



Vigilance: My Life Serving America and Protecting Its Empire City

Ray Kelly

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER**

Two-time New York City police commissioner Ray Kelly opens up about his remarkable life, taking us inside fifty years of law enforcement leadership, offering chilling stories of terrorist plots after 9/11, and sharing his candid insights into the challenges and controversies cops face today.

The son of a milkman and a Macy's dressing room checker, Ray Kelly grew up on New York City's Upper West Side, a middle-class neighborhood where Irish and Puerto Rican kids played stickball and tussled in the streets. He entered the police academy and served as a marine in Vietnam, living and fighting by the values that would carry him through a half century of leadership-justice, decisiveness, integrity, courage, and loyalty.

Kelly soared through the NYPD ranks in decades marked by poverty, drugs, civil unrest, and a murder rate that, at its peak, spiked to over two thousand per year. Kelly came to be known as a tough leader, a fixer who could go into a troubled precinct and clean it up. That reputation catapulted him into his first stint as commissioner, under Mayor David Dinkins, where Kelly oversaw the police response to the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and spearheaded programs that would help usher in the city's historic drop in crime.

Eight years later, in the chaotic wake of the 9/11 attacks, newly elected mayor Michael Bloomberg tapped Kelly to be NYC's top cop once again. After a decade working with Interpol, serving as undersecretary of the Treasury for enforcement, overseeing U.S. Customs, and commanding an international police force in Haiti, Kelly understood that New York's security was synonymous with our national security. Believing that the city could not afford to rely solely on "the feds," he succeeded in transforming the NYPD from a traditional police department into a resource-rich counterterrorism-and-intelligence force.

In this vital memoir, Kelly reveals the inside stories of his life in the hot seat of "the capital of the world"- from the terror plots that nearly brought a city to its knees to his dealings with politicians, including Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama as well as Mayors Rudolph Giuliani, Bloomberg, and Bill DeBlasio. He addresses criticisms and controversies like the so-called stop-question-and-frisk program and the rebuilding of the World Trade Center and offers his insights into the challenges that have recently consumed our nation's police forces, even as the need for vigilance remains as acute as ever.

Vigilance: My Life Serving America and Protecting Its Empire City Details

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Author : Ray Kelly

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From Reader Review Vigilance: My Life Serving America and Protecting Its Empire City for online ebook

PJ Morris says

Great job, great read.

The NYC I grew up in & learned to love again thanks to men like Ray Kelly. A once in a lifetime person for the job.

Michael Bear says

Not bad....

For a career in law-enforcement officer, he is highly educated and open to new ideas.... We need more people like him.

He also gave a vigorous defense of the NYPD policy of "stop and frisk"

Gregory Tait says

Good. would of liked more in depth
I felt Brattons book was a bit better

Rick says

Good insight into NYC cops.

Luigib says

I really enjoyed the "Reasonable Suspicion" chapter- a policing device that the left has all but eliminated. Ray provided great analysis on how the left plays with the statistics to demonize police efforts. "Shouldn't women comprise 50% of detentions?" Great work Ray. We are all sorry that Bill Warren Wilhelm de Blasio became mayor. A sad trajectory for a great city.

Jean says

Ray Kelly served as Police Commissioner of New York City longer than any top police officer in NYC

history. Mugged in Central Park as a third-grader Kelly was sent on a life of fighting crime. Kelly tells about his early life, his time in the Marines serving in Viet Nam and joining the NYPD. He went to the police academy and rose through the ranks holding all the ranks. He tells of his education and obtaining his Doctor of Jurisprudence from St John's Law School.

Kelly tells about when he first became Police Commissioner under Mayor David Dinkins during the crack plague and when murders in the City hit 2245 in 1990—three times the toll in 1967. Mr. Kelly devised the strategy; City Hall found the money for more police and the crime wave began to ebb. Kelly champions aggressive policing especially the tactic known as “stop-and-frisk”. Kelly tells of his challenges and accomplishments as Commissioner under Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Much of the book tells how Kelly transformed the NYPD into an antiterrorism force; he created an intelligence division and a counter-terrorism bureau. He tells of the 16 terror plots against the City that were thwarted on his watch. I read this as an audiobook downloaded from Audible. Ray Kelly narrated his own book.

John says

Ray Kelly did a lot of great things for NYC and America. I found this to be an excellent read.

Martin Mooney says

Why we remain safe

This biography should be required reading in all introductory criminal justice studies.

1. Kelly's life story is inspiring for all seeking a successful career path.
2. Kelly clearly spells out how the political process can and does interfere with principled and constitutional policing.
3. Most importantly, Kelly along with mayor Bloomberg gives the reader an inside view of how New York was kept safe from terrorism and lowered the crime rate by principled and constitutional means despite the harping of the ultra liberals and academic liberals.

Larry Corio says

Heroic

Jakoby says

A fantastic register of one man's (many) accomplishments. Ray Kelly is extremely well-spoken. He manages to be laser precise and thorough in his details without you ever questioning the need for the depth of his insight. I felt the book painted a beautiful (although brief) portrait of life in mid-century New York which had me eager for more. Kelly is proud of his work with good reason and rarely, if ever, came across as braggadocious. He reads extremely fair and balanced in his recollection of events and manages to avoid ever

being rudely political as easy as it could have been. Kelly is a by-the-book policeman through and through never straying from his morals or tip-toeing around facts.

Jenn N says

One of the best books of the year. A fascinating first hand account of policing techniques, anecdotes and commentary of local New York State and federal security issues and resolutions that affect everyone. Definitely a must read.

Jon Moeller says

Fell behind on my reviews. Great read. An amazing man and leader. This book shows all aspects of an ever changing world and how NYPD has stayed ahead of it especially post 9-11.

Dan Graser says

While your pre-existing "knowledge" of NYPD commissioner Ray Kelly may come from the absurdly overblown coverage of the stop and frisk policy, this is an important trove of insights into counter-terrorism efforts and crime reduction practices that the data and personal experience bear out as true and effective. A very important read as to how policing can be done well in an age where we see it being done so poorly on the major news outlets.

Thomas Ryan says

While there's no question that Ray Kelly, America's Cop, has had a remarkable career, his book suffers from his greatest downfall -- a kind of paranoia -- resulting in his inability to say anything nice about the FDNY or PA Police, both of whom suffered great loss on 9/11. And when he writes that he needed a young NYPD Lt. to teach him what crack vials were, he seems to confirm why many old time Chiefs dismissed him as a lightweight "Kelly's always in school -- what does he know?". Well, as this book confirms, he does know quite a bit and the book is helpful as a timeline but for a deep look into the NYPD and its relationship to both the city and counterterrorism, better books are needed. And lastly, as Kelly points out, in the 1960s, when he started, NYPD cops were paid more than other city cops. Today, that's not true and he fails to explain how -- and why -- that happened on his watch. Today's New York is vastly safer thanks to the cops and firefighters who saved it but they can't afford to live here and in part you can thank Ray Kelly for that.

Michael McCormick says

What is plainly evident from this book is that Ray Kelly is an outstanding public servant and is spot on in his arguments about what makes for good policing, for the practice of law and order in America and the world.

