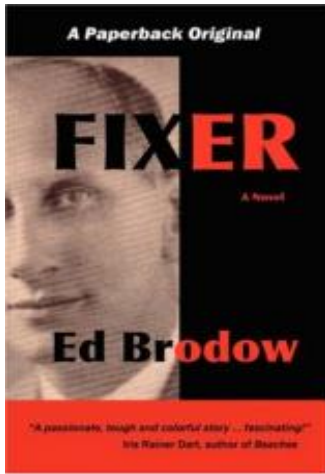


Fixer

by Ed Brodow



About the Book

Power broker Harry Leonnoff takes on Mayor Fiorello La Guardia in this thrilling novel of New York City politics. From the degrading slums of the Lower East Side to the bloody battle of Belleau Wood, **Fixer** is the spellbinding tale of a fearless politician with a limp and a thirty-eight who becomes the champion of New York's underclass. Uneducated son of Russian Jewish immigrants, Leonnoff confronts gangsters and bigots, saves nine innocent black men from the electric chair, and becomes the admired Robin Hood of Depression-era New York. But a vindictive Mayor Fiorello La Guardia forces Harry to make an impossible choice between his career and his integrity. Ed Brodow introduces us to one of the most compelling antiheroes in contemporary American fiction.

Discussion Guide

1. Anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance are alive and well. Could a Dorsey Hogan arise in New York City today? How would society deal with a contemporary Dorsey Hogan? Could we experience another Scottsboro Case?
2. If you were exposed to the kind of rampant anti-Semitism that Harry experienced as a young man, would you develop Harry's open-minded, humanitarian philosophy or would you simply be angry for the rest of your life?
3. Harry Leonnoff shows great courage in his response to polio. How would you deal with polio if you were in Harry's shoes?
4. How does one develop the kind of courage that Harry exhibits when he confronts Dorsey Hogan and the mob?

5. The Lower East Side slum in which Harry Leonnoff grew up is now being "gentrified" and the poor are being relocated to the public housing projects that were created by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia. Have we really dealt with the problem of poverty, or have we just moved it out of the way?
6. The legal system in Harry Leonnoff's time was corrupt, requiring a fixer like Harry to help those in need. Has our legal system improved, or is it still lacking? How would you improve it?
7. We seem to have an inordinately large number of psychopaths similar to Willie Malakow (Curly Murphy). Does this reflect a serious deficiency in our society, or is it merely normal for any given human population to have many violent criminals?
8. The political parties in Harry Leonnoff's day were run by cadres of insiders like Harry and John McCooey. How are today's political parties any different?
9. Harry and the Commissioner were married for almost fifty years even though they hated each other. Divorce seems to be the norm in today's society. Is it healthier for a couple like the Leonnoffs to stay together, or is divorce a better alternative? Has the institution of marriage as we know it become an anachronism?
10. Harry is advised to save his job by apologizing to Mayor La Guardia, but he is unwilling to do it. Was he wrong? Should he have apologized? Was Harry correct in standing by his principles or was he simply stubborn and unwilling to compromise? Should he have been more flexible for the sake of practicality and his own survival?
11. If you were Harry Leonnoff and faced with Willie Malakow, would you try to stop Willie or would you allow Willie to assassinate La Guardia?
12. Harry's grandson tries to come to terms with his grandfather's death. It is a problem that each of us eventually must face. How have you coped with the death of loved ones? How do you feel about the prospect of your own death?
13. Harry spends his final years languishing in a depressing public psychiatric hospital. How would you characterize the way our society deals with the problems of aging?

Author Bio

Ed Brodow is the bestselling author of *Fixer*, *Negotiation Boot Camp*, *Women From Venus*, and *Getting a Success Change*. An internationally recognized expert on the art of negotiation, Ed was dubbed "King of Negotiators" by SEC Chairman Harvey Pitt. Ed has appeared as negotiation guru on PBS, ABC National News, Fox News, Inside Edition, and Fortune Business Report. As a speaker, he has enthralled more than 1,000 audiences in Paris, Tokyo, Sao Paulo, Athens, Toronto, and New York. Ed is a veteran member of Screen Actors Guild, appearing in American and European movies with Jessica Lange, Ron Howard, and Christopher Reeve. A former Marine Corps officer, Ed graduated from Brooklyn College and lives in Monterey, California.

Critical Praise

"A passionate, tough and colorful story ...fascinating!"

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