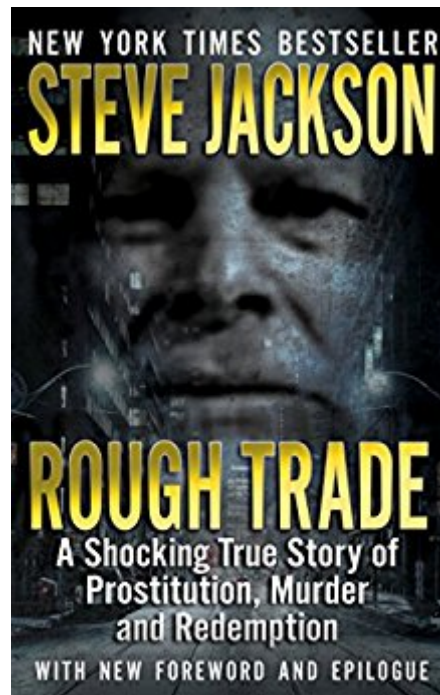


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Rough Trade: A Shocking True Story Of Prostitution, Murder And Redemption



Synopsis

From The Classic True Crime Library of New York Times Bestselling Author Steve Jackson
Early one morning in May 1997, a young couple on their way to work in the mountains of Colorado spotted a man dragging a body up a secluded trail. The beautiful, densely wooded area off a dirt road seemed such an incongruous place for a violent crime that at first the couple had a hard time believing what they were seeing. It was all too real; the man fled, leaving behind a bloody, dying woman. Indeed the investigation into the death of young street walker Anita Paley would lead from that idyllic spot to the seamy underbelly of Denver and a world of prostitution, drug dealers and violent criminals. And it would expose the lives of two of that world's inhabitants, the suspect, Robert Riggan, and Anita's friend, Joanne Cordova, a former cop-turned-crack addict and hooker. In the past, Cordova had submitted to violent sex with Riggan in exchange for drugs; it was just part of her life on the mean streets. But when her friend Anita was murdered, Joanne had to make a choice. She could go to her former colleagues on the police department and tell them what she suspected, which would put her own life in danger as a snitch. Or she could look the other way, and let a suspected killer walk free and continue his violent attacks on women.

ROUGH TRADE by New York Times bestselling author Steve Jackson is more than the recounting of a murder, an investigation, and the prosecution of a suspect. It's also the story of two people from the seething criminal underworld of Denver, Colorado and how their paths crossed on the streets and in the courtroom. There was Riggan, who was raised in his own private hell that included rape, incest and extreme abuse to become a violent sexual predator. And there was Cordova, who had to summon the courage, and suffer the humiliation, in order to pull herself out of the abyss into which she'd fallen to testify against the man she believed killed her friend. And in doing so, find her own personal redemption.

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Customer Reviews

Steve Jackson's ROUGH TRADE, tells the parallel stories of Robert Riggan and Joanne Cordova, which converge the day Riggan picks up 22-year-old Anita Paley, a crack addicted Denver prostitute, takes her up to his "favorite spot" in the mountains, and, after bludgeoning her to death, commits an unspeakable indignity upon her corpse. Riggan was not known to be a serial killer, but he either was one or certainly would have become one if Paley were not his first victim. Riggan was raised in a deplorable family complete with rape, incest, lack of affection, and the three abuses - physical, verbal, and emotional - and he exhibited most of the signs that one would expect such as bed wetting (which Riggan took to the next level as he was unable to control his bowels), setting fires, and general social maladjustment. He and a half-brother (who based on the Riggan family proclivities may also have been his uncle, grandfather, or whatever) slept for a while on an unheated porch in the Des Moines, Iowa, winter. When Riggan was 14, his school counselor arranged for him to see a psychologist, who diagnosed him as fearful of everything, but these sessions fizzled out when his mother didn't want to be bothered with taking him there. His 16-year-old sister ran away from home and refused to return, preferring to remain in an anonymous foster care setting. ("At least it was clean," she is quoted as saying.) And when Robert threatened to run away, his parents were indifferent. So Robert predictably grew up to become a petty con man, shoplifter, and general thief. He also became a serial abuser of women as well as a rapist. He was married twice, and his first wife reports on their wedding night: "Her new husband had tied her to the bed and then forced her to have anal intercourse.

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