



BOOK REVIEW DIGEST
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WEISBERG, HAROLD. Frame-up: the Martin Luther King/James Earl Ray case containing suppressed evidence; with a postscript by James Earl Ray. 530p. \$10. Outerbridge & Dienstfrey; for sale by Dutton

364.15 Ray, James Earl. King, Martin Luther
ISBN 0-87690-032-5 LC 70-149057

This book attempts "to prove that James Earl Ray was not the murderer of Dr. Martin Luther King and that there was a conspiracy in which Ray was involved. . . . The author is a newspaper reporter and a former Senate investigator." (Best Sell)

Reviewed by J. J. Conlin
Best Sell 31:14 Ap 1 '71 400w

"This 'exposé' of the official version of Martin Luther King's assassination . . . must be credited with shedding light on the crass opportunism of Ray's lawyers and biographers, the clumsy distortions perpetuated by the government for public relations reasons, and the inept, corrupt investigation and disposal of the case. . . . The author certainly succeeds in raising fascinating questions about Ray's purported sole guilt. . . . Of interest to college libraries for historical reasons, and as a social phenomenon."

Choice 8:1256 N '71 190w

"Ray first maintained his innocence, but eventually pleaded guilty (March 10, 1969) on the advice of his lawyer in order to avoid the death penalty. Immediately after judgment, Ray returned to his statement of innocence, changed lawyers, and attempted to get a new trial. Weisberg . . . presents a wealth of detail, supported by documents in unusually full appendixes. . . . Of general interest, particularly to those concerned with criminal law. For most libraries hardly of lasting value." H. H. Bernt

Library J 96:2003 Je 1 '71 130w

"[The author] spends considerable space denouncing his old and new enemies. William Bradford Huie, Arthur Hanes, Percy Foreman and a host of others are treated savagely; and if there is any issue, no matter how unrelated to his subject, on which the F.B.I. as an institution can be made to look bad, Mr. Weisberg makes the detour with gusto. . . . He spends an enormous amount of time and effort misunderstanding the legal principles that the various court officials involved in the Ray case seem to be attempting to apply. . . . Finally, one might ask if 'Frame-Up' tells us anything significant about the Martin Luther King assassination. Regrettably, the answer is no." John Kaplan

N Y Times Bk R p10 My 2 '71 1300w

"Weisberg is an indefatigable researcher. Unfortunately, he is not a skilled writer. His book suffers from lack of organization and conciseness. . . . [He] devotes long passages to denunciation instead of the cool presentation of evidence. Though his indignation is in most instances thoroughly justified, it gets in the way of the story. But when all this has been said, Weisberg remains invaluable. He has pursued the facts, and they are there, buried in the mass of his book. . . . It should be clear by now that, if the assassinations of some of the nation's most outstanding leaders are to be dismissed with the 'one man-no conspiracy' refrain, there will be no deterrent to conspiracies in the future." F. J. Cook

Sat R 54:23 Ap 10 '71 1750w