

Son: A Psychopath and His Victims

By Jack Olsen

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Son: A Psychopath and His Victims By Jack Olsen

A classic from “the dean of true crime” (*The Washington Post*)—now with a new foreword—this 1983 masterpiece tells the incredible story of a Spokane, Washington serial rapist who was exposed as the handsome, privileged son of one of the city’s most elite families.

For more than two years, a rapist prowled the night streets of the homey, All-American city of Spokane, Washington, terrorizing women, sparking a run on gun stores, and finally causing one newspaper to offer a reward—the calls taken by the distinguished managing editor himself, Gordon Coe. In March 1981, luck and inspired police work at last produced an arrest, and Spokane shuddered. The suspect was clean cut and conservative...and Gordon Coe’s son.

For eighteen months, Jack Olsen researched the cases of Fred and Ruth Coe to try to learn not only what happened within that family, but how and why. He interviewed more than 150 people and built up a portrait not only of that extraordinary family, but of the mind of a psychopath. And searching the memories of the women in Fred Coe’s life, he unearthed a most horrifying question: What is it like to love and live with a man for years—and then discover he is a psychopathic criminal?

In this “gruesomely spellbinding” (*Glamour*) examination of the mind of a psychopath and of the women—and men—who were his victims, Olsen delivers “a harrowing portrait...It has become fashionable with books about vicious crimes to compare them to Truman Capote’s *In Cold Blood*. Finally there is a book that deserves the comparison” (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*).

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

On one level, this 1984 Edgar Award Nominee is the story of a sociopathic rapist, a clean-cut realtor named Fred Coe who raped dozens of women in sunny Spokane, Washington. Olsen paints the portrait of a man whose exterior grandiosity and air of *savoir faire* barely conceal his deep insecurity about his career failures--a temperamental prima donna who emulates the pathetic hero of "American Gigolo." But on another, even more compelling level, this is the story of the women in Fred's life: His histrionic, clinging mother is a fair-skinned beauty in jet-black wigs, outrageous attire, and excessive jewelry, who eventually plots to kill the judge and prosecutor who put her dear "Son" away. A wife, and later on a girlfriend, both devoted to Fred, are devastated by his exposure as a brutal rapist. And several of Fred's many victims are also compassionately portrayed in all their individuality.

Review

"Fascinating . . . recreates the bizarre chain of events that unraveled the fabric of a seemingly all-American family and scarred the lives of so many innocent people. Olsen succeeds on all levels, from detailed storytelling and haunting character studies to compassionate treatment of the rape victims." (*Los Angeles Times*)

"Superlative reporting. Olsen turns what promises to be another run-of-the-mill crime story into a drama that invites comparison to Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*." (*Newsday*)

"A chilling story . . . Gruesomely spellbinding." (*Glamour*)

"A hefty, detailed, and horrifying masterpiece. . . . This reprint not only adds a personal touch from best-selling true-crime author Gregg Olsen but puts in a new, portable form what is arguably Jack's finest book." (*Booklist*)

"Remarkably well done. . . Olsen brings his strange subjects to vivid life in this memorable reconstruction." (*Publisher's Weekly*)

"A riveting look at the monster lurking beneath a criminal psychopath's polished exterior. . . . Hits the reader with loaded bursts of insight, terror, and tragedy." (*Detroit News*)

"Might be the book that wins the Pulitzer Prize for Jack Olsen. . . . Vividly and thoroughly describes a psychopathic rapist." (*The Milwaukee Journal*)

"An extraordinary case. . . . A harrowing portrait It has become fashionable with books about vicious crimes to compare them to Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*. Finally there is a book that deserves the comparison." (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*)

"A-read-until-four a.m. book! . . . I have never read a book that delineates the psychopathology of both the rapist and his disintegrating family so graphically Every woman in America should read *Son*." (Ann Rule, author of *The Stranger Beside Me*)

"[Has] powerful impact." (*People*)

About the Author

Born June 7, 1925, Jack Olsen was the award-winning author of thirty-three books published in fifteen countries and eleven languages, including *Son: A Psychopath and His Victims*. A former *Time* bureau chief, Olsen wrote for *Vanity Fair*, *People*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Fortune*, and *The New York Times Book Review*, among others.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Shell:

The ability that you get from *Son: A Psychopath and His Victims* is a more deep you looking the information that hide within the words the more you get interested in reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to understand but *Son: A Psychopath and His Victims* giving you thrill feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in specific way that can be understood by means of anyone who read this because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this specific *Son: A Psychopath and His Victims* instantly.

Eulalia Perry:

Often the book *Son: A Psychopath and His Victims* will bring one to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to see, this book very ideal to you. The book *Son: A Psychopath and His Victims* is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

Christopher Small:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read any book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent the whole day to reading a guide. The book *Son: A Psychopath and His Victims* it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book features high quality.

Margaret James:

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