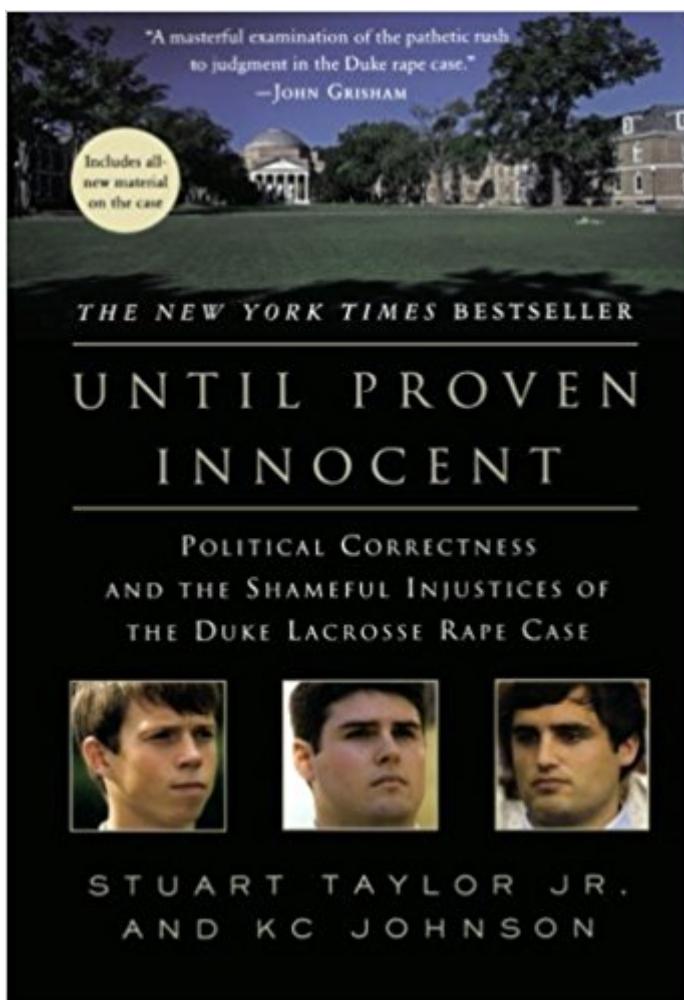


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Until Proven Innocent: Political Correctness And The Shameful Injustices Of The Duke Lacrosse Rape Case



Synopsis

"A masterful examination of the pathetic rush to judgment in the Duke rape case." —John Grisham The full story of the Duke Lacrosse case, by the authors who broke it In this American tragedy, Stuart Taylor, Jr., and KC Johnson argue, law enforcement, a campaigning prosecutor, biased journalists, and left-leaning academics repeatedly refused to pursue the truth while scapegoats were made of these young men, recklessly tarnishing their lives. Until Proven Innocent is the only book that covers all five aspects of the case (personal, legal, academic, political, and media) in a comprehensive fashion. It is also the only book to include interviews with all three of the defendants, their families, and their legal teams. And now it includes an up-to-date epilogue detailing the aftershocks and conclusion of the case. Taylor and Johnson's coverage of the Duke case was the earliest, most honest, and most comprehensive in the country, and here they take on the idiocies and dishonesty of right- and left-wingers alike, shedding new light on the danger of a cultural tendency toward media-fueled travesties of justice. The context of the Duke case has vast import, and in its full telling, it is captivating nonfiction with broad political, racial, and cultural relevance to our times. "Taylor and Johnson have made a gripping contribution to the literature of the wrongly accused." —The New York Times Book Review "Until Proven Innocent is a stunning book." —The Wall Street Journal "Vivid, at times chilling . . . their most biting scorn is aimed at the 'academic McCarthyism' that they say has infected top-rate American universities like Duke." —Newsweek "A superb new book . . . a book that not only reads like a legal thriller, but also exposes deep problems with America's legal system and academic culture." —The Economist

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Customer Reviews

Guilty until proven innocent was a concept expressed by Duke University's president Richard Brodhead, among others, betraying a stunning misapprehension of America's justice system in the case of the Duke lacrosse players wrongfully indicted for raping a black stripper in 2006. As well reported in detail by respected legal journalist Taylor and Brooklyn College historian Johnson, the facts of the case speak for themselves: rogue prosecutor Mike Nifong willfully disregarded evidence of the boys' innocence; Duke administrators hung the team members out to dry; much of Duke's faculty and the media rushed to assume guilt in the racially charged case (the New York Times comes in for special opprobrium). But these facts are embedded in repetitiously hammering home the basic points, sarcasm and ranting against the political correctness (i.e., obsession with the race-class-gender triad) of academia and the media. The authors challenge the academic credentials of the black faculty members who attacked the team and criticize the Times's Selena Roberts for choosing to live in lily white Westport, Conn. In total contrast, the closing chapters offer balanced, tautly argued discussions of, and remedies for, the central problems: prosecutorial abuse, the frequency of false rape accusations and academic groupthink. 8 pages of color photos. (Oct. 1)

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Ã¢ "Until Proven Innocent is the most compelling true crime book of the year. Its immersion into the case and access to the major players makes the reader feel like an insider. The book is crammed full of salacious details, scientific details, background details, etc., but it never feels overwhelming. After reading the book, though, you will feel disgusted, if not outraged.Ã¢ "Ã¢ "Amanda Barrett, The Chicago Sun-TimesÃ¢ "In their vivid, at times chilling account, the authors are contemptuous of prosecutor Mike Nifong, whom the North Carolina legal establishment disbarred for his by now well-documented misconduct. But their most biting scorn is aimed at the 'academic McCarthyism' that they say has infected top-rated American universities like Duke.Ã¢ "Ã¢ "Evan Thomas, NewsweekÃ¢ "From the Scottsboro Boys to Clarence Gideon, some of the most memorable legal narratives have been tales of the wrongly accused. Now Until Proven Innocent, a new book about the false allegations of rape against three Duke lacrosse players, can join these galvanizing cautionary tales. Taylor and Johnson have made a gripping contribution to the literature of the wrongly accused. They remind us of the importance of

constitutional checks on prosecutorial abuse. And they emphasize the lesson that Duke callously advised its own students to ignore: if you're unjustly suspected of any crime, immediately call the best lawyer you can afford.â• â• â• Jeffrey Rosen, The New York Times Book Reviewâ• â• â• "Brutally honest, unflinching, exhaustively researched, and compulsively readable, Until Proven Innocent excoriates those who led the stampede--the prosecutor, the cops, the media--but it also exposes the cowardice of Duke's administration and faculty. Until Proven Innocent smothers any lingering doubts that in this country the presumption of innocence is dead, dead, dead.â• â• â• John Grishamâ• â• "This compelling narrative dramatizes the fearsome power of unscrupulous police and prosecutors to wreck the lives of innocent people, especially when the media and many in the community rush to presume guilt. The inspiring story of how the defense lawyers turned the tables on a dishonest DA points to the crying need for reforms to give defendants of modest means a fighting chance when law enforcement goes bad.â• â• â• Nadine Strossen, president of the American Civil Liberties Union and professor of law at the New York Law Schoolâ• â• â• "In what surely is this year's most revealing, scalding and disturbing book on America's civic culture, the authors demonstrate that the Duke case was symptomatic of the dangerous decay of important institutions--legal, academic, and journalistic. . . . With this meticulous report, the guilty have at last been indicted and convicted.â• â• â• George F. Willâ• â• â• "A gripping, meticulous, blow-by-blow account of the whole grotesque affair. It is beautifully written, dramatic, and full of insights, exposing how vulnerable the prosecutorial system is to abuse and how ready the liberal media and PC academics are to serve as leaders of the lynch mob. A must read for anyone who cares about individual rights and justice.â• â• â• William P. Barr, former attorney general of the United Statesâ• â• â• A chilling, gripping account of how our judicial system can go terribly wrong. This is an important book that brings the Duke story to life and exposes troubling facts about our justice system and our citadels of higher learning. You may think you know the Duke story--but you don't until you read this book.â• â• â• Jan Crawford Greenberg, ABC News legal correspondent and author of Supreme Conflictâ• â• â• "The analysis of the notorious Duke rape case in this book is hard to accept. According to Stuart Taylor and KC Johnson, this episode was not just a terrible injustice to three young men. It exposed a fever of political correctness that is more virulent than ever on American campuses and throughout society. . . . Unfortunately for doubts, the authors lay out the facts with scrupulous care. This is a thorough and absorbing history of a shameful episode. â• â• â• Michael Kinsley, columnist for Time magazine

This is what Duke President Richard Brodhead said in a belated public apology was the most important lesson learned from the Duke lacrosse case. I won't comment on how sincere or even inadvertently true this statement might have been, but I think it's more relevant than the reference to political correctness in the book's subtitle. The amount of corruption revealed in the prosecutor's handling of the case, the university administration and faculty's reactions and the media's commentary is just astounding. And what leads me to emphasize prejudice/prejudging is the disturbing parallels between this case and detailed accounts of the Salem witch hysteria and trials. I realize that "witch-hunt" is an overused label, but in this case it points to an historically important precedent. There is repetition in the recital of facts, but this book will hold your interest from beginning to end.

This book clearly shows can happen with zealous, dishonest prosecutors. Had these young men not had big money to defend themselves, they would be in prison.

Excellent research and writing. Every lawyer, judge, and law student (and probably not a few college professors) should read this. The book well illustrates the wisdom of Proverbs 18:17 which counsels one to hear both sides before forming a conclusion.

Very informative, a lot more people should be aware of this information. The only drawbacks would be that it gets a bit monotonous at the end, and it may make you angry at the horrible ordeal these 3 boys went through and at the self-righteousness of many of the people responsible for it.

UPI provides a stark look at the toxic political correctness prevalent in higher education today. In the midst of ongoing efforts to reduce due process for students accused of sexual assault, the authors remind us of the very real dangers of presuming guilt before innocence. As a Duke grad, I saw some some ridiculous efforts towards political correctness on campus, but never in such a brutal and blatant way as shown in UPI.

This was a very intriguing book and well researched. I had read about this case but was shocked by all the twist and turns and the injustice that can be done by people in our court system and why and how this could happen in our country. Great reading and informative if you know nothing about our basic rights as citizens and easy to understand when the authors explain our judicial system and the processes. I would highly recommend this book to anyone!

this is a book everyone should read. shows how our "college professors " are blinded by ideology without examining the facts. shame on Duke.

The book is well written, but is so extremely biased in favor of the duke lacrosse players it's difficult to tell if the author provides the whole story. It was tough for me to get through given the strong bias, the author poured it on a little too thick for my taste

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