Virgin Or Vamp: How the Press Covers Sex Crimes, 1992, Helen Benedict, 0195066804, 9780195066807, Oxford University Press, 1992

The national press has recently lavished coverage on several major sex-related scandals: the Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill hearings, the William Kennedy Smith rape trial, and the Mike Tyson case. With each event came lurid stories pitting either a loose or a virginal woman against an unwilling or monstrous man. Such extreme coverage, argues Helen Benedict, perpetuates myths that are harmful to the victims of these crimes (and sometimes to the accused). With the rise in reported rapes, more such myth-mongering stories are bound to be seen in the future. In Virgin or Vamp, Benedict addresses the press's tendency to misrepresent rape, denigrate victims, and invade the privacy of its subjects, while also pointing out the press's critical role in informing and educating the public. In this timely book, Benedict draws on her experience as a reporter and professor of journalism to examine the print press's treatment of four prominent sex crimes from the past decade--the Rideout marital rape trial in Oregon, the Big Dan's pool table gang rape in New Bedford , Massachusetts, the "Preppy Murder" in New York, and the Central Park jogger rape. By analyzing the language of the original news stories and interviewing the original reporters, Benedict identifies the press's tendency to label victims as either virgins or vamps, a practice she condemns as misleading and harmful. For example, she finds that the press worked so hard at portraying Jennifer Levin, the victim of the "Preppy Murder," as a man-chasing vamp that it made her seem as responsible for her death as was her killer, Robert Chambers. Likewise, Benedict shows how the press depicted Greta Rideout as a hysterical wife who accused her husband of rape for revenge, rather than as a victim of domestic battery who eventually escaped--the truth of the case. Benedict also looks at other factors that perpetuate the misunderstanding of rape. For instance, she shows how the New York press presented the Central Park jogger rape case as motivated by racism because of its unwillingness to consider rape an issue of gender. She also addresses our inherent language bias (more positive words exist to describe men than women), the press's tendency to use sexually suggestive language to describe crime victims, and its preference for crimes against whites. In her conclusion, Benedict analyzes the William Kennedy Smith rape case, and argues that the debate over naming victims is misconceived in light of the press's current lack of understanding about rape. More than a critique about the way the print press covers sex crimes, Virgin or Vamp also reveals the roots of rape coverage in the days of lynching, and shows how deep traditionalist views of women still run. Benedict concludes with both practical and radical suggestions of how reporters can challenge such views by covering these increasingly common crimes without further harming the victims, the defendants, or public understanding.

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Taking Back My Life , Nancy Ziegenmeyer, Larkin Warren, Aug 1, 1993, Biography & Autobiography, 224 pages. The author recounts the harrowing story of her abduction and rape, the subsequent trial, the decision to identify herself publicly by name, and how she became an advocate for.

Sand Queen , Helen Benedict, Aug 2, 2011, Fiction, 315 pages. Nineteen-year-old Kate Brady joined the army to bring honor to her family and democracy to the Middle East. Instead, she finds herself in a forgotten corner of the Iraq desert.

Media, Process, and the Social Construction of Crime Studies in Newsmaking Criminology, Gregg

Barak, 1995, Social Science, 322 pages. First published in 1995. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company..

Portraits in Print A Collection of Profiles and the Stories Behind Them, Helen Benedict, Mar 1, 1992, Biography & Autobiography, 178 pages. Presents profiles of such well-known authors and celebrities as Susan Sontag, Beverly Sills, Bernard Malamud, Isaac Bashevis Singer, and Joseph Brodsky.

Bad Angel , Helen Benedict, 1996, Fiction, 293 pages. When Bianca, a Dominican American teenage mother, starts to abuse her baby, Rosalba, her own mother persuades reporter Sarah Goldin to adopt the infant, but when Bianca has.

Race, Sex, and Suspicion The Myth of the Black Male, D. Marvin Jones, 2005, Social Science, 210 pages. Explores the pervasiveness of negative images of black males in U.S. society indicating a fundamental defect in the mainframe of American culture itself.

Shame, secrecy, and silence study on rape in Penang, Rohana Ariffin, Women's Crisis Centre (Pinang, Malaysia), 1997, Social Science, 264 pages.

The Lonely Soldier The Private War of Women Serving in Iraq, Helen Benedict, 2009, History, 264 pages. As a 29-year Army and Army Reserve Colonel, I urge everyone--especially women--to read this important book. Through unforgettable stories, "The Lonely Soldier" explains the.

The Killer Book of Serial Killers Incredible Stories, Facts and Trivia from the World of Serial Killers, Michael Philbin, Tom Philbin, Jan 1, 2009, True Crime, 352 pages. The Killer Book of Serial Killers is the ultimate resource (and gift) for any true crime fan and student of the bizarre world of serial killers. Filled with stories, trivia.

Impact of Media Coverage of Rape Trials: Hearing Before the, Volume 4 Hearing Before the Subcommittee on Criminal Law of the Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate, Ninetyeighth Congress, Second Session April 24, 1984, United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on the Judiciary. Subcommittee on Criminal Law, 1985, Free press and fair trial, 99 pages.

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The Central Park Five A Chronicle of a City Wilding, Sarah Burns, 2011, Law, 240 pages. Traces the near-fatal 1989 Central Park attack on a woman and the ensuing media frenzy and public hysteria that culminated in the wrongful convictions of five Latino teens, in.

Recovery How to Survive Sexual Assault for Women, Men, Teenagers, Their Friends and Families, Helen Benedict, 1994, Family & Relationships, 365 pages. How will patterns of human interaction with the earth's eco-system impact on biodiversity loss over the long term--not in the next ten or even fifty years, but on the vast.

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