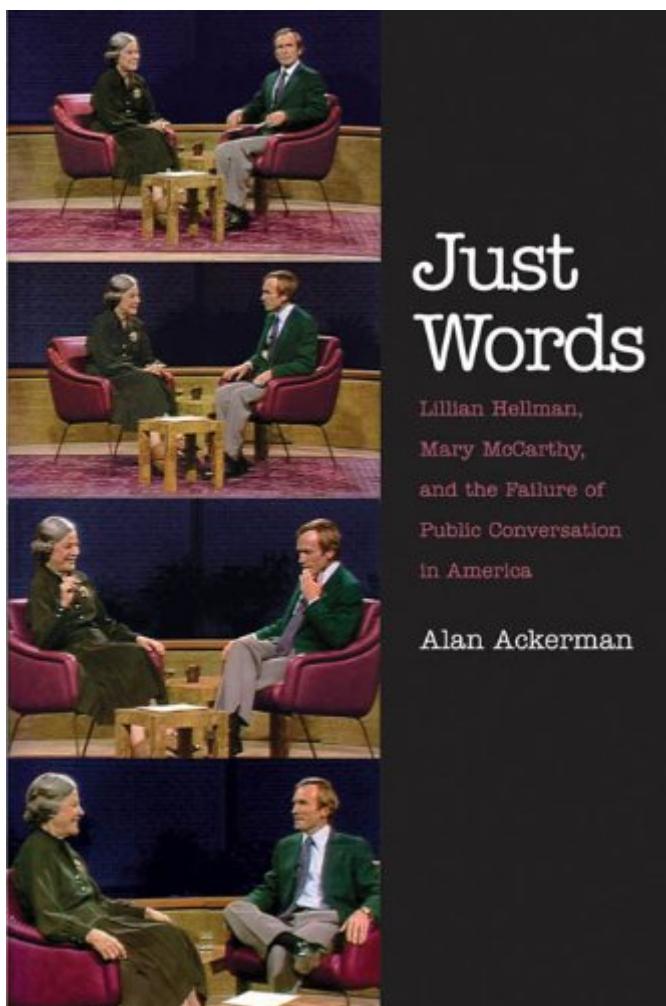


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Just Words: Lillian Hellman, Mary McCarthy, And The Failure Of Public Conversation In America



Just Words

Lillian Hellman,
Mary McCarthy,
and the Failure of
Public Conversation
in America

Alan Ackerman



Synopsis

In an appearance on The Dick Cavett Show in 1980, the critic Mary McCarthy glibly remarked that every word author Lillian Hellman wrote was a lie, "including 'and' and 'the.'" Hellman immediately filed a libel suit, charging that McCarthy's comment was not a legitimate conversation on public issues but an attack on her reputation. This intriguing book offers a many-faceted examination of Hellman's infamous suit and explores what it tells us about tensions between privacy and self-expression, freedom and restraint in public language, and what can and cannot be said in public in America.

Book Information

File Size: 1088 KB

Print Length: 376 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press (June 28, 2011)

Publication Date: June 28, 2011

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00574LUV2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #454,591 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #68 in Books > Law > Rules & Procedures > Witnesses #618 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Television > Shows #737 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Media Studies

Customer Reviews

"Just Words" is well written about problems in public speaking. Although it is based on interesting people in the early 1970's, it is timely today in light of modern politics and public discourse. The subject matter and the examples used are very well presented by the author. We all can benefit by the ideas expressed while we learn about the protagonists and the period in which they lived.

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