

Alec Baldwin never wanted to write this book, but he was forced to take up his pen by the racket operating under the guise of the Los Angeles court system. Alec's indictment includes his ex-wife Kim Basinger, most anger management therapists, domestic relations judges, divorce lawyers, and nearly every other person involved in what he terms the incestuous divorce industry.

Alec's grievance list is long but general—he is raw from a seven year battle and he spreads the blame across America's culture of feminism, the aforementioned divorce racket and, at times, even himself. Although Alec outlines several legitimate beefs with the system, the merits of his claim are nearly lost by his contrived mea culpas that show an astonishing lack of insight into his own role in the outcome of his case.

After the case began in Los Angeles, Alec launched efforts to obtain equitable rights to his daughter that he believes should be “one half, ..absent compelling reasons backed by evidence.” Alec is unclear if he is referring to one-half of the child's time, or one-half of the decision making power over the child. Either scenario is problematic. A child's time cannot be split exactly in half the way bank accounts are split down to the penny in divorce cases. Especially when long-distance parenting is involved, it is generally best for the parent living in the child's primary residence to have decision making power.

Alec goes on to detail a bloody custody war where he encounters a system that stigmatizes men for regular male behavior. He argues that men are now as ill-served by the family court system as the female victims of assault, rape and sexual harassment were ill-served by the criminal justice system prior to the feminist movement. He laments the expansion of domestic violence to include instances where no physical violence is involved and notes that most domestic violence arrests involve non-physical confrontations. He correctly observes that the broadening of the definition of domestic violence to include non-physical conduct unfairly pathologizes traditional male behavior that women claim to value.

Alec cites numerous examples of his efforts to connect with Ireland and details Kim's strategies of making unreasonable demands and "running out the clock" by refusing to settle until any order for his parenting time would be moot by the time it was entered. In response to Kim's accusations that he "screamed and yelled a lot," he concedes that he had lost his temper "pretty badly," in his life, but worked hard to remedy it by agreeing to therapy and anger management as a condition to summer parenting time. Eventually, Alec and Kim confronted each other in court and Alec obtained joint custody.

From here, the case escalated to a pitched battle over schedules and lifestyles which continued until someone made an anonymous accusation that Alec was abusing Ireland. Alec's hard won progress came to a screeching halt while

investigations were conducted. Following additional hearings, Alec eventually resumed court ordered parenting time and the battled continued. Alec filed for contempt; on the advice of a confidant who told him to stop litigation, he withdrew his contempt.

Alec continued to try to maintain contact with Ireland and a cease fire with Kim, but he describes the phone being turned off for ten days straight, the lines being disconnected, and only reaching voicemail at best. This culminated in the famous voicemail where he ranted to Ireland that she was a rude, selfish pig and he would straighten her out when he got to L.A. A media frenzy followed the release of the voicemail message. More court followed and the results were sealed.

The value in this book for the Ohio practitioner comes from its reminder that a divorce client's perception of the legal system depends not only upon the final results of the case, but upon the interactions of the attorneys, judges and therapists along the way. Alec's complaints are visceral but not unusual to the seasoned divorce practitioner.