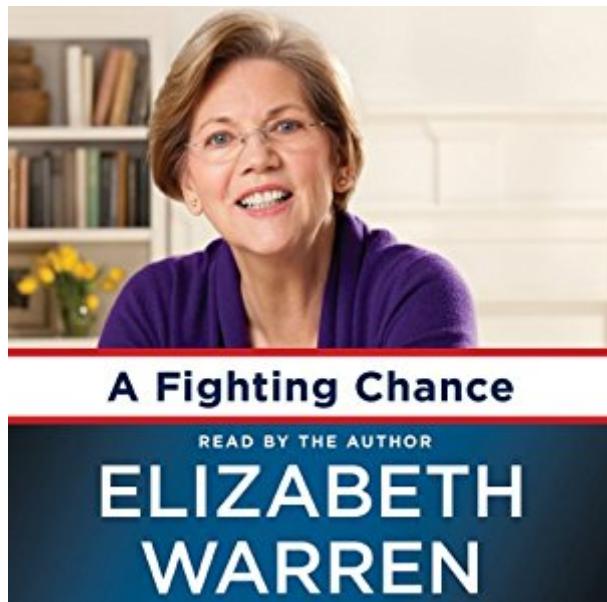


The book was found

A Fighting Chance



Synopsis

An unlikely political star tells the inspiring story of the two-decade journey that taught her how Washington really works - and really doesn't. As a child in small-town Oklahoma, Elizabeth Warren yearned to go to college and then become an elementary school teacher - an ambitious goal, given her family's modest means. Early marriage and motherhood seemed to put even that dream out of reach, but 15 years later she was a distinguished law professor with a deep understanding of why people go bankrupt. Then came the phone call that changed her life: Could she come to Washington, DC, to help advise Congress on rewriting the bankruptcy laws? Thus began an impolite education into the bare-knuckled, often dysfunctional ways of Washington. She fought for better bankruptcy laws for 10 years and lost. She tried to hold the federal government accountable during the financial crisis but became a target of the big banks. She came up with the idea for a new agency designed to protect consumers from predatory bankers and was denied the opportunity to run it. Finally, at age 62, she decided to run for elective office and won the most competitive - and watched - Senate race in the country. In this passionate, funny, rabble-rousing book, Warren shows why she has chosen to fight tooth and nail for the middle class - and why she has become a hero to all those who believe that America's government can and must do better for working families.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I got an advanced copy of this book back in January. When I see these one star diatribes I know

none of these people got even 20 pages into it. This is not a sales book--Warren is not telling us why we should believe this or support this. Rather, it's more of a journal of how she got started, the luck and decisions that led her from job to job--and how she ultimately ended up in board rooms trying to convince bankers that short-term success wasn't always in their best interest. Her studies of bankruptcy and credit cards and ballooned mortgages show us that it's not just about individuals but how our economy is affected as a whole. Of course, you can disagree with her liberal positions on a lot of things, but again, the book isn't trying to sway the reader to get on the bandwagon. If anything, she's more like a scientist: she shows evidence of patterns and statistics that show how a shrinking middle class threatens our future and how tax loop holes only serve those who don't even need them. It's written with eloquence and candor (and sometimes a bit of frustration) but for the most part it tells of how she got where she is and why she can't just ignore the laws that truly threaten lower class families. When she wrote THE TWO INCOME TRAP a decade ago she showed us that we get fooled into believing that hard work always pays off and that doing the right thing will always protect you in the end. Not so. In an economy like this one, the strong always maintain greater control and the weak stay weak--or slip even further behind. Is she right every time?--of course not. There really ARE poor people who buck the system--just like there are very rich people who do as well.

I don't usually read a lot of autobiographies, but I'm a fan of Elizabeth Warren and I've heard good things about this book, so I decided to give it a try. I figured I'd start on it this weekend and finish it later in the week, but as soon as I got into it, I was hooked. The writing is very good and I found myself laughing out loud at times (such as when the author describes setting her kitchen on fire). The first few chapters cover the author's life before she got involved in politics: how she grew up middle class until her father got sick and lost his job; how she earned a debate scholarship and went to college (despite her mother's desire that she focus on finding a husband), then dropped out of college to get married and have a baby. How she finished her college degree and then a law degree, while raising two kids. Then - in what would eventually lead her to becoming nationally known - how she ended up getting involved in bankruptcy law and research into why people declare bankruptcy. As a bankruptcy expert, she lead the (ultimately unsuccessful) fight to keep the law from being changed to enhance banking profits at the expense of those who would no longer have access to bankruptcy protection. After her work on bankruptcy, she eventually ended up leading the COP panel, which oversaw TARP (Trouble Assets Relief Program), more commonly known as the bank bailout. The panel unfortunately had no real power - they could take testimony, but could not

compel people to testify, nor could they insist on being present when Treasury (which didn't appear particularly interested in oversight) made the decisions on how to spend the \$700 billion that Congress had authorized to bail out the financial system.

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