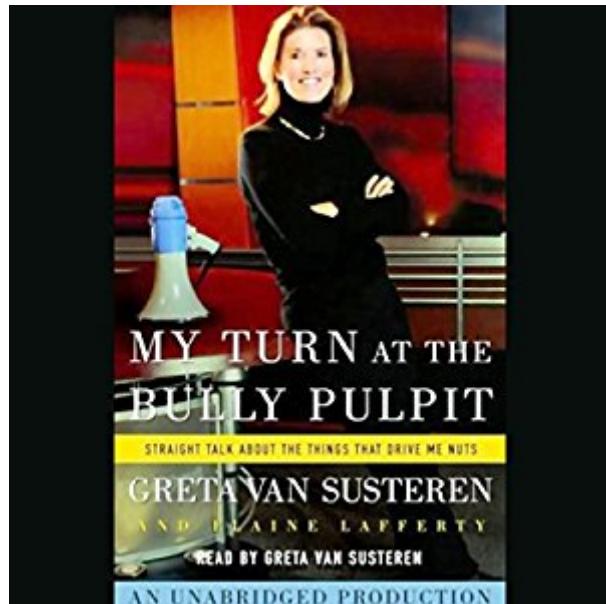


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# My Turn At The Bully Pulpit



## Synopsis

Welcome to the bully pulpit where opinions fly but common sense rules. Hereâ„¢s where youâ„¢ll find straight talk about the most pressing issues of the day, all delivered in the trademark commonsense style of one of Americaâ„¢s most popular and admired television news anchors. Always resisting the political label that attempts to place people in one ideological camp or another, Greta Van Susteren speaks from the mind and the heart, not as a liberal or a conservative, but as a right-thinking, sensible citizen. â€œOur country is at a critical juncture,â€• she writes, and â€œtoo many of us are caught up in old definitions of left and right that no longer apply. If I favor the death penalty in some cases, does that make me right-wing? If I think hate crimes legislation is stupid, does that make me a conservative? If I happen to like and enjoy Ozzy Osbourne and have him on my show, does that make me a liberal? And if I believe that corporations should be held accountable if their products harm citizens and they should be subject to the rulings of a juryâ€•ditto for doctors who commit medical malpracticeâ€•does that make me a lefty trial lawyer?â€•Hereâ„¢s more of Greta in her own words:On the military: Liberty isnâ„¢t free. As a nation, we must provide for the men and women who put their lives on the line for us. That means good pay, adequate funding for defense, and our heartfelt support. Vietnam was a very long time ago. We Baby Boomers have to wake up and realize that todayâ„¢s military is a different military from the one we grew up with, and we are fighting a very different war. Patriotism is not a conservative or a liberal thing. Patriotism, as far as I am concerned, is the duty and obligation of every American.On the Supreme Court: There should be a litmus test for Supreme Court and federal court judges, and that test should be their opinion about allowing public access to court proceedings. Let cameras inside the courthouse, or at least allow an audio feed to radio. What are they hiding?On the death penalty: It should be legal and available to courts and juries . . . but it should be used extremely rarely, and only when we are absolutely certain that a fair trial has taken place.On how you look: Itâ„¢s your business and nobody elseâ„¢s. Your looks and your life are not a democracyâ€•not everybody gets a vote. Make your appearance and your choices a totalitarian regimeâ€•you are the boss.On fun: It isnâ„¢t a curse word. Itâ„¢s actually quite serious business, as it makes the hard times livable and the sad times bearable. Fun should be part of a work environment, too. Stuffed shirts and snobs who canâ„¢t stop and laugh at themselves should be banished!In Gretaâ„¢s company youâ„¢re guaranteed to get a fresh dose of common sense and a good hearty rant on many of the most important issues we face today. One more guarantee: youâ„¢ll have some good fun while youâ„¢re at it.From the Hardcover edition.

## **Book Information**

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 4 hours and 56 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Random House Audio

Audible.com Release Date: August 29, 2003

Language: English

ASIN: B0000D1BXH

Best Sellers Rank: #39 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Politics & Current Events > Current Events #647 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Law #5850 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Commentary & Opinion

## **Customer Reviews**

I have been a fan of Greta for years now, her reporting is honest and unbiased, she always treats her guests and audience with respect, and she is a great lady, the book is a collection of her experiences viewed from her perspective, no gossip or Enquirer type of stories, she is a lady with honesty and integrity and the book is a reflection of that.

I loved this book - Greta is the BEST !

Greta's wit combined with her ability to relate to her audience with a personal story are what made this book particularly enjoyable to me. Her candor is so appreciated. Great read!

Boring.

Greta has come up with a nice little book here. Nothing too controversial for the meek reader; however I think this is also the down side of the book.

I loved this book....she told it as it is and her book should be no. 1 instead of that Franken character! If you want a good read with no spin buy this book NOW! Beverly in Japan

Greta Van Susteren, former lawyer, is now a talking head for Fox News, having left that same

position on CNN. My Turn at the Bully Pulpit is five more hours of Greta talking. The sub-title is an honest commentary on the content. It seems quite a few things drive Greta nuts. There is no perceivable order to her discourse. Without going into great detail, here is a rough table of contents after the Introduction: Getting the "GET" - the interviewee du jour, ratings, guests Patriotism and the Military the Death Penalty Loyalty vs Conflict Cameras in courtrooms, specifically the Federal Courts and the Supreme Court the plastic surgery the "zero tolerance" policy in our schools Personal Responsibility and Tort Reform Fun - and the differences between CNN and FOX News Sports, Fairness, and Loyalty The Packers vs Corporate Ownership of Teams Tiger Woods, Augusta, and opening membership to women Nascar Racing CEO's - acquiring riches through failure, fraud, and greed, with examples Viewer e-mails, with Greta's responses Not ever having seen Greta Van Susteren in any of her professional venues, I had no idea what to expect. I was not surprised to find that, based on certain similarities in our backgrounds, we agreed on a lot of basic concepts. That's always nice; I hate listening to five hours of someone I really disagree with. What didn't I like? Well, five hours of any one person talking can wear after a while. I found myself being unusually irritated in the section on the death penalty - not because I disagreed with Greta, but because she doesn't pronounce the "t" in penalty. At times, her pronunciation gets a little sloppy, and the volume goes up and down for no apparent reason every now and then. At one point, partway through disc 4 (I think) Greta's voice sounds totally different than it did just seconds before, different enough that I thought someone else was speaking. Greta is very careful, in the Introduction, to state that what follows are nothing more or less than her opinions - not expert, not immutable, but hers. I found it annoying, at times, when she would state that someone else's opinion was "stupid", and then not explain why she felt that way. I thought the weakest section was the final one, viewer e-mails and her responses. Some of the e-mails she had referred to earlier in the book; reading them again was redundant. Her responses didn't always strike me as addressing the issues in the e-mails, they were sometimes abrupt. They did nothing to illuminate her skills as an interviewer or commentator. All in all, this five hours did nothing to make me interested in watching Greta Van Susteren on television. If she is a commentator/interviewer that you like, this is probably worth your time.

Greta Van Susteren, from CNN and FNC fame, has written a fairly good book. At moments I really enjoyed the book, however, other chapters were quite boring. The book, however, reads easily and therefore, boring sections are not as tiresome as they could have been. This book, like other books of this genre, is often "choppy" because one chapter does not always naturally lead to the next topic. There are some good things in this book, that take the less than satisfactory parts and raise

this book to at least an average rating (although, one is probably better off waiting until the book is out in paperback). Her chapter on the Death Penalty is, I think, brilliant. She avoids the extremes, by paying close attention to real issues about poor defences, fair trials, yet deserved punishment. She supports the death penalty, but thinks the system needs to make sure it provides the best defence possible for all. She is not satisfied that public defenders offices are underfunded, while prosecutors often operate a larger budget in which to prosecute the case. Her concern is for the innocent person, but she also admits that the guilty must be punished. Her chapter on Loyalty" is also very good as she writes about her work at CNN and the FNC and her transition from one to the other as discussed by others. Further, her chapter on patriotism is also very good and she arguments hear, though said elsewhere, is needed (support the men and women in uniform). The book is less interesting in other areas like her chapter on her plastic surgery. While I suspect others may enjoy this chapter and others chapters as well, I thought the pace of the book slowed and that its transitions from topic to topic were cumbersome. All in all, an enjoyable read, though not a compelling one.

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