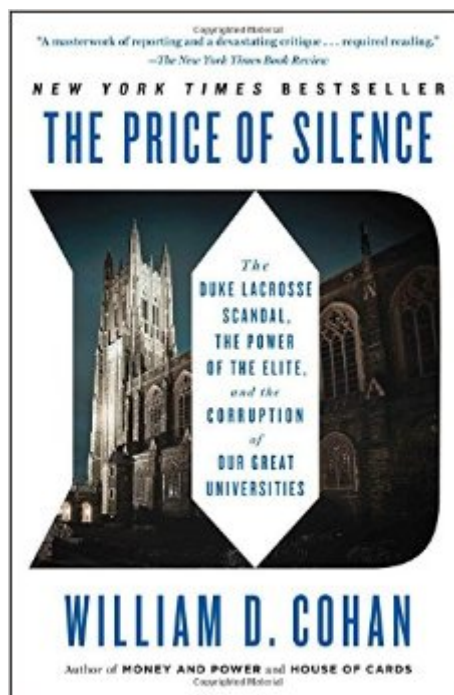


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The Price Of Silence: The Duke Lacrosse Scandal, The Power Of The Elite, And The Corruption Of Our Great Universities



Synopsis

“A masterwork of reporting and a devastating critique...required reading” • (The New York Times Book Review): The authoritative, full account of the infamous Duke Lacrosse case, in which academia, sports, sex, race, money, and power all collided to devastating effect. Despite being front-page news nationwide, the true story of the 2006 Duke lacrosse team rape case is more complex than all the reports to date would indicate. The Price of Silence is the definitive account of what happens when the most combustible forces in American culture—“unbridled ambition, intellectual elitism, athletic prowess, aggressive sexual behavior, racial bias, and absolute prosecutorial authority”—explode on a powerful university campus, in the justice system, and in the media. In The Price of Silence bestselling author William D. Cohan, whose reporting and writing have been hailed as “gripping” • (The New York Times), “authoritative” • (The Washington Post), and “seductively engrossing” • (Chicago Tribune), presents a stunning account of the Duke lacrosse team scandal and pulls back the curtain on the larger issues of widespread sexual misconduct, underage drinking, and bad-boy behavior. His reconstruction of the scandal’s events—the night in question, the local police investigation, Duke’s actions, the lacrosse players’ defense tactics, the furious campus politics—is meticulous and full. This story is far bigger than what was told by the media, and is still told today; for at the heart of it are individuals whose lives were changed forever. Now with a new afterword, Cohan sheds light on what is happening as colleges and universities compete with one another and “captures brilliantly the theater of the absurd that is played out on campuses every year over one controversy or another” • (The Wall Street Journal).

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Customer Reviews

William Cohan, an investment banker turned journalist, is known for his three lengthy books on leading Wall Street investment banks. I read his book on Lazard Freres several years ago and found it to be very detailed and informative, but also long and repetitive, and I got bogged down in it more than once. In his newest book, he turns from the financial sector to writing about the criminal justice system, producing an enormous doorstop of a book on the "Duke lacrosse case" of 2006, in which three varsity men`s lacrosse players at Duke were falsely accused of rape by a stripper. The case led to the disbaring of Mike Nifong, the district attorney who brought the charges against the players, for numerous ethical violations. The publisher's description of this book informs us that "Readers who think they know the story are in for more than one surprise." Cohan's own remarks, made in promoting his book, make it clear that he personally believes that readers should change their view of the case after reading *The Price of Silence*. I came to this book as a reader with a clear view of the case, having followed the case in 2006 and 2007 at Jeralyn Merritt's TalkLeft blog, and then read *Until Proven Innocent*, by Stuart Taylor and K.C. Johnson, when it came out in paperback in 2008. If asked, prior to reading *The Price of Silence*, to summarize the case, I would have done so as follows: Early in the morning of March 14, 2006, a stripper named Crystal Mangum claimed that she had been raped by three or more Duke lacrosse players when she had danced at a team party a few hours before.

Imagine the Wall Street Journal printing a review that slams Cohan as dishonest? You can read Dorothy Rabinowitz!! [...] Now imagine a prosecutor who failed to protect his staff from sexual harassment, who played favorites in his dominion of traffic court, who once shouted to an attorney loud enough to be heard down the hall: he didn't care if his client didn't do it; now that he was indicted maybe he would say who did. Imagine that. Now imagine that that was the same prosecutor Cohan feels sorry for and wishes us to believe he was "honorable" and only made a few mistakes. This book is a waste of time and an indictment in itself that the American publishing houses no longer vet the material and fall down in the editing process. Only recently could a THANKED person be allowed to write a review for a major paper. So disappointing. The worst part of this book is that it uses innuendo to try to restore the idea that "something happened" when it was declared that no crime was committed that night, not the false accusations and not the slime-wad accusation Cohan tries to insinuate that something happened that no one would be proud of. He mistakenly tries to

apply the boorish actions of some persons who attended to tarnish the reputations of those indicted who were declared innocent. He insinuates that there is a nefarious unexplained accusation of DNA from one player supposedly found on the fingernail of the false accuser, when the false accuser's DNA wasn't even found! He claims to be dispassionate but rudely cuts off any line of questioning in his public appearances. Years ago a book was published called "A New Kind of Science" that failed to impress because little if anything in the book was new.

Journalists are supposed to provide context and analysis to what they report. Mr. Cohan's book about the Duke lacrosse case is sadly lacking in both of those qualities. Most of it is a rehash of past published material. In the minimal new reporting, he recounts interviews with disbarred DA Mike Nifong, one of his lawyers, and convicted murderess and mental patient Crystal Mangum, as well as the discredited SANE report describing Mangum's hysterical behavior in the Emergency Department. He presents their assertions without perspective and without analysis, thus allowing "fantastic lies" to go unchallenged. The book is one-sided because most of his sources are from Nifong and Mangum supporters. Because of confidentiality agreements, the lacrosse team members could not allow interviews, neither for legal reasons could North Carolina investigative files be released. Reporters face difficulties when they cannot get sources from both sides of an issue to comment. The lazy approach employed here is to just quote one side and not substantially challenge those assertions. Supporters of Mangum and Nifong have pursued a revisionist line that "something happened" during the lacrosse team party in March, 2006. They ignore the multiplicity of different stories given by the accuser Mangum, including a new version for the book. They ignore the lack of DNA evidence connecting the lacrosse players with Mangum. They ignore the intensive investigation by North Carolina Atty. Gen. Roy Cooper which found the three indicted players innocent. They ignore the exhaustive investigation and trial of Mike Nifong by the North Carolina Bar which led even Nifong to admit that the three indicted players did not carry out the actions with which they were charged. Now, Mr.

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