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Peyote vs. the State: Religious Freedom on Trial

Garrett Epps

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Garrett Epps : Peyote vs. the State: Religious Freedom on Trial before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Peyote vs. the State: Religious Freedom on Trial:

The story of the constitutional showdown over Native Americans religious use of peyoteWith the grace of a novel, this

book chronicles the six-year duel between two remarkable men with different visions of religious freedom in America. Neither sought the conflict. Al Smith, a substance-abuse counselor to Native Americans, wanted only to earn a living. Dave Frohnmayer, the attorney general of Oregon, was planning his gubernatorial campaign and seeking care for his desperately ill daughters. But before this constitutional confrontation was over, Frohnmayer and Smith twice asked the U.S. Supreme Court to decide whether the First Amendment protects the right of American Indians to seek and worship God through the use of peyote. The Court finally said no. Garrett Epps tracks the landmark case from the humblest hearing room to the Supreme Court chamber and beyond. This paperback edition includes a new epilogue by the author that explores a retreat from the ruling since it was handed down in 1990. Weaving fascinating legal narrative with personal drama, *Peyote vs. the State* offers a riveting look at how justice works and sometimes doesn't in America today.