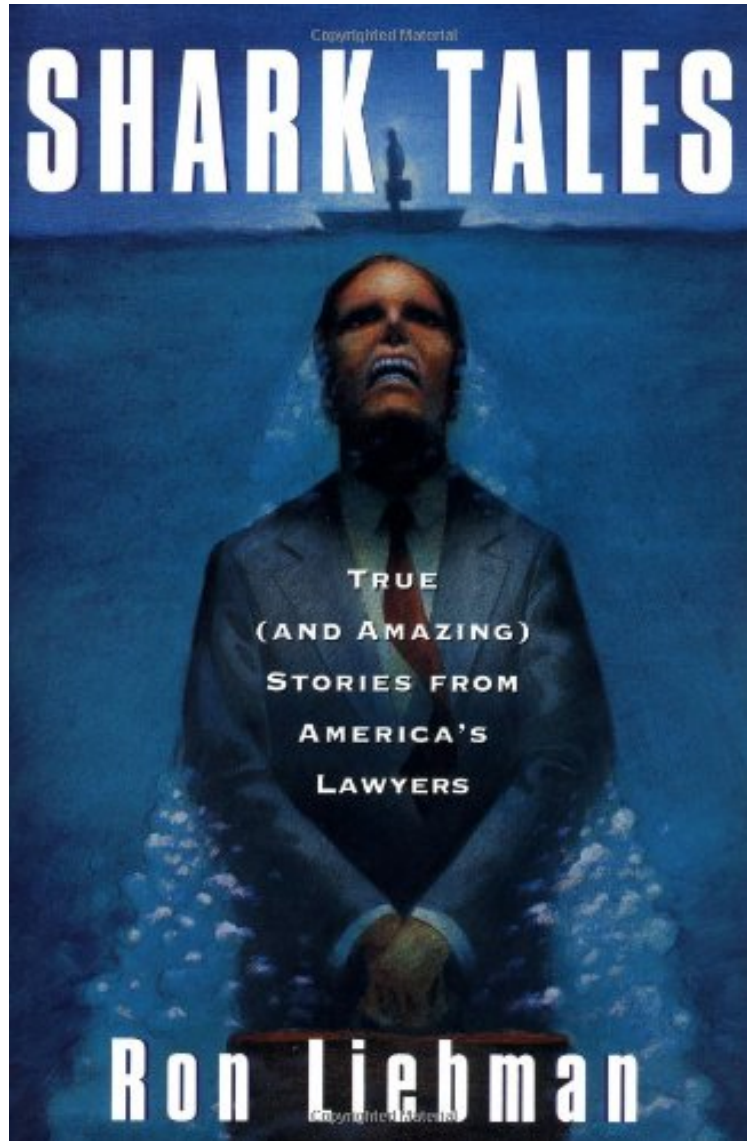


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## Shark Tales: True (and Amazing) Stories from America's Lawyers

*Ron Liebman*

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**Ron Liebman : Shark Tales: True (and Amazing) Stories from America's Lawyers** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shark Tales: True (and Amazing) Stories from America's Lawyers:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One StarBy al eagleAs an retired attorney I didn't find the stories very unusual.10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Things Lawyers Talk About in BarsBy G. Ware Cornell Jr.Lawyers don't have the reputation of being particularly funny. This comes from the requirement that

lawyers maintain a stern or inscrutable demeanor when a witness splits his pants wide open leaving the witness stand. However in lawyer bars across the land, alone with our own kind( don't ask ), lawyers tell "war stories," collected here by Ron Liebman. Parts of this book, my own contribution excepted, are truly funny. Imagine the elder statesman of a major firm, addressing a gaggle of Japanese businessmen (prospective clients no less) in Tokyo, by reminiscing about the last time he had seen the city... from the air... as a World War II bomber pilot...or join the young lawyer trying his first case watching as a juror suddenly exits the jury box during his closing argument. The young man's mouth might still be agape had not his more senior colleague rose to say "Personally Judge I didn't think he was that bad." OK, so Jay Leno is in no trouble here, but if you are at all curious about what we really talk about, Liebman let's you know. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A few laughs; a few chuckles; some filler. By Ralph Adam Fine This is a quick read, and some of the funny stories will make you chuckle -- if not laugh -- out loud. But, sadly, there is a lot of unfunny filler--tales of young lawyers whose representation of their trusting clients was poor indeed. Moreover, some of the material--the amusing excerpts from court and deposition transcripts--come from a book published by a court-reporter association ("Disorder in the Court") and have been on the internet rounds for so long that the excerpts have fairly heavy beards. Perhaps the most poignant selection, however, is the recollection by a South Carolina lawyer of his lawyer-father's observation that the more a thief stole the better he was treated by the court and the more lenient his punishment--ranging from the ... crook to the ... embezzler. That tale, of course, echoes, sadly, what the law is all about: summarized by Swift centuries ago when he said that the law was like a cobweb that ensnared small flies but let the hornets through. All in all, Shark Tales is worth the flitting moments of time it takes to read.

QUESTION: How many lawyers does it take to finish the roof of a two-thousand-square-foot house with dormers?  
ANSWER: Depends on how thin you slice them. Lawyers, and, more to the point, lawyer stories, have been sliced, diced, and presented for consumption for centuries. Ever since Dick the Butcher suggested in Shakespeare's Henry VI Part 2 that "the first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers," the profession has exhibited a strong appeal for readers...to say nothing of an enduring image problem. Today, stories about life on the front lines of the nation's courtrooms fuel everything from the novels of John Grisham and Scott Turow to television shows like The Practice, Ally McBeal, and L.A. Law. Now in Shark Tales comes a remarkable collection of witty, eccentric, and astounding war stories -- guaranteed to be mostly true -- supplied by hundreds of attorneys and displaying the nitty-gritty of life in court. To create Shark Tales, famed Washington lawyer Ron Liebman solicited stories from hundreds of colleagues in America and Britain...and not just any stories. He asked them to supply humor, of course, but also to describe the day on which they were proudest to be lawyers, and the day when they were most ashamed. He asked for stories of wild divorces and tragic losses. He asked them to describe the worst judges and best witnesses they'd ever encountered. He reviewed actual court transcripts, and found material like the following: QUESTION: Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people? ANSWER: All my autopsies have been on dead people. Here is the tale of a case settled not by a fingerprint left behind at the scene of the crime, but an entire finger. Here is a lawyer agreeing to defend a client accused of passing bad checks...a client who promptly bounced the retainer check. Here you'll meet a proud son, having won his first case, telling his father -- also a lawyer -- that "justice has triumphed," to which the father replied, "Appeal at once." And here is a senior partner in a Washington law firm meeting with a group of Japanese corporate clients with whom he seems compelled to reminisce about the first time he saw Tokyo: as a bomber pilot in 1945. Funny, revealing, sad, poignant, and even exciting, Shark Tales is a hugely entertaining book for legal junkies -- authentic slices of life that reveal what really makes the law everyone's obsession.