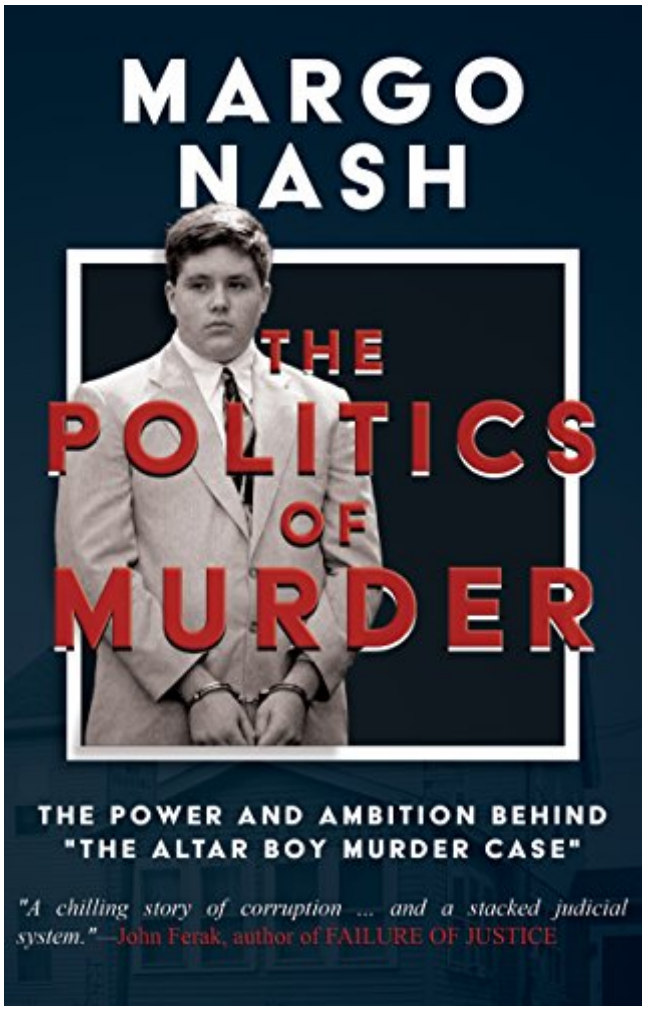
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The Politics Of Murder: The Power And Ambition Behind "The Altar Boy Murder Case"



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Synopsis

NashÃ¢ ¬â„¢s masterful feat of weaving together this story should give pause to anyone who trusts the integrity of the judicial system. Nash shows just how easily the social networks of powerful people within a local court system can lead to an influential person manipulating the process and infringing on the rights of ordinary Americans."--Victoria Hewlett in The Somerville News Weekly On a hot night in July 1995, Janet Downing, a 42-year-old mother of four, was brutally stabbed 98 times in her home in Somerville, a city two miles northwest of Boston. Within hours, a suspect was identified: 15-year-old Eddie OÃ¢ ¬â„¢Brien, the best friend of one of JanetÃ¢ ¬â„¢s sons.But why Eddie? He had no prior history of criminal behavior. He was not mentally ill. He had neither motive nor opportunity to commit the crime. Others had both. Yet none of that mattered because powers far beyond his Somerville neighborhood decided that Eddie needed to be guilty.As laid out in THE POLITICS OF MURDER, the timing of this case did not bode well for Eddie. A movement hoping to stop the supposed rise of young Ã¢ ¬Å“superpredatorsÃ¢ ¬Â• was sweeping the nation, and juvenile offenders were the targets. Both the Massachusetts governor and an elected district attorney who personally litigated this case supported juvenile justice reform, and both aspired to higher offices.Eddie OÃ¢ ¬â„¢BrienÃ¢ ¬â„¢s case garnered both local and national publicity: He was the youthful Irish Catholic boy next door. His grandfather was the retired chief of the Somerville Police Department. Court TV covered the trial in adult court gavel to gavel, calling it the altar boy murder case. His highly publicized case changed the juvenile laws in Massachusetts. Other states began to follow suit. But did the justice system fail Eddie?ThatÃ¢ ¬â„¢s the contention of author-attorney Margo Nash in her explosive expose, THE POLITICS OF MURDER. Appointed EddieÃ¢ ¬â„¢s guardian ad litem, Nash attended every court session and eventually gained access to all his files. Now after painstaking research and examination of each step of the investigation, trial transcripts and the forensic evidence, Nash makes the case that Eddie could not have committed the crime and that other viable suspects were never properly considered.The Innocence Program has recently taken on EddieÃ¢ ¬â„¢s case. Now readers can decide if politics sent an innocent boy to adult prison for the rest of his life."A chilling story about corruption, political power and a stacked judicial system in Massachusetts."--John Ferak, bestselling author of FAILURE OF JUSTICE.

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Customer Reviews

This is very well researched and well written book about a situation that unfortunately happens far too often. I am referring to when a crime is committed and law enforcement immediately zeroes in on someone they think makes a good suspect. They put blinders on and decide what is important to follow up on and what is not, key evidence is not test and/or lost, or evidence is manipulated and other suspects are ignored. After reading this book, there is no doubt in my mind that Edward O'Brien is innocent. I hope that the Innocence Project can help him.

Very sad to think that an injustice can occur in such a fashion.All in the name of politics.How he never received another trial is absurd.This was a very good book even though you knew the outcome from the start.Shocking to see our justice system can resort to these actions just to further a persons career.

After reading this book, I was not surprised by the blatant corruption that took place within the courts. I was not surprised of the injustice that took place. Those are things take place every day.

What surprised me was Mr. O'Brien's attorney who clearly did not defend him properly. How does an attorney for someone being charged with First-degree murder miss so much or not challenge testimony from people the Prosecution put on the stand? Could Mr. George be apart of helping Reilly get re-elected? After researching this case; I found that Bob George was charged in drug money laundering scheme and is no longer practicing law. I would think that would cause for all of his cases to be looked at closely. Maybe, it is just me, but in my opinion Mr. George did not represent Eddie O'Brien the best of his ability.

I really hope Eddie is granted another trial. He is innocent. Its so sad he has spent all this time in prison for a crime he did not commit. I think 2017 is going to be his year. #eddiesinnocent

This book tells a tragic story in a unique way. You follow the plight of an ordinary 15 year old boy as if behind the scenes but also in the front row. Rather than stylistically over-coloring the narrative, the author lays out legal back story in a way that makes this a different type of true-crime book. Like Making a Murderer this story is haunting and has similar it-could--happen-to-anyone circumstances. How can it be? Read it and find out. God forbid it happens you or someone you know.

I've never read anything like this, honestly impossible to put down. I shut down my Kindle for the night, then realized I couldn't get back to sleep for wanting to know what was happening next. From the first page Margo Nash draws the reader into a story so outrageous you'll find yourself screaming at the injustice happening to a young boy. My grandparents lived in Somerville MA and though I haven't been there since the 60's all of the locations are still familiar to me. A must read!

Could not put down this book. So sad that the justice system failed this young boy. I believe that he is innocent. What worries me is that the real murder is among us very scary.

Right from the start, there was something wrong, just wrong. From the police who weren't interested in what Janet feared, to the DA deciding not to further test the "unknown male" DNA under Janet's fingernails. Once Little Ed was EXCLUDED from that test, there was no interest in finding out WHO Janet did come in contact with. Now, with all of the info pulled together, the seamy and despicable actions of the people in power is frightening. All for political gain. If you think you KNOW what happened that night, you are wrong. If you want to KNOW, read the book. I warn you, you will think twice before trusting in Law and Order.

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