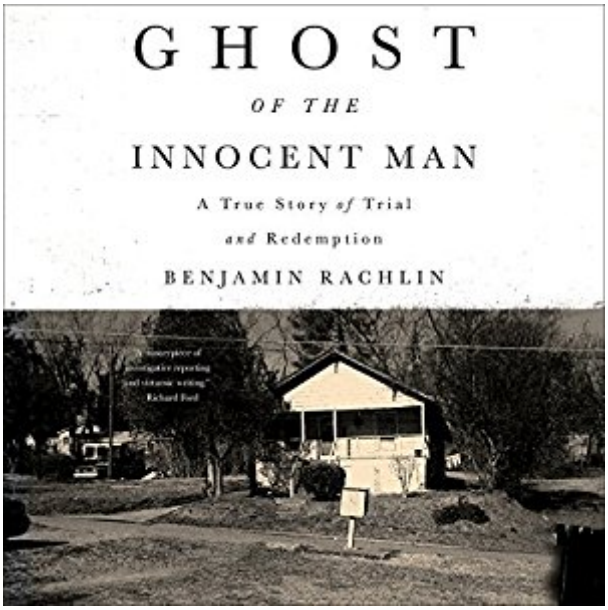
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Ghost Of The Innocent Man: A True Story Of Trial And Redemption



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Synopsis

During the last two decades, more than 2,000 American citizens have been wrongfully convicted. Ghost of the Innocent Man brings us one of the most dramatic of those cases and provides the clearest picture yet of the national scourge of wrongful conviction and of the opportunity for meaningful reform. When the final gavel clapped in a rural Southern courtroom in the summer of 1988, Willie J. Grimes, a gentle spirit with no record of violence, was shocked and devastated to be convicted of first-degree rape and sentenced to life imprisonment. Here is the story of this everyman and his extraordinary quarter-century-long journey to freedom, told in breathtaking and sympathetic detail, from the botched evidence and suspect testimony that led to his incarceration to the tireless efforts to prove his innocence and the identity of the true perpetrator. These were spearheaded by his relentless champion, Christine Mumma, a cofounder of North Carolina's Innocence Inquiry Commission. That commission - unprecedented at its inception in 2006 - remains a model organization unlike any other in the country and one now responsible for a growing number of exonerations. With meticulous, prismatic research and pulse-quickening prose, Benjamin Rachlin presents one man's tragedy and triumph. The jarring and unsettling truth is that the story of Willie J. Grimes, for all its outrage, dignity, and grace, is not a unique travesty. But through the harrowing and suspenseful account of one life, told from the inside, we experience the full horror of wrongful conviction on a national scale. Ghost of the Innocent Man is both rare and essential, a masterwork of empathy. The book offers a profound reckoning not only with the shortcomings of our criminal justice system but also with its possibilities for redemption.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This story is riveting and heartbreaking but the outcome gives you solace that there are people with integrity in this world.

An engaging, eye-opening and phenomenally written page turner. Ghost of the Innocent Man expertly weaves together two stories: an intimate portrait of one man's appalling, 25 year-long journey through a flawed criminal justice system, and the heroic efforts of a group of people determined to find true justice for the innocent. In telling these stories Rachlin illuminates the nationwide problem of wrongful convictions and the immense challenge of proving innocence in a judicial system designed to determine guilt. Although Ghost of the Innocent Man describes a particular failure of the criminal justice, it also offers hope that there is a better way, that the innocent can be freed without undermining confidence in the justice system, and that some small fraction of wrongful convictions does not need to be the price of doing business in America's courtrooms. Rachlin's writing brings a level of suspense to these stories that makes Ghost of the Innocent man hard to put down, as the two tales race towards a conclusion that is simultaneously satisfying and dismaying.

I read over 100 books a year, and this is one of the best I have come across in a long time. It is is an excellent read! Usually when a book has as many characters and moving parts as this one does, I easily become confused and have to spend a lot of time backtracking and rereading. In this book, the author does an amazing job of presenting a large number of people and events in a way that is easy to follow and that does not get in the way of the story line. Although nonfiction, the pace is more like that of a mystery thriller. I had trouble putting it down each evening and looked forward to picking it up again the next day. By the book's end, I felt I knew Willie Grimes and was completely invested in his appeal. I highly recommend Ghost of the Innocent Man!

This is a gripping story from start to finish. The author did a great job braiding the two narratives of Willie Grimes and the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission. You witness Willie's 24 years of torment, his pain being shuffled through the labyrinth of NC prisons, all the while insisting on his innocence. You then meet the team of incredible lawyers with Christine Mumma at the helm who work to form the commission with bipartisan support. This story will make you wonder why such an office does not exist in every state and why our country isn't doing more for the men and women wrongfully incarcerated like Willie. Rachlin did an amazing job bringing this story to life and is

definitely worth the read.

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