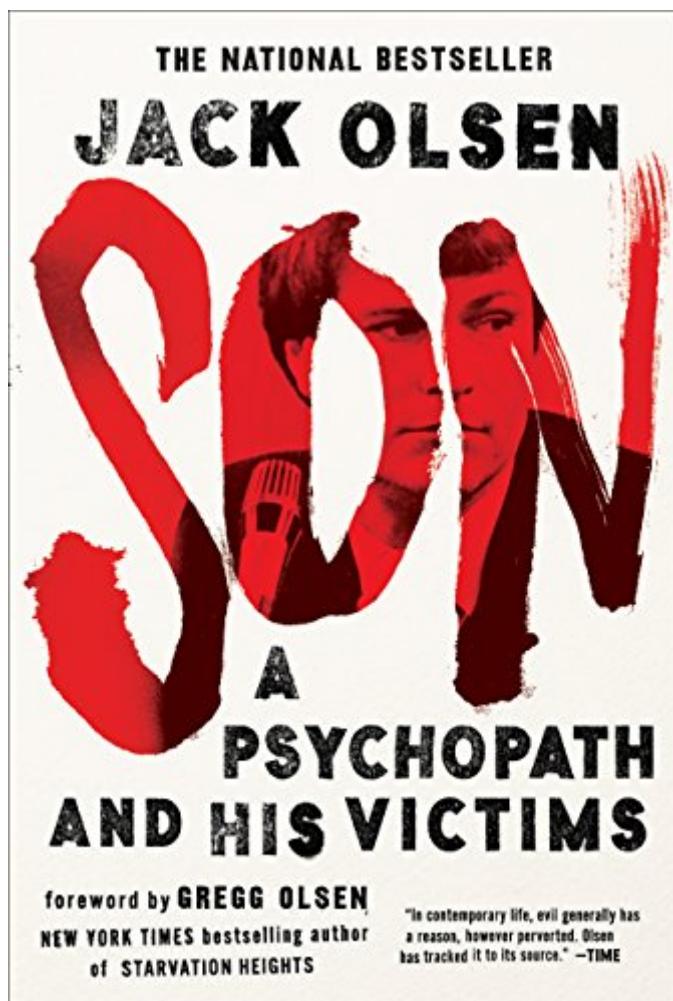


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# Son: A Psychopath And His Victims



## Synopsis

â œFascinating . . . 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.â • (Los Angeles Times)â œSuperlative reporting. Olsen turns what promises to be another run-of-the-mill crime story into a drama that invites comparison to Truman Capoteâ ™s *In Cold Blood*.â • (Newsday)â œA chilling story . . . Gruesomely spellbinding.â • (Glamour)â œA 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.â • (Booklist)â œRemarkably well done. . . . Olsen brings his strange subjects to vivid life in this memorable reconstruction.â • (Publisher's Weekly)â œA riveting look at the monster lurking beneath a criminal psychopathâ ™s polished exterior. . . . Hits the reader with loaded bursts of insight, terror, and tragedy.â • (Detroit News)â œMight be the book that wins the Pulitzer Prize for Jack Olsen. . . . Vividly and thoroughly describes a psychopathic rapist.â • (The Milwaukee Journal)â œAn extraordinary case. . . . A harrowing portrait . . . . It has become fashionable with books about vicious crimes to compare them to Truman Capoteâ ™s *In Cold Blood*. Finally there is a book that deserves the comparison.â • (Richmond Times-Dispatch)â œA-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*.â • (Ann Rule, author of *The Stranger Beside Me*)â œ[Has] powerful impact.â • (People)A classic from â œthe dean of true crimeâ • (The Washington Post)â "now with a new forewordâ "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 cityâ ™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 rewardâ "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 conservativeâ |and Gordon Coeâ ™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 Coeâ ™s life, he unearthed a most horrifying question: What is it like to love and live with a man for yearsâ "and then discover he is a psychopathic criminal? In this â œgruesomely spellbindingâ •

(Glamour) examination of the mind of a psychopath and of the womenâ "and menâ "who were his victims, Olsen delivers â œa harrowing portraitâ It has become fashionable with books about vicious crimes to compare them to Truman Capoteâ ™s In Cold Blood. Finally there is a book that deserves the comparisonâ • (Richmond Times-Dispatch).

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I've read almost everything Jack Olsen has written (he's one of the folks on my short "I buy everything" list), but even in Olsen's body of work, this is a standout.Olsen has written about more heinous criminals -- after all, this guy is "only" a serial rapist. But "Son" really captures the creepy, narcissistic world of the sociopath. The level of detail and understanding is remarkable. He captures the essence of what is pathetic and frightening about these people in a way few other writers have. I first read this book more than a decade ago, but I still think about it.If I were ever going to write a true crime book myself, I'd sit down and read this one about 10 times before getting started.

This is an incredible story of a serial rapist in Spokane in the early 1980's. Jack Olsen has done a remarkable job in his research. Fred "Kevin" Coe and his mother are two of the strangest people I've read about in the true crime genre, and I believe, as the police did, that soon he wouldn't stop at rape, but move on to murder his victims. His rapes became more violent and frequent. Like many sociopaths, Coe believed he was smarter than the police. Unfortunately, he was able to manipulate and lie his way out of many situations from an early age, and often with the help of his mother, so it reinforced his narcissism and his belief that he was untouchable. The rapes were also happening at a time when the Spokane police were stretched so thin that "minor" crimes slipped through the cracks, and the mentality was that the women were putting themselves in the situation. Jack Olsen has done an extraordinary job in chronicling the details of the series of rapes, as well as delving into who Coe was, and the devastation he wrought on so many lives. I highly recommend this book if you can find it.

After all the appeals were done, Fred Coe had one rape charge that stuck. On September 8, 2006, unless the state files for and obtains a civil commitment, he will walk out of prison a free man-- a man who has never admitted his guilt, a man who has never undergone sexual offender treatment, a man who will not be subject to terms of probation because he will have served his entire sentence. Keeping this in mind while rereading "Son" should make the hair on the back of anyone's neck rise. Olsen did something very clever in this book. First he started with the women who had relationships with Coe. Then he moved to Coe's life-long male friends. While it would be possible to claim that the women were "scorned" or jealous, the statements of his friends are hard to dispute-- especially when one of them admits to actually tampering with evidence at Coe's request after his arrest. All in all this is a superior true crime book that should be read before Coe hits the news again this fall.

Today is August 15. I am a "book-a-holic", 98% of the time non-fiction. In clearing out my massive collection of books a week ago, I stumbled across a 500 page hard copy with no dust jacket I had gotten at a garage sale. I almost tossed it before checking the contents and am beyond glad I didn't. I started reading SON when I got home from my second shift job that night. It was 4 a.m. before I felt it fall out of my hands and drop onto the floor. This was repeated for about 6 nights; the time it took me to read this book. It is lengthy, thorough with no wasted fillers. Before work today I decided to hop on line to see if I could find out if Fred Coe (Kevin) is still alive, where is he, etc. Imagine my shock (there are no coincidences in life...I keep forgetting that) when I found a site advising

September 6, 2006 he is up for release. That is about three weeks from today. How timely. I am really glad I found this book on my shelf, read it immediately and now will watch for the outcome of this horrible story. I am almost 60 and an avid reader and true crime books are at the top of my list. Ann Rule, in my eyes, has always been THE BEST. This book is right up there with Ann Rule's quality of writing and expertise. The reader is "right there" as best as one can be and, of course, with this book, that puts the reader RIGHT THERE when they wish not to be. There are lessons to be learned from this tragedy. All I can say is, read this book as fast as you can. Order it used on - I see there are many hard copy as well as paperback available. Then, sit back and tune in to Court TV or Prime Time or one of the Court/News channels the first week in September. I know I will be.

I read this book (several times) with increasing horror. To read about the devastation this madman caused so many women was truly chilling. In an almost Bundy-like fashion, Kenny was able to fool so many people for so long. Observing his warped family life, with an hysterical mother and totally removed father did in no way soften my view of this animal. What the book DOESN'T tell you that this mass rapist and hater of women had two convictions overturned and will be eligible for parole in 2006. The thought that he will some day walk the streets again is terrifying. This book made me get up out of bed constantly, check the windows, house alarm, closets for a long time. This is one of Mr. Olsen's BEST BOOKS EVER, especially since it permanently altered how I live my life and became more safety conscious. Thanks, Mr. Olsen for a truly gripping read. I enjoy all your books, but this definitely is your best.

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