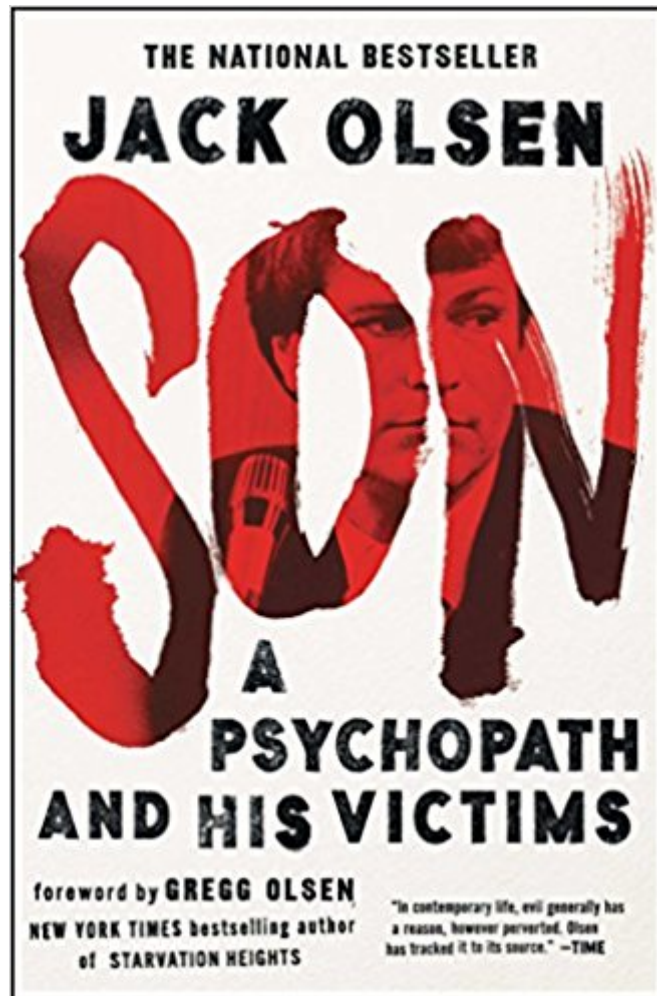




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# Son: A Psychopath And His Victims



## Synopsis

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 a 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).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

âœFascinating . . . 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.âœ (Los Angeles Times)âœSuperlative 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*.âœ (Newsday)âœA chilling story . . . Gruesomely spellbinding.âœ (Glamour)âœA 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.âœ (Booklist)âœRemarkably well done. . . Olsen brings his strange subjects to vivid life in this memorable reconstruction.âœ (Publisher's Weekly)âœA riveting look at the monster lurking beneath a criminal psychopathâ™s polished exterior. . . . Hits the reader with loaded bursts of insight, terror, and tragedy.âœ (Detroit News)âœMight be the book that wins the Pulitzer Prize for Jack Olsen. . . . Vividly and thoroughly describes a psychopathic rapist.âœ (The Milwaukee Journal)âœAn 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.âœ (Richmond Times-Dispatch)âœA-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*.âœ (Ann Rule, author of *The Stranger Beside Me*)âœ[Has] powerful impact.âœ (People)

I am rereading this book in audio form this time. It is true crime, my favorite genre for all my adult life until I found the apocalypse genre. I read it years ago and it was of particular interest because it takes place in Spokane, Washington, where my parents lived, where I was born and where many of

my cousins and aunts and uncles lived. I visited that town when this was happening and remember the fear it engendered. The man, Fred Coe, who went by the name of Kevin Coe, who committed many rapes, was the son of a prominent newspaper editor in that town, a man who was dominated by his wife Ruth who also dominated her son. She referred to him as Son. Thus the name of this book. Son was an impotent man in many ways, bragging about his sexual exploits that never took place and about his career that never really took place either. When Kevin Coe was put on trial his mother was very prominent in the courtroom and threatened the judge and was later imprisoned for trying to kill him. If you like true crime, this is an interesting story of a rapist in the 70's who got away with it for a very long time. Those poor women, whose lives were changed forever, and not in a good way.

I have lived in Spokane for 11 years, but I don't remember ever hearing about Frederick Harlan "Kevin" Coe before or after I moved here. I enjoy reading true crime books, and I have a good collection. I found a description of "Son" online and wanted to read it immediately because of the word "Spokane." All of my long time Spokaneite friends remember the terror surrounding the rapes, the trial, and the civil commitment. "Son" is a thoroughly researched and easily read chronicle of the Coe years. However, two things disappointed me: the book progresses very slowly, and even though Gregg Olsen republished the book after his father's death, he did not update the material to include Coe's civil commitment trial and confinement on McNeil Island. I would highly recommend "Son" to true crime fans, especially to readers of Ann Rule, M. William Phelps, and Robert Keller.

I've read a lot of true crime books written by Ann Rule; this is my first book by Jack Olson. He did a very good job of making all the characters real for me while telling this very disturbing story about a very disturbed family (Mother from Hell, Spineless Father, and Psychopathic Son).

I'm thankful Kevin Coe is being held indefinitely as a sexually violent predator. It's amazing to me how he could manipulate seemingly well adjusted people into doing his bidding. Particularly his friend Jay Williams, who is portrayed as a family man and very involved in his church. My only negative comment is that there was a lot of repetition "the book could have been shorter."

I had never heard of this criminal before reading this book. It is very well researched and accurate. I think it could have been shorter and offered more insight into what contributed to Coe's psychosis. Also, it needs to be updated for the civil trial.

I would love to read this book, but the Kindle version is SO messed up....first page seems to be missing, 4th page missing, gave up after that. Please fix this so we CAN read it on Kindle.

This is a true story. The main character who likes to be known as Kevin Coe is a serial rapist. Kevin Coe was always different but was always able to blend in. I could not believe the things this man did. His day to day life seems normal until you get a close look. Kevin Coe usually looks great. He has a chameleon ability. I found this book fascinating. It is well written. As you learn about this man you find yourself drawn in and are unable to put this book down. All the people surrounding Kevin Coe are real characters also. Kevin and his mom have an odd relationship. They are too close and have huge fights. Mother Coe is a story by herself and the story is told here. I cannot believe what this man did. The late seventies early eighties is when all of this took place in Spokane, Washington. Chapter after chapter, I was stunned by the stuff this guy did.

I am so glad to see how many readers are into Jack Olsen right now! He may have passed years ago but his books remain as some of the finest TC you will ever read. This particular account is difficult to read because unlike in a murder, Coe's victims lived to tell of the horror and atrocity that is rape. Shame shame on the Coe family for turning a blind eye to their precious "Son's" crimes and then for going forth and trying to commit one of their own. If you like TC, you will not be disappointed. RECOMMENDED.

I did not know the story before I read this book. Jack Olsen has a way of writing that keeps you engaged. Some authors, bore you with repetitive information, which tends to make you skim. Not the case here. He is able to review the characters or victims and perpetrators in such a way that you are reminded what part they play in the story line. I am usually put off with long books. Not the case. The chapters are many, but short. I found my nose was stuck to the book. I found myself literally shaking my head and voicing my disbelief that any human being could behave in this manner. I did not know how it would end, knowing how the judicial system can sometimes get off track. The case kept me on the edge of my seat. One of the best books I have read. I love to read true crime and have sampled many. A must read.

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