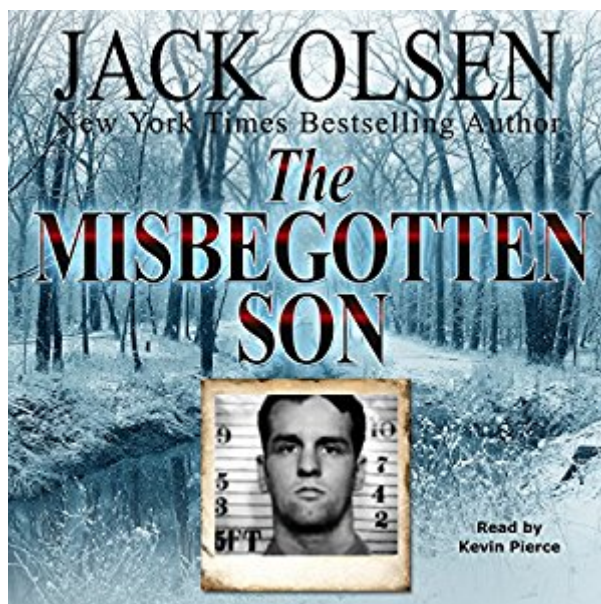


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The Misbegotten Son



Synopsis

An account of the crimes of Arthur Shawcross describes how the paroled child killer shot, stabbed, suffocated, and strangled 16 Rochester, New York, prostitutes and examines how the legal system failed his victims.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 18 hours and 16 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Jack Olsen Literary Works, LLC

Audible.com Release Date: December 4, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B018WFMX7W

Best Sellers Rank: #54 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > True Crime #55
in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime > Serial Killers

Customer Reviews

A very good book. Research was thorough and presented in an interesting way. In reading other people's reviews for previous works when they downgrade the rating because of formatting or other errors I always got a little irritated. I guess I had been lucky and never really got a Kindle book that had so many errors that it hurt the quality of the book. This is the first time. So many formatting errors on the Kindle edition. You'd be reading along and in the middle of the page there would be an out of place footnote. Then a few out of place words. Then you wound up back where you should be. Exclamation points, quotation marks, asterix, unneeded spaces between words, space in words.... Very frustrating. The actual story. . . a five....the errors in formatting are just too numerous for it to go without a remark and a downgrade. Should be withdrawn, reformatted, and resubmitted.

Arthur Shawcross is to be pitied, but you just cannot. From the time he was a child, he knew he was "different," but never knew why, nor did he receive any insights by family or counselors. Shawcross grew up in a tiny village in upstate New York, quit school in the 9th grade after being held back twice, served in the Army and then his life fell apart. He brutally murdered 10-year old Jack Blake, for which he was suspected but never arrested. He subsequently murdered 8-year old Karen Hill

and was convicted. After plea-bargaining, he received a 25-year sentence of which he served 14+ years and was released on parole. Why was he released? Basically because he was cunning and shrewd. He did everything he could to be a model prisoner, and none of the mental health team could diagnose him. Though a few psychologists thought he should never be allowed to live in an open society, there was little they could do to hold him beyond 15 years. Shortly after his release, he began a two-year killing spree, murdering 11 prostitutes before being captured. I had the strong feeling there were many more murders that we will never know about. Jack Olsen takes us through Arthur's life via an oral history and taped Q and A interview with Shawcross. The book is brilliant. By letting the people closest to Shawcross tell their stories in their own words, interwoven with dispassionate analysis, the author rivets our attention and interest. At the conclusion, a dogged psychiatrist finally uncovers that Arthur has a severe biological impairment, an extra Y chromosome and a little known compound that is a marker for violent behavior. The two together were biological dynamite. Arthur Shawcross's story is fascinating. It brings to the forefront "nature vs. nurture" arguments. It appears Arthur would have been no different regardless of where and how he had been raised. Mr. Olson brings Arthur, his family and friends, and his victims brilliantly to life.

I found this book very disturbing and I have read many books on serial killers. I thought Arthur Shawcross was one of the most fascinating serial killers until I read this book. It is very well written and unfortunately you get to know the families / friends of the victims which makes it very difficult to read without becoming emotional, especially concerning his child victims - God rest their souls - I take my hat off to Jack Olsen and the way he wrote a brilliant account, with victims and families in mind, of one very sick individual. Be ready to have your world rocked and faith in humanity almost lost. I will never read anything on Arthur Shawcross again - maybe this is in respect to his victims or just plain disgust with one man who was let loose on society thanks to an overcrowded prison system and parole officers who did not have enough information to make such a decision. You really feel for the victims in this one - very upsetting. A really, really good read.

This ebook was obviously published from an unfinished copy of the manuscript, because it is absolutely filled with typos. I'm a third of the way in and I've found at least one per page. And I'm reading on a Kindle iPhone app so the pages aren't long at all. There's even a very obvious misspelling in a chapter title. (Some chapters are written in dialect, but I'm not referring to those as they're obviously style choices. The chapter heading says "Mariage" instead of "Marriage.") Sometimes the mistakes make the dialogue unclear. When quotation marks and line breaks are

omitted, it can be difficult to tell who is saying what without rereading entire conversations. The story is good this far, but if you're put off by poor punctuation or spelling, go for the paperback. Often final proofreading is done after typesetting, and some publishing companies cut corners by formatting pre-typeset drafts for the ebook editions. Then they don't bother having that proofread. Frustrating.

...one of the best books, period! Jack Olson gathered an enormous amount of first person interviews with victims, families, psychiatrists, and Shawcross himself. Instead of getting fancy with the order of events (a la Don Lassetter), he logically lays it out for the reader. Shawcross is one sick pup and you'll get to know him real well by the time you put this book down. Only drawback--no pictures! Check out one of the cable companies' serial killer profiles to see what Shawcross looks like and his venues of murder.

Terrible! This book has a very strange and erratic layout. It constantly jumps from one setting to another, and from one time period to another. The perspective of the narrative is also skewed and random, so the reader has to figure out who is speaking. Many places are misspelled, which leads me to think the author's research was shoddy. I would definitely not recommend this book.

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