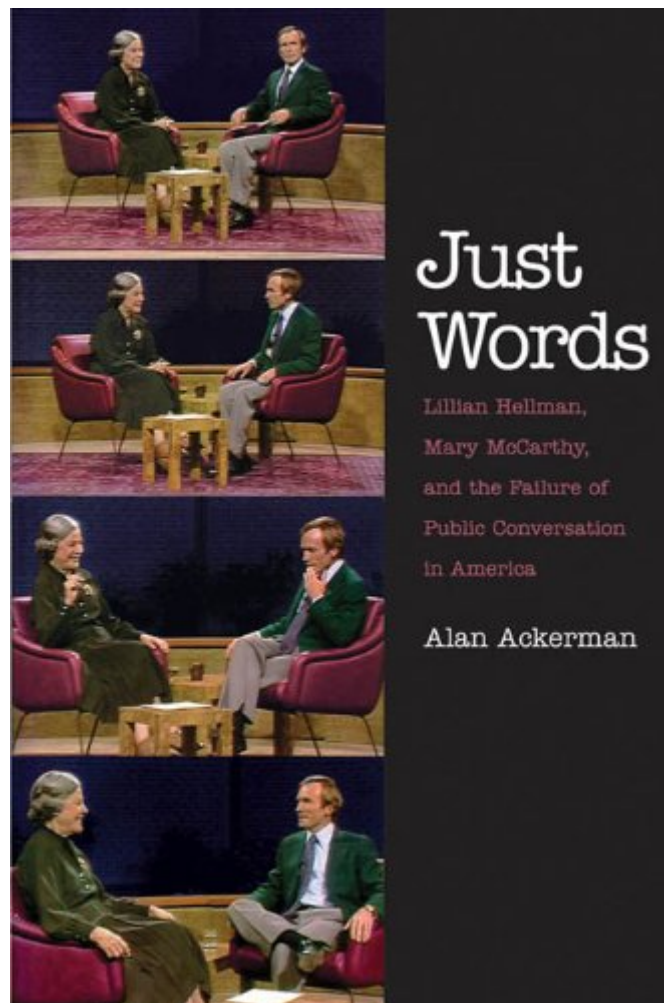




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# Just Words: Lillian Hellman, Mary McCarthy, And The Failure Of Public Conversation In America



## Synopsis

In an appearance on The Dick Cavett Show in 1980, the critic Mary McCarthy glibly remarked that every word author Lillian Hellman wrote was a lie, "including 'and' and 'the.'" Hellman immediately filed a libel suit, charging that McCarthy's comment was not a legitimate conversation on public issues but an attack on her reputation. This intriguing book offers a many-faceted examination of Hellman's infamous suit and explores what it tells us about tensions between privacy and self-expression, freedom and restraint in public language, and what can and cannot be said in public in America.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Just Words" is well written about problems in public speaking. Although it is based on interesting people in the early 1970's, it is timely today in light of modern politics and public discourse. The subject matter and the examples used are very well presented by the author. We all can benefit by the ideas expressed while we learn about the protagonists and the period in which they lived.

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