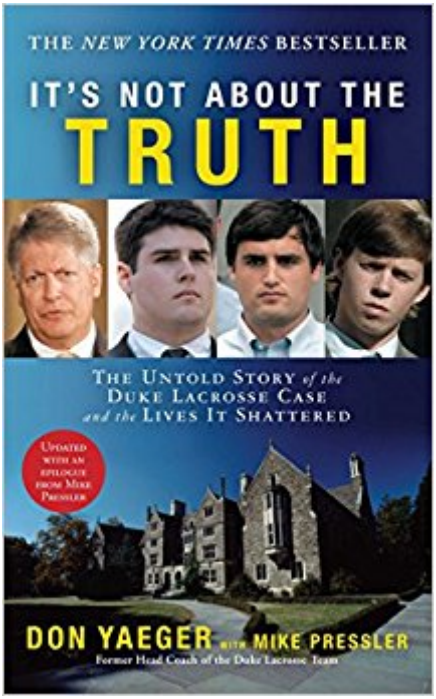
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It's Not About The Truth: The Untold Story Of The Duke Lacrosse Case And The Lives It Shattered



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Synopsis

Mike Pressler walked into the bottomfloor meeting room of the Murray Building and, as he had done hundreds of times over a sixteen-year career at Duke University, prepared to address his men's lacrosse team. Forty-six players sat in theater-style chairs, all eyes riveted forward. It was 4:35 P.M. on Wednesday, April 5, 2006. The program's darkest hour had arrived in an unexpected and explosive announcement. Pressler, a three-time ACC Coach of the Year, informed his team that its season was canceled and he had "resigned," effective immediately. While his words reverberated off the walls, hysteria erupted. Players cried, confused over a course of events that had spun wildly out of control. What began as an off-campus team party with two hired strippers had accelerated into a rape investigation -- one that exposed prosecutorial misconduct, shoddy police work, an administration's rush to judgment, and the media's disregard for the facts -- dividing both a prestigious university and the city of Durham. Wiping away tears, Pressler demonstrated the steely resolve that helped him win more than two hundred games. For the next thirty minutes, Pressler put his personal situation aside and encouraged his players to stick together. He also made a bold promise: "One day, we will get a chance to tell the world the truth. One day." This is that day. Pressler, who has not done an interview since the saga began, has handed his private diary from those three weeks to New York Times bestselling author Don Yaeger, exposing vivid details, including the day Pressler was fired, when the coach asked Athletic Director Joe Alleva why the school "wasn't willing to wait for the truth" to come out. "It's not about the truth anymore," Alleva said to the coach in a signature moment that said it all. In addition to Pressler, Yaeger interviewed more than seventy-five key figures intimately involved in the case. The result is a tale that defies logic. "It is tough to be one of fifty people who believed a story when fifty million people believed something else," Pressler said. "This wasn't about the truth to many of the others involved. My story is all about the truth."

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Customer Reviews

In the early hours of March 14, 2006, a group of Duke University lacrosse players got in an altercation with two strippers they hired for a party; afterwards, one of the strippers placed a call to 911 that set off a campus-shaking rape case that would captivate the national media. A number of parties, including District Attorney Mike Nifong, lined up to characterize the defendants as "a bunch of hooligans" before charges against the three indicted players were finally dropped, half a year later. In this riveting book, sports author Yaeger (Turning the Tide) and Mike Pressler, then-head coach of the Duke lacrosse team, present a fast-moving account of the 13 months that tore apart the university and the town. Looking at all aspects of the case, including Durham’s troubled racial history and profiles of the Nifong and Duke president Richard Brodhead, Pressler and Yaeger find plenty of blame to spread around-including the "self-perpetuating monster" of media coverage, the university administration that took "some of the worst actions...against the Duke lacrosse team"-but Pressler, the tale’s sacrificial lamb, avoids a bitter or accusatory stance. Instead he adds color and insight to Yaeger’s rigorous, efficient investigation; for anyone who got caught up in the story, this is a must-read. Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"This detailed examination of the Duke University rape case...is given Dick Hill’s usual skilled, careful treatment.... He subtly weights his voice to give every nuance of emotion." ---AudioFile --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I used to be a fan of Duke University and then I read "It’s Not About the Truth.".This was an emotional true story that was well told and included many memorable characters, heroes and villains. In this book conflicts run from the elite Ivy envious Duke University and the local Durham residents, from the black woman accuser and white male defendants, from liberal academia to team athletes. The inherent resentment of self proclaimed intellectuals whose very salaries and existence expanded from the revenue of major sports created (not lacrosse, football and basketball). Many academics looked condescendingly on the student athlete. That resentment simmered until this

false claim of rape gave them an excuse to boil over into the perfect storm of false accusations.The actions in the book ultimately lead to the truth that the accused were all innocent. It also resulted in many financial settlements to avoid the embarrassment of lost law suits.The book portrays Duke University as containing many shills interested in their own welfare and not the students they are paid to teach.There are few leaders but many politicians running the campus, with their own political agenda, who could care less for the students.There were many who could be villains in this book, but the main culprit was the ultimately disgraced DA. His lies to the court and withholding evidence will cause many in the future to unfortunately doubt prosecutor integrity. He behaved so badly he was disbarred and the man who appointed him apologized for having done so. The DA acted without facts, he never even interviewed the accuser until too late. Political gain drove him to drive for prosecution through public pandering. He hid evidence that would have exonerated the accused. A disgrace no doubt, yet he received no prison term despite his proven disregard for the law. The 88 Duke professors who basically agreed in the guilt of the players (and took out an ad implying such) despite no evidence demonstrated to many in academia the outcome when a lack of balanced views on campuses results in such one sided anti-student behavior.The coach seemed a likely hero (he did co-write the book), and his leadership and loyalty to his players was repeatedly proven. Unlike the academics, he didn't "throw the players under the bus." The heroes included the lacrosse players who stood stalwart against the accusations.The coach's wife and daughter were also heroic in their strength against all sorts of attacks in their personal lives.Despite all the inappropriate behaviors in this mess, the only person who lost his job was the coach. Huh? A travesty no doubt, but on follow up I read he has moved forward and continued his positive successful coaching career elsewhere.We can take away from this very good book that the wealthy can afford a lengthy defense, but what about the rest of us? Will we encounter a DA like this and be overwhelmed by their actions? Will our collegiate children be intimidated by politically one-sided professors, so they fear to speak out? In this book we see some professors that teach their own agenda and administrators who look out for their own jobs. Will universities that claim they have their students education as a priority eventually experience a decrease in contributions that support these inappropriate behaviors?Only after facing huge financial damages from the coach did Duke apparently apologize and settle out of court."It's Not about the Truth" keeps the reader engaged and emotionally involved. Anger and frustration come through in every chapter. While the topics aren't new, it is a reminder that weasels exist despite the level of education or legal title. And heroes are formed by what they do, not by their social status or age. The included letters by the coach's daughter and wife are powerful. Reading how the Group of professors and top administrators try to

defend their original biased actions simply exposes how they have fallen. And with no accountability whatsoever.Maybe this could happen anywhere. But these events in this location with these law enforcers, professors and administration was truly as the author describes, "the perfect storm." Scary, but true. A book that is disturbing and well worth reading.

EXCELLENT READ! I find it absolutely amazing that there is nothing to check the "4th estate." This sad unfolding of uncertainties-reported-as-truth is a true depiction of everyday news reporting. The media repeatedly shares opinion, not fact. It is all about generating a profit! If it bleeds, it leads! Sensationalism for all; truth be damned! The media is not in business to share a truth; they are in business to sell ad space and commercial air time. If they truly cared about getting FACTS, and not relying on conjecture and "sexy" suppositions, they might garner some level of respect!The then-Duke "leadership" and the flaming liberal academics who sought to use this sad event as a platform to air their opinions are actually married to same principle of cowardice! Go look at the Constitution and the principles of American justice: Innocent until proven guilty...as opposed to the comment reflected in the book, "Innocent until proven innocent!"To paraphrase Dave Evans, I hope none of them ever experience the same ordeal these families endured!

Powerful book on the cost often coming with the truth. There is a daily war of good against evil - if you are not fighting evil - by default you are on the dark side. This book was a intense illustration of arrogance of power in a community and Duke University. Many people flat out lying. . . destruction of innocents and innocence ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ through selfish and self-centered people not looking close enough to see the truth. That Mike Pressler kept a personal diary through this massive mess ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ made details precise. The layers of people parts and plays ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ the whole book's accounting is riveting. I was impressed there were a few media people who did do diligence, Fox News I recall. But for the most part the media (including New York Times) were terribly inaccurate. There was one reporter who actually apologized for wrong reporting. That woman was refreshing. The lives harmed through the lying ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œthe hidden agendas of people in power ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ nasty series of ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Ëœrear-endÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ behavior like figurative diarrhea running all over the place. Bravo for Pressler and team paying a high price maintaining their integrity.

They proved the prosecutor in this story knew that the accused were innocent but he was going to prosecute them anyways.NIFONG was his name. He is sinister. To send innocent people to prison,

for something they did not do and ruin their lives, and their family lives is an act of the devil.Nifong was disbarred and went to jail., not long enough. but should have gone for the time the accused would have spent in prison.It is chilling that this goes on , and he almost got away with it only he messed around with kids whose parents had money.Prosecuter position is political and some will go to any length to get the vote. SHAME on all of them who do this evil .Most of the time the prosecutor only get voted back in, by people who remain ignorant to what is really going on behind the scenes. Sometimes voting for someone you 'think' is tough on crime is a good idea, until it happens to you or yours.

Previously read "Until Proven Innocent," and liked it. This book covers many of the same events and was well written. Would definitely recommend this book. The nauseating failure of university authorities, the Prosecuting Attorney, some of the Durham Police, and the untruthful and tragic complaining witness all came together in one event. Many people were permanently damaged by the improper actions of those with authority. A classic example of what can happen when everything that can go wrong, goes wrong.

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