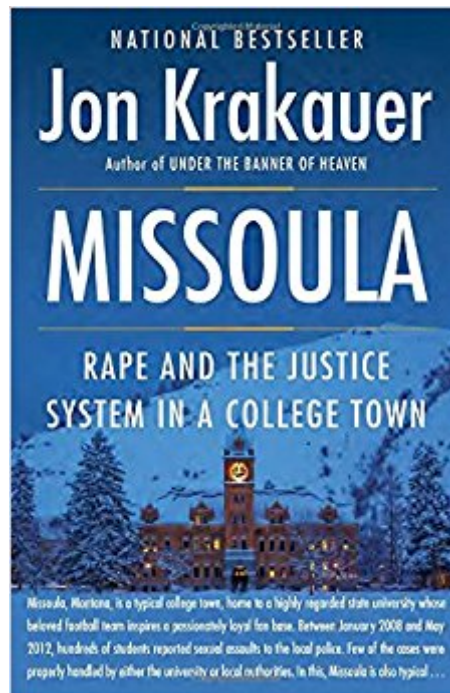




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# Missoula: Rape And The Justice System In A College Town



## Synopsis

Missoula, Montana, is a typical college town, home to a highly regarded state university whose beloved football team inspires a passionately loyal fan base. Between January 2008 and May 2012, hundreds of students reported sexual assaults to the local police. Few of the cases were properly handled by either the university or local authorities. In this, Missoula is also typical. In these pages, acclaimed journalist Jon Krakauer investigates a spate of campus rapes that occurred in Missoula over a four-year period. Taking the town as a case study for a crime that is sadly prevalent throughout the nation, Krakauer documents the experiences of five victims: their fear and self-doubt in the aftermath; the skepticism directed at them by police, prosecutors, and the public; their bravery in pushing forward and what it cost them. These stories cut through abstract ideological debate about acquaintance rape to demonstrate that it does not happen because women are sending mixed signals or seeking attention. They are victims of a terrible crime, deserving of fairness from our justice system. Rigorously researched, rendered in incisive prose, *Missoula* stands as an essential call to action.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An Best Book of April 2015: Toward the end of this powerful, absorbing book, best-selling author Jon Krakauer quotes a jury member as she sums up popular assumptions about sexual assault: “(1) A stranger jumps out from the bushes; (2) There is no (assault) unless the woman puts up a fight, to the death if necessary. The truth is much different—assaults by

acquaintances are by far the most common form of the crime. In Missoula, Krakauer examines one community's struggle with such accusations, shining a bright light on a problem that frequently goes underreported and is all-too-easy to sweep under the rug. Not only must victims contend with the after-effects of the crime, they must often face doubting police, antagonistic lawyers, and the whims of popular opinion. Some of the reported assaults in Krakauer's book involved members of the University of Montana's beloved Grizzly football team. Using facts and documentation balanced by interviews and courtroom drama, he builds a gem of narrative nonfiction that will educate and incite. As the story builds, culminating in two different trials with two different outcomes, readers will find themselves consumed by the factual and emotional complexities of the subject. No page turner this year will be more incendiary than Missoula.

Chris Schluep --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Excellent. . . . Krakauer doesn't just tell the story of these crimes. As he has done so brilliantly in his other books . . . he sets the story firmly in the context of social history.

•The Boston Globe

"An important, difficult and timely subject. . . . Meticulously reported, fascinating and deeply disturbing.

•USA Today

"Jon Krakauer began his career as an author of taut, finely reported outdoor adventures; seven books later, he emerges as the conscience of a nation.

•The Christian Science Monitor

"Missoula will be a touchstone of any future correction to the rape culture we live in.

•Minneapolis Star Tribune

"Jon Krakauer began his career as an author of taut, finely reported outdoor adventures; seven books later, he emerges as the conscience of a nation. . . . Investigative reporters and Krakauer is one of the craft's finest practitioners, diligent, dogged, and artful are nothing so much as trial attorneys with pens rather than costly silk ties.

•The Christian Science Monitor

"Compelling. . . . Meticulous. . . . Krakauer is a writer committed above all else to asking difficult questions. . . . [A] timely and important book.

•Los Angeles Times

"Meticulously reported, fascinating and deeply disturbing. . . . By probing the specific, Krakauer illuminates upsetting generalities. . . . Krakauer a journalist who is also a compelling writer artfully keeps the books from becoming a compendium of facts. . . . It's an important, difficult and timely subject.

•USA Today

"Compelling. . . . Clear and dispassionate, offering level-headed, in-depth reportage.

•Chicago Tribune

"A narrative nonfiction page-turner. . . . Krakauer skillfully strengthens his sources' recollections without taking away their agency.

•Buzzfeed

"A devastating exposé of colleges and

local law enforcement. . . . A substantive deep dive into the morass of campus sex crimes, where the victim is too often treated like the accused. —•• Entertainment Weekly —•• “A good and needed thing. . . . Powerful. . . . Krakauer has done a great service by taking on this subject. —•• —•• Newsweek —•• “Krakauer exposes the cavalier attitude of police, prosecutors and football fans toward victims of acquaintance rape in the Montana town full of fanatics for the University of Montana football team. —•• —•• The Denver Post —•• “A clear and undeniable picture of a broken system. . . . Krakauer’s straightforward writing resists sensationalism. . . . This is a book we all needed. —•• —•• Missoula Independent —•• “A harrowing read. . . . Missoula stands as both a reminder of the forces arrayed against women raising their voices, and of the tremendous power of the telling of their stories. —•• —•• The Toronto Star —•• “Krakauer’s evocative reporting, honed to a fine edge of anger, vividly conveys the ordeal of victims and their ongoing psychological dislocations. —•• —•• A hard-hitting true-crime exposé that looks underneath the he-said-she-said to get at the sexist assumptions that help cover up and enable these crimes. —•• —•• Publishers Weekly (starred) —•• “Riveting. . . . A raw and difficult but necessary read. —•• —•• —•• Kirkus Reviews

Have finished reading the book. As with my initial run through, I'll state again, it is about time the truth came out. Unvarnished, not very pretty, but thorough. I've been following the cases in Missoula for the past several years, have read the briefs and the letters from DOJ and DOE. This is a very balanced perspective on the cases and the situation. Every college administrator should read this book from beginning to end, and read through the legal briefs along with the materials DOJ and DOE sent to Missoula. The stunning lack of understanding of Title IX protocols is also widespread. This isn't just about one college, this speaks to a very large systemic problem

Krakauer never ceases to amaze me; each book he puts out is greater than the previous one and this continues. His books include "Into the Wild", "Into Thin Air", and "Under the Banner of Heaven" are already masterpieces even though he gets a lot of criticism especially "Three Cups of Deceit", "Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman"; and now Missoula adds to the list. It's a sobering story of date rape, especially at MSU and how Prosecutors hate to face he said/she said types of trials. If you or your children plan on college this a must read!

As has been with his other books, Krakauer gives a thorough review of the rape problem in

Missoula. As a woman I guess I was hoping for a different outcome, Indeed, he exposed the systemic corruption from student athletes to police to the judicial system. Also, he addressed, but without solution, another key factor - drinking (most often to excess) on college campuses. While this should not be a factor in rape, it is and must be addressed.

Jon Krakauer writes incredibly well. Trust me. Smooth and logical. I have read most of his books, and this one does not disappoint. I use it good night reading, but always wakes up rather than fall asleep. It is a page turner, without the artificial drama: This is real drama!

This book is a must read for both young men and women, parents and school/college administrators, anyone involved in the justice system. Provides a much better understanding of the stigma of rape, the actual response(s) and problems that face our society. The more we understand regarding the situation, the problems, the better opportunity to make changes and not allow this activity to continue -

A very hard read especially in the beginning I literally had to put it down and walk away for a couple days to clear my head. I think if Krakauer believed he was going to turn everyone against the police, the university and all the ball players of Missoula .... I think he was sorely mistaken. I only feel bad that that ( I ) started reading thinking ( I ) was going to be so ashamed of each and everyone he pointed a finger at but the surprise was I didn't. Were females raped absolutely, tragically..... but the repulsiveness and anger I felt was towards just one person ..... worth reading to see if you can guess who that is ... ???? Every parent needs to have their sons and daughters read before leaving to go off to college .... there are huge lessons for both boys and girls.

A good look in to why so often rapes go unreported and the ones that are reported are often acquitted. Although this was the story of the rapes that took place at University of Montana, you could easily substitute ANY other college/university campus and still come up with eerily similar stories. This is a great book to get the girls you love to read before going off to college.

I'm a HUGE Jon Krakauer fan so it was likely that I would like this book, and in fact, I did. I only gave it 4 stars because I didn't think it was as good as Into Thin Air or Into The Wild. That said, I thought it was a great book and I'm very glad that I read it. Despite the title of the book, it's not so much about the city of Missoula as it is about the topic of sexual assault by acquaintances. Sure, it

was set in Missoula, but as Krakauer states in the book, it could have been any town in the US, Missoula is not portrayed as being atypical. I learned a LOT reading this book, and I was horrified. I highly recommend this book to anyone who has children of either sex. And I think it should be required reading for anyone once they reach puberty.

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