



U.S. Marshals: Inside America's Most Storied Law Enforcement Agency

Mike Earp, David Fisher

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Blending history and memoir, retired U.S. Marshal Mike Earp—a descendant of the legendary lawman Wyatt Earp—offers an exclusive and fascinating behind-the-scenes look at the most storied law enforcement agency in America, illuminating its vital role in the nation's development for more than two hundred years.

Mike Earp spent his career with the U.S. Marshals Service, reaching the number three position in the organization's hierarchy before he retired. In this fascinating, eye-opening book, written with the service's full cooperation, he shares his experiences and takes us on a fascinating tour of this extraordinary organization—the oldest, the most effective, and the most dangerous branch of American law enforcement, and the least known.

Unlike their counterparts in the police and the FBI, U.S. Marshals aren't responsible for investigating or prosecuting crimes. They pursue and arrest the most dangerous criminal offenders on U.S. soil, an extraordinarily hazardous job often involving gun battles and physical altercations. Earp takes us back to the service's early days, explaining its creation and its role in the border wars that helped make continental expansion possible. He brings to life the gunfighters and gunfights that have made the Marshals legend, and explores the service's role today integrating federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in the hunt for the most notorious criminals—terrorists, drug lords, gun runners.

Setting his own experiences within the long history of the U.S. Marshals service, Earp offers a moving and illuminating tribute to the brave marshals who have dedicated their lives to keeping the nation safe.

U.S. Marshals: Inside America's Most Storied Law Enforcement Agency Details

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Calisto says

Well, it was ok. As other reviewers pointed out, there is a lot of repetition which is highlighted by a lack of focus and direction. It's a compilation of stories which is fine, but without cohesion it becomes more like going to a random bar and listening to people talk. That's really too bad because I think there are some really great stories about how awesome the US Marshals are. They definitely don't get press they deserve. Overall, interesting, but could have been sooo much better.

Peg says

It was interesting to learn more about the US Marshals since I really didn't know much more than what I've seen on television. Some of the stories were pretty good but for the most part the writing wasn't very good; mostly quotes from various marshals' reports. It seems Mike Earp wishes the Marshal service would get more visible credit for what they do and spent a lot of the book patting them on the back. I agree with the comments of the person who said the whole thing just didn't flow or seemed tied together very well. I'd recommend it for the historical information and some interesting stories, but don't expect a 'can't put it down' experience.

Jacob says

Yup. I would definitely want to be a U.S. Marshall if I had to do it all over again .

David says

Okay, three stars. Here's why:

The book is redundant. Just to be clear, I liked this book. The stories were engaging and it was interesting to get some of the inside scoop on the Marshals and how they fit in to modern law enforcement.

The Marshals Service was created by George Washington in 1789--I didn't know that! They are Federal officers with arrest powers in every state of the US and most of its territories and protectorates. The creation of the new model for law enforcement was led by the Marshals Service by using "force multipliers" in the creation of task forces comprised of local, state and Federal agencies. Many people don't even realize the US Marshals still exist, and those that DO know they are still around, don't even know what they do!

I think that is fine with Mike Earp, a co-author of this book. The US Marshals continues to function as the most effective law enforcement body in the United States. The FBI couldn't get it done, the Marshals come in and clean up the town. So to speak. And they go quietly about their business. And people forget they are there. Then they catch the bad guys and the bad guys are like "Who are you guys really? This isn't the Old West. The Marshals aren't real anymore." I think what Earp and his co-author are trying to get to is that this obscurity surrounding the Marshals is what allows it to be such an effective tool in getting worthless scumbags off the streets.

I can recommend this book if your are interested in finding out a little more about the Marshals (or finding out about the Marshals Service period...) I just felt that the stories, anecdotes, and examples were repetitive. Earp and his co-author could have done what they did in half the book.

Rick says

I have always wanted to read a book on the US Marshals which would detail their success in a fashion that lionizes the FBI or comparable fashion. Unfortunately Mike Earp's book does a good job of telling a bunch of stories but he doesn't tie it all together. If the title of this book was LA Swat you could see these stories being told about the SWAT team for example. There is nothing I find compelling about the story that makes me want to learn more about the US Marshals. The work is obviously good but there is nothing to tie it all together and make us all appreciate the work of the Marshals service. There is no structure no organization or anything that tells us the story of what the Marshals Service does in a concise fashion.

You can pass on this one.

Kathy says

Listened to audionbook.

Very interesting information but written in a somewhat dry manner.

P.e. lolo says

For the most part I really enjoyed this book and it gave a greater appreciation for the job that the U.S. Marshalls do. It also brought me back to my beginnings of when I first began in law enforcement and the lack of equipment and then how over the years the training actually got much better. In this book you get to see the growth of the agency and how through their unique way of tracking down a suspect that they are able to get their man or woman faster than anyone else because of the way they are made for investigation and surveillance, just to name a few. The stories are interesting but by the last third of the book they seem to be repeated, and that is the only part of the book that I have a problem with. Everything else in the book is good and is very interesting to know. Overall not a bad book.

Diane says

I really enjoyed this book. I was expecting to read a history of the Marshalls; which this was. It was, also, filled with anecdotes which illustrated what the Marshalls do. I laughed, I gasped, I almost cried; by the end, I had an even better opinion of the Marshall service than the already good one I had at the beginning. This was well-written, interesting, and informative.

Tyrannosaurus regina says

I picked this up out of a genuine curiosity about the realities of the work that the U.S. Marshals do. I got a little bit of that, but I got more of a lot of deputies telling their personal case stories. There's nothing wrong with that. In fact, it was pretty interesting. But it also got somewhat repetitive after a while, despite the way the stories were being used to illustrate different facets of chasing fugitives (and make no mistake, that was the focus of the book), and because they were carefully chosen personal stories of crime fighting, they seemed very much designed and told to impress.

Justin says

Retired U.S. Marshal Mike Earp draws upon 29 years of service and his extensive professional network as the former Associate Director of the U.S. Marshals to offer one of the few books with an insider's view of the agency. Earp focuses almost entirely on the Marshal's mission of apprehending fugitives, leaving out other duties such as running the Federal Witness Protection Program, and seizing and selling criminal assets. 'U.S. Marshals' reads more like a collection of short stories and anecdotes as told by current and former Marshals than a thorough overview of the Agency. I found myself flipping through it and reading stories at random; this book could have benefited from a good editor. For fans of true crime however, the stories are insightful and engaging. Tracking and capturing the most notorious and dangerous wanted criminals, the Marshals in this book have some riveting stories to tell. Plenty of car chases, fistfights, gun battles, and detective type work. In one story the Sheriffs mailed fake prize invitations to fugitives to a party where they supposedly would be awarded Super Bowl tickets. They created an elaborate party at a hotel complete with food servers and hosts who were actually Sheriffs. Once all the fugitives had arrived they were promptly arrested. As one guy was being led away in handcuffs, he asked if he was still going to get his tickets. There are a surprising amount of humorous stories like this, and made Earp's book well worth reading.

Angelica says

An entertaining book with back to back personal accounts of fugitive chasing. Less historical and only a little political. This book doesn't seem to be well organized as a whole, but rather as a collection of thrilling, suspenseful, and humorous details of daily U.S Marshal life. It gets a little redundant halfway through, but I didn't mind since I was reading it at the same time as another book so I picked it back up here and there. Overall I recommend it for anyone in the law enforcement field, anyone who enjoys watching the TV show cops, or anyone interested in criminal vs justice interactions. Personally it was interesting to find out where criminals tend to hide, how you can catch them by surprise, and some of the motivations for their crimes. Psychologically, this book has more stories to tell.

Jeff says

Was expecting the entire history of the marshal service. However, it was entertaining.

Robert says

An interesting work on an obscure organization.

The book uses a number of anecdotes to illustrate the range of some of the duties of the Marshals. Specifically, the work pays attention to the aspect of the job involving apprehending fugitives. This dramatic and interesting work requires a certain sort of courage. Maybe a little recklessness.

Not that much of a historical work. It also doesn't deal much with the Witness Protection program. Again, the focus seems to be in manhunting. I should think this focus should be entertaining to a reasonably large group of people. The work also avoid obvious political leanings, which is appreciated.

David Vinther says

Not so much a history of the US Marshals Service as a collection of anecdotes about cases and captures by the Marshals that were interviewed. The stories seemed kinda short at times and just felt a bit lacking in places, but I guess you can only work with what information you're given as the author. All-in-all an interesting read.

April Smith says

I super enjoyed this. It was like listening to a bunch of people tell stories about "this one time..."
