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Encounter Books' author Kate Coleman attacks Judi Bari as "braless" and dredges up every bit of malicious gossip she can find.



Also visit the complete page by page list of Coleman's mistakes & lies. 351 falsehoods found so far! **Click here.**

Right wing puts out hit-piece on Judi Bari

Kate Coleman is a marginal freelance writer from the San Francisco Bay Area. She was hired by the right-wing publisher, Encounter Books, to write a book on the late Earth First! activist Judi Bari. The book is being released under the title, *The Secret Wars of Judi Bari: A Car Bomb, the Fight for the Redwoods and the End of Earth First!*

It would be an understatement to describe this book as a pack of lies. It's more like a truckload of lies. Coleman can't get even the simplest names, dates and places correct in what pretends to be a biography. The big events in Judi's life are twisted beyond recognition with the most absurd misstatements and sneering commentary.

To prevent this right-wing hit piece from becoming a sourcebook on Judi Bari, her friends, associates and family are compiling a page-by-page list of the errors, lies and omissions in Coleman's text. So far, the list has reached 351, more than one mistake per page. This list is posted [here](#). But don't take our word for it! Also visit the **INSTANT PROOF** feature, where you can click on documents that test some of Coleman's claims.

In the classic style of trash writing, Coleman attributes gossip to unnamed sources at least 33 times. Most of the rest of her attributions are from the Gang of Four--four notorious enemies of Judi Bari, all with naked motives to lie about her. Coleman repeatedly describes these bitter enemies as "friends" of Judi, and only briefly and sketchily hints of the bitter feuds that these four people waged against Judi during the last five years of her life.

As an ideologically-subsidized publishing house sponsored by the far right-wing,

Encounter Books has multiple motives to go after Judi Bari. Not only was Judi an acclaimed and powerful environmental leader, but she was a leftist and an uppity feminist. Even after her death, Judi made headlines through victory in her lawsuit (*Bari v. United States of America*) over the abuse of her rights when the FBI and Oakland Police tried to frame her following the 1990 car bombing.

Encounter Books attacks Judi in much the same way as it tried to pull down another uppity feminist, Hillary Rodham Clinton. In *The Hillary Trap* (2000), Encounter Books argues that Hillary was a fraudulent feminist because she didn't divorce her philandering husband. Although Hillary pretends to be "the strong, assertive, mature feminist," the book argues that her "leftist" politics are "guaranteed to keep women as dependent on government, unions and even the United Nations--as she was on Bill." [**More on Encounter Books.**]

Even cruder propaganda is directed at Judi Bari. She is smeared as "braless" (four times), a drug abuser, violent, dishonest, and hypocritical. In brazen disregard of the historical record, Coleman accuses Bari of ignoring forestry activism in favor of her lawsuit against the FBI, and of causing "The End of Earth First," as proclaimed in the book's title.

The FBI's flagrant abuse and false arrest of Judi after the 1990 car bomb attack is defended by Coleman, even though a jury was so incensed by the FBI's conduct that it awarded Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney a record \$4.4 million damages after a civil rights trial in 2002.

To belittle Bari in the same way Encounter Books went after Hilary Clinton, Coleman falsely alleges that Bari was engaged in "secret wars" with her ex-husband, Mike Sweeney. Was Judi Bari really a tough feminist with a brown belt in karate? It was a sham, says Coleman, who serves up gossip from the Gang of Four that she was a silent victim of "beatings" and "rape." Was Judi Bari devoting all of her energy to Redwood Summer? Not at all, says Coleman, who serves up more gossip that her "most secret war" was a dispute over child custody with her ex-husband, even though the public record shows no evidence of any such dispute.

The purpose of the malicious gossip about "secret wars" is to contribute to innuendoes and speculation about who carried out the 1990 car bombing which injured Bari and Cherney on the eve of Redwood Summer. Bari was convinced she was targeted because of her timber activism, possibly with the provocation or cooperation of police agencies. Coleman and her right-wing paymasters don't like that theory, so Coleman twists every fact and chases every innuendo to suggest that either (1) Bari was actually carrying the bomb for later use or (2) her ex-husband did it. But in the end, however, after an orgy of mud-slinging, she is forced to admit there is no evidence supporting either theory.

If Judi Bari was still alive today (she died of cancer in 1997), she would laugh the loudest at Coleman's clumsy hatchet job, cut it to ribbons with her famous wit and sharp tongue, and then point us to the real story—the power of grass-roots, non-violent mass protest in defense of the environment. As Judi would be the first to admit, she was nobody without the courage and commitment of thousands of protestors who stand up to environmental crimes.

Coleman's hit-piece should stimulate interest in the real history of Judi Bari and the fight for the redwoods. It's documented in detail at the official Judi Bari website, www.judibari.org. It's also told in Judi Bari's own words in her book *Timber Wars* (1994, Common Courage Press).

See the website for continuation of critique plus a page-by-page list of 351 factual errors in a book of less than 232 pages of text. Also INSTANT PROOF section with documentary proof of Coleman's falsehoods at a mouse click

continued on the website