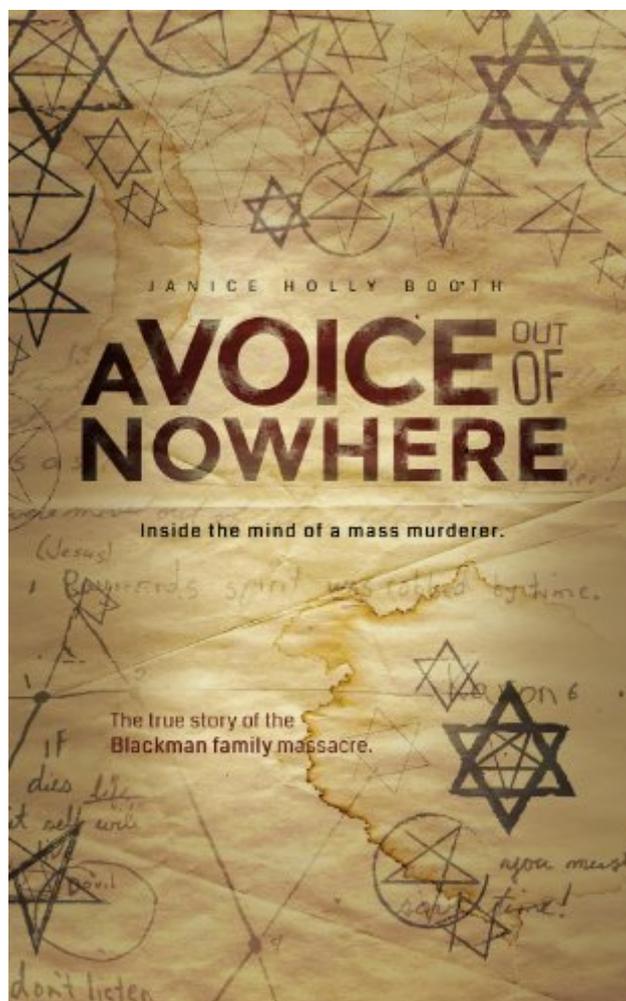


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A Voice Out Of Nowhere



Synopsis

Described as "the consummate page-turner," *A Voice out of Nowhere* delves deep into the mind of a psychotic killer. In this tragic true story about one young man's harrowing descent into madness and murder, *A Voice out of Nowhere* offers a rare glimpse inside the workings of a criminally disordered mind. In the narrative style of non-fiction novels like *In Cold Blood* and *Columbine*, best-selling author Janice Holly Booth draws from court transcripts, eye-witness statements and personal interviews to go beyond the headlines and share the little-known details of the tragedy. Fascinating, riveting and heartbreaking, *A Voice out of Nowhere* will will incite readers to think differently about the insanity defense and the awful consequences of untreated mental illness.

Book Information

File Size: 1962 KB

Print Length: 382 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 149223558X

Publication Date: September 8, 2013

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00F25LCOQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #494,917 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #38

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Counseling & Psychology > Pathologies > Schizophrenia #176 inÂ Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Mental Health > Schizophrenia #1542 inÂ Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Pathologies

Customer Reviews

This timely, important, page-turner of a book is a must read for all of us as we continue to see increases in violent crimes committed by those with mental illness. This book explores a true case and highlights the many, many signs and interventions that were ignored, which were opportunities to help prevent this violent tragedy. The author pieces together the events leading up to the heinous

crime committed in a riveting manner. She exposes problems inherent in current mental health systems, which must be addressed. This book is written with compassion and insight for both the victims, law enforcement, medical community and the criminal, who are essentially victims of a broken system.

What makes Janice Holly Booth's book so poignant is that nearly every family has at least one member who is alcoholic, addicted to drugs, or suffering from some form of mental illness. The sad and scary truth is that what happened to the Blackman family could happen to any family. In "A Voice Out of Nowhere" Janice explores the rapid downward spiral of a troubled young man and the terrible consequences of his untreated disease. In chilling detail, we are taken into the mind of a schizophrenic haunted by inner voices and strange compulsions. Even as his family tries to help him, the voices and compulsions drive Bruce Blackman to become one of Canada's worse mass murderers. But this story doesn't end with the killing. Janice goes on to consider the viability of the "insanity" defense and its ramifications for perpetrator, victims, and society as a whole. I read the entire novel in two sittings, unable to put it down. The characters Janice brings to life stayed with me for days.

The author wants us to understand the chaotic thought processes that can lead a normal human being into a world of darkness, fear, and ultimately to murdering his family. Ms. Booth accomplishes this very well by incorporating transcripts of the subjects disordered and delusionary mind, court documents and numerous interviews conducted by psychiatrists and police in this horrible case. She completes the readers journey by providing background information related to the "humane" efforts (in Canada and the U.S.) that demonstrate the problems posed by closing most of the mental institutions that might have helped prevent the events described, leaving the reader with much to consider. I'm not sure I would recommend this to the "casual" reader - it is not fiction, and is not entertaining - but it does provide a clearer insight into the mind of the severely mentally ill that most of us do not understand. I recommend for those who want to understand better.

I could not put this book down. Although the subject matter is tragic, the story consumes you. The book is extremely well written and the tie-ins to the more recent tragedies and the state of mental health treatment is thought-provoking. My daughter is a school psychologist who never reads true crime but I have already recommended this book to her. I am so very glad that Ms. Booth finally felt the time was right to tell the story that she couldn't forget. In all my years as an insatiable reader this

is the first time I have written a review. I can't wait for more from Janice Holly Booth!

I enjoyed this. I 1st heard about this story on sword and scale, and had to download the book and have alexa read to me in her creepy robot voice. It's a gruesome story about the slaughter of a family at the hands of one of their own. Its terrifying example of how own minds can turn against us and how failing to see, or ignoring the warning signs can lead to disaster. highly recommend.

I loved this book. It was short stories that grabbed your attention and would not let go. Easy reading and answered many questions I had about where the mentally ill go after they are found guilty of murdering their family members. The thinking process of these people. Very good book.

I could not put this book down and now many months later I still find myself so incredibly disturbed by it. (More so than with any other book I've ever read.) I found myself turning the pages wanting to yell, "Will Someone Help Him Already!" This is one of the best books I've ever read regarding a true crime case but with a focus more on the illness that consumed this young man rather than just the crime he committed. Janice Holly Booth is able to take the reader on a journey of what it's like inside the head of a paranoid schizophrenic spiraling further & further into psychosis. It's a cautionary tale of what can happen when an individual with a severe mental illness starts to exhibit blatant signs & symptoms that are either ignored or dismissed by others.

Even though this mass murder took place over 4 decades ago, the issues remain relevant. The increasing psychosis of the young man should have led to involuntary hospitalization. It reminds me of the current James Holmes theater shooting case where the psychiatrist did not hospitalize him even though he reported homicidal thoughts. As in the book, James Holmes also developed a complex delusion which compelled him to kill. Then family members either are unaware or think they can handle the situation. This book is very well researched and analyzed in terms of a case history of mental illness and how society fails to deal with it. It also highlights the contributing factor of substance abuse which is now shown by scientific research to be related to psychosis. The author is able to show the horrifying details without demonizing the mentally ill.

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