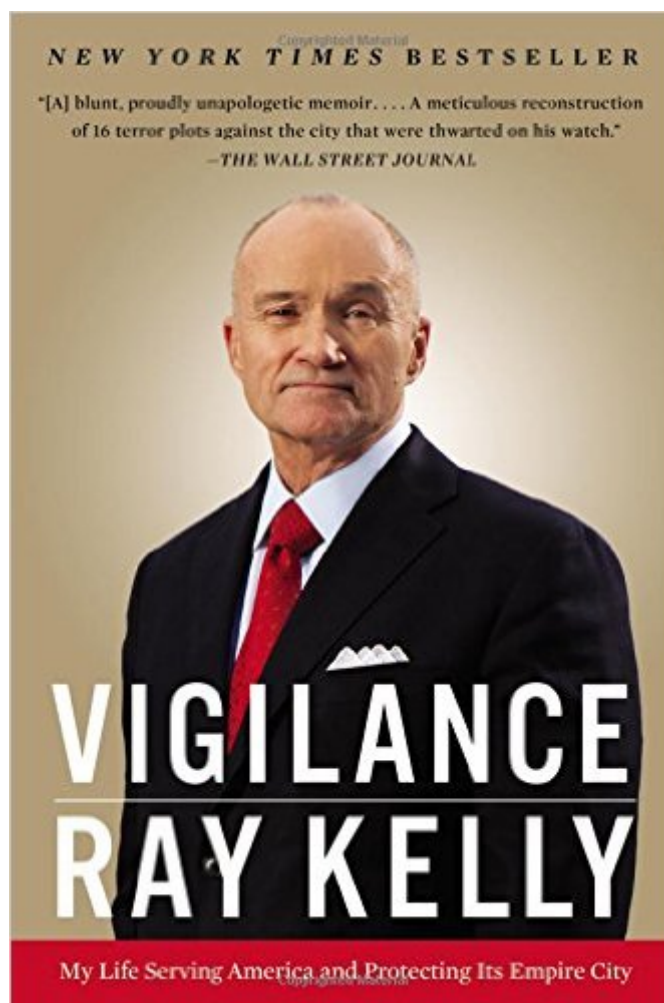


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Vigilance: My Life Serving America And Protecting Its Empire City



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER UPDATED PAPERBACK EDITION INCLUDES BONUS Q&A WITH RAY KELLY "Powerful ... the longest-serving police commissioner in New York City's history sketches a remarkable arc. This is the inspirational story of a milkman's son who worked as an elevator operator to help pay for his college education and then methodically crafted a 43-year career with the NYPD that eventually included a law degree, a master's from Harvard's Kennedy School, two different tenures running the NYPD and, most significant, a sustained and successful record defending New York from global terrorism in the aftermath of 9/11." --- Washington Post

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 served as a marine in Vietnam and 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. In his first stint as commissioner, 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, Mayor Michael Bloomberg tapped Kelly to be NYC's top cop once again. Believing that the city could not afford to rely solely on "the feds," Kelly succeeded in transforming the NYPD from a traditional police department into a resource-rich counterterrorism-and-intelligence force. In this "blunt, proudly unapologetic memoir" (Wall Street Journal), 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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The transformation of the NYPD from a force that in many ways had not departed from its early 20th century procedures, to a state of the art 21st century department is remarkable. It was indeed a large municipal organization resistant to change, and often driven more by politics than good common sense practices. Ray Kelly's vast experience, encompassing decades spent inside the NYPD while rising through its ranks to Police Commissioner, followed by his formal education, tenure with the Federal government, and the time spent in private industry, left him uniquely qualified to bring about this incredible change. Had he not been available to return to the NYPD after 9/11, or not had the benefit of the experiences that he amassed during the 8 years between leaving the NYPD, and then returning to once again lead it, New York City would be a different place today. It's very unlikely that the city as a whole could have bounced back from the horrific events of 9/11 without the feeling of safety and security he was directly responsible for. Fighting the traditional street crime that normally occurs in a city the size of New York is a monumental task. Doing so while keeping that city safe from terrorism on a global level, restoring confidence in its viability as a suitable base among the world's financial leaders, and re-inventing the largest law enforcement agency in the country, would have been an impossible task for anyone that did not possess his experience, commitment, personal ethics, and education. Despite his vast experience, and interactions with people at the highest levels of government and industry, he could still connect on a personal level with the average street cop.

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