

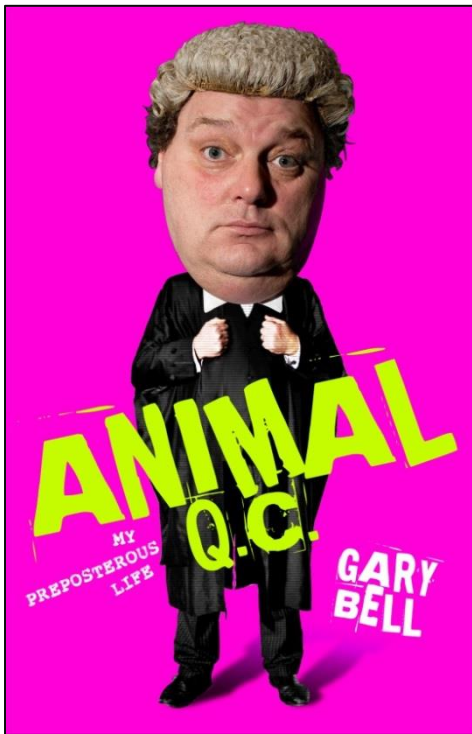
ANIMAL QC My Preposterous Life



GARY BELL

MONDAY BOOKS · 7th July 2015 · £16.99 Hardback · eBook available

FOOTBALL HOOLIGAN, CONVICTED FRAUDSTER, BBC TV PRESENTER, ASDA SHELF-STACKER, PET FOOD WAREHOUSE FORK LIFT TRUCK DRIVER, STAND-UP COMEDIAN, BRICKLAYER, COALMINER, BUSKER, HOMELESS DRIFTER, CALIFORNIAN LAWYER, INTERNATIONAL DEBATING CHAMPION, SKINHEAD, FIREMAN, CHRONIC BED-WETTER, PILOT, OVER-EATER, PORK FARMS PIE MAKER, DEVOTED FAMILY MAN, BARRISTER, QUEEN'S COUNSEL...



GARY BELL QC is a pillar of the Establishment and one of Britain's leading lawyers, with his own BBC TV series, an entry in *Who's Who*, and a wife whose family is listed in *Burke's Landed Gentry*.

But beneath the horsehair wig and silk gown, there is a man with an astonishing story to tell.

Born the son of a teenaged cigarette factory worker and a nineteen-year-old miner, **Gary Bell** grew up in a condemned slum and left his tough comprehensive school without taking any exams to follow his father down the pit.

He quit coalmining because of his lifelong fear of the dark, and spent the next decade as a homeless unemployed drifter or working in a strange variety of jobs... door-to-door rag salesman, lawnmower mechanic, fireman, bricklayer, shelf-stacker, forklift truck driver, pork pie baker... In between, he found time to rack up a conviction for fraud (he worked out how to fix the payouts on pub fruit machines) and became a notorious football hooligan known as 'Animal' (though not for his fighting prowess).

He pulled himself together and went to university in his mid-twenties as a mature student. But with his stonewashed jeans, skinhead hairstyle and flat vowels, he stuck out from his younger, public school-educated contemporaries – so he amused himself by deciding 'to become upper-middle class', adopting tweeds, received pronunciation and an Old Etonian tie. (He was so convincing that many Eton College alumni swear they were at school with him – he's even had the front to go 'back' to compete as an Old Boy in 'Field Game' fixtures against the school team.)

There are many more improbable strings to Gary's bow – international debating champion, award-winning stand-up comic, Beverly Hills lawyer (whilst still a student), chronic bed-wetter, private pilot.... And now he's one of the country's top defence barristers, specialising in complex and high-profile fraud cases. Extremely funny, immensely likeable, with an extraordinary knack for being in the right place at the right time, **Gary Bell** is a true one-off, whose preposterous story reads like a strange dream. Hilarious, moving, and utterly life-affirming, you'll be willing him on every step of the way.

GARY BELL IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

For more information please contact Sue Amaradivakara, PR COLLECTIVE
020 7635 3877 / 07786 626492 / sue@prcollective.co.uk / @SueA1001

Monday Books / www.mondaybooks.com / info@mondaybooks.com / 01242 633717