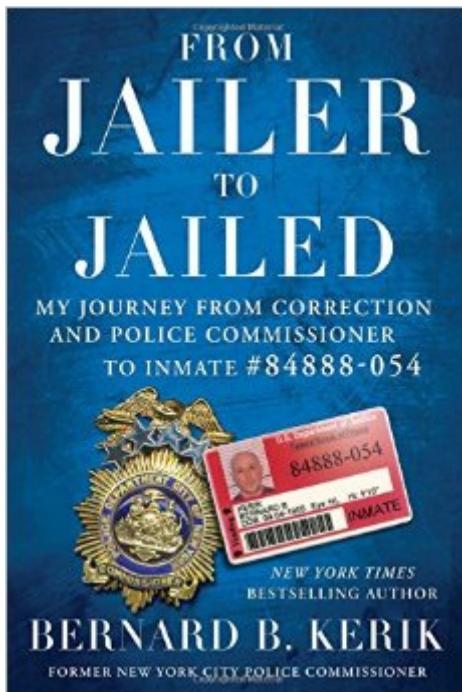


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From Jailer To Jailed: My Journey From Correction And Police Commissioner To Inmate #84888-054



Synopsis

The controversial New York City police commissioner and New York Times bestselling author of *The Lost Son* shares the story of his fall from grace and the effects of his incarceration on his views of the American justice system. Bernard Kerik was New York City's police commissioner during the 9/11 attacks, and became an American hero as he led the NYPD through rescue and recovery efforts of the World Trade Center. His résumé as a public servant is long and storied, and includes receiving a Medal of Honor. In 2004, Kerik was nominated by George W. Bush to head the Department of Homeland Security. Now, he is a former Federal Prison Inmate known as #84888-054. Convicted of tax fraud and false statements in 2007, Kerik was sentenced to four years in federal prison. Now, for the first time, he talks candidly about what it was like on the inside: the torture of solitary confinement, the abuse of power, the mental and physical torment of being locked up in a cage, the powerlessness. With newfound perspective, Kerik makes a plea for change and illuminates why our punishment system doesn't always fit the crime. In this extraordinary memoir, Kerik reveals his unprecedented view of the American penal system from both sides: as the jailer and the jailed. With astonishing candor, bravery, and insider's intelligence, Bernard Kerik shares his fall from grace to incarceration, and turns it into a genuine and uniquely insightful argument for criminal justice reform.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This serious and well-written book chronicles a flawed hero who combats a flawed system seemingly hell-bent on his destruction. It provides intriguing and candid revelations by the author, as

well as disturbing revelations about America's Justice Department and the Bureau of Prisons. Bernard Bailey Kerik's life would provide ample fodder for Euripides, Sophocles, Shakespeare, or any other author drawn to tragic heroes. His life even follows the structure of a Greek tragedy: there's the 'prologue' – his tragic childhood, followed by the 'parados' detailing his ascension to personal and public fame and power, and finally the 'exodus', the classic ending where his downfall – fueled by hubris and abundant enemies – plays out. He grew up on the wrong side of the tracks in Paterson, New Jersey under grim, soul-numbing circumstance: poverty and loneliness; an alcoholic father; abandoned at the age of three by his prostitute mother who was later murdered. For most, a predictably bleak future awaited. But by dint of sheer grit, personal industry, and unyielding ambition, Kerik would become a law enforcement icon – American's police chief who saw New York City through the horrors of 9/11. By then he had become one of the most decorated police officers in New York City history; a former Commissioner of Correction for NYC in charge of one of the largest jail and prison systems in the country; and, on 9/11 the Commissioner of Police for NYC with almost 40,000 officers reporting to him. His crowning achievement came soon thereafter when he was nominated by the President to become Secretary of Homeland Security. But the timing of his nomination was coincidental with his former boss Rudy Giuliani's preparations to run for the presidency.

If you can read the words of this book through the cracked windows of your glass house, you will be treated to critical life lessons. If you can get past the admitted truth of Bernard Kerik that he is not a saint, you stand to become a better person by reading his painfully honest memoir – *From Jailor to Jailed* – brings the reader inside the former NYC police commissioner's hell while he served hard time for a soft crime – inside a small metal box called – *solitary confinement*. No man of Kerik's heroic past and character should endure this treatment. It is counterproductive to our country's success. Kerik's sentence served as a microcosm for much that is wrong with America today. Because of his felony conviction, even as a free man he is handcuffed. What a heresy! Whatever happened to – *Judge me for WHO I am* – not *WHAT I am* – ?? Forget the stigmas, Kerik cannot be legally hired for most jobs that he is best suited for and trained in. Because these jobs involve protecting Americans, we all lose when – *convicted felons* – like Kerik get stripped of their powers by a justice system that often serves as a detention hall, opposed to a reform system. Any man or woman who has walked in Kerik's shoes would think twice before spouting unfounded, vitriolic opinions based on comments by others. Kerik's book may be seen as controversial. To me, the only controversy is over the need for people to question their own

beliefs â  to ask themselves if theyre qualified to throw stones at another glass house. Kerik is all about courage and character. If your life is perfect, you have all the answers. But, assuming you are like me and Bernard and everybody else, there is much to learn.

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