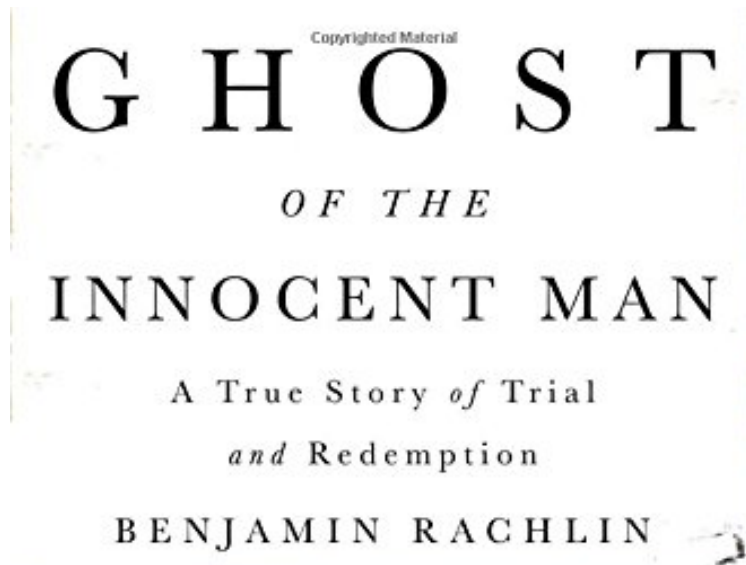


(Download free ebook) Ghost of the Innocent Man: A True Story of Trial and Redemption

Ghost of the Innocent Man: A True Story of Trial and Redemption

Benjamin Rachlin

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Benjamin Rachlin : Ghost of the Innocent Man: A True Story of Trial and Redemption before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ghost of the Innocent Man: A True Story of Trial and Redemption:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Linda I. ToddWell written and informative.7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. An important story expertly toldBy Mikey TAn 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. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Gripping read, does not let go. By vnunez- msluv2read This is a book for all. If you think innocent people are convicted or, if you think our justice system would never convict an innocent man. This book will either solidify your position or it should really make you re-think your position. Very good read on the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission. We learn how it came to be and how much it comes to mean to William Grimes. We get the story from two perspectives. This is a book that must be read. The book grabs you and does not let you go. Wonderful written. Thanks to NetGalley, the author and the publisher for the ARC of this book in return for my honest review.

"Intriguing . . . A gripping legal-thriller mystery . . . This is a story that profoundly elevates good-cause advocacy to greater heights--to where innocent lives are saved." --USA Today

"A crisply written page turner . . . Rachlin painstakingly renders Grimes's life behind bars . . . Deploying the same precision with which he documents Grimes's prison life, Rachlin recounts the arduous and complex work to move the wheels of justice . . . Read *Ghost of the Innocent Man* to follow its twisted path . . . but don't read for the gripping story alone . . . The National Registry of Exonerations calculates that over 18,000 years have been lost by innocent people serving time . . . Shouldn't we be better than this?" Martha Anne Toll, NPR "Intriguing . . . A gripping legal-thriller mystery . . . This is a story that profoundly elevates good-cause advocacy to greater heights-to where innocent lives are saved . . . This empathetic book tells the story of the beginnings of the movement to right a national crisis of wrongful convictions-and of one of its first victories . . . A fine piece of investigative journalism." Don Oldenburg, USA Today "Rachlin vividly describes the anguish that would well up in Grimes again and again during his twenty-four years behind bars . . . In Rachlin's skilled hands, Grimes's story triggers indignation but also confers solace, Grimes [himself] being one of the solacing features." Dennis Drabelle, The Washington Post "Dramatic and eye-opening . . . A hopeful story . . . By showing us that the specter of wrongful convictions involves flesh-and-blood human beings, *Ghost of the Innocent Man* confronts us with the cruelest injustices of the criminal justice system, even as it also holds out hope for a more humane future." San Francisco Chronicle "One of the most powerful aspects of *Ghost of the Innocent Man* is its portrait of time behind bars--the transfers, delays, and letter-writing campaigns that form the scaffolding of lives in limbo . . . A story so important and infuriating it is hard to look away." Claudia Rowe, Seattle Times "Ghost of the Innocent Man is nothing less than a masterpiece of investigative reporting and virtuosic writing. It is a book that brilliantly substantiates society's elemental promise to its citizenry--that we not have our freedoms wrongly taken from us. Benjamin Rachlin's book is Greek drama brought into our own times. It will change readers' lives, I think, and inspire them. It's that good." Richard Ford "Ghost of the Innocent Man is deeply researched and, more importantly, deeply felt. For both reasons and many more, it is a profound meditation on the human condition and a vital contribution to the literature. The endurance and fortitude of Willie Grimes surpass those of any athlete or explorer. The passages in which Christine Mumma assembles lawmen and legislatures of all different creeds to help resolve an urgent national crisis should make us all consider these current times as not just toxic and tragic but filled with the possibility of hope and redemption. In the end, Benjamin Rachlin takes us through the justice system in all its immutability and shows us the light we can wield should we so choose." Jeff Hobbs, author of the New York Times bestseller *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace* "Enraging, instructive, and profoundly moving, *Ghost of the Innocent Man* is a gripping lesson in the terrible costs of our flawed criminal justice system and the power that individuals have to change its course. The story of how a gentle soul like Willie J. Grimes received an undeserved life sentence is heartbreaking--full of human cruelty and carelessness and worse. But in the care and exactitude of Benjamin Rachlin's telling, it is also an inspiring call for readily achievable reform. With judicious compassion, he narrates the errors, omissions, and societal forces that led to this wrongful conviction, setting it all squarely in the context of a persistent national disgrace, and reminding us of our responsibility to work toward true justice. The effect is remarkable and unforgettable." Eli Sanders, Pulitzer Prize winner and author of *While the City Slept* "Ghost of the Innocent Man is an honest and critical look at our justice system. . . [and] a meticulously researched book. It is a must-read for every American who cares about justice." The Washington Book "An absorbing true-crime saga . . . Rachlin's debut combines a gripping legal drama with a penetrating exposé of the shoddy investigative and trial standards nationwide . . . His narrative offers a moving evocation of faith under duress." Publishers Weekly (Starred) "Grimes's story is both compelling and enraging, and his thoughtfulness and persistence propel the story as much as the

determination and passion of the lawyers working to establish the Commission . . . A sobering account of both a wrongful conviction and the structural impediments to fixing miscarriages of justice, with a gut punch of a closing paragraph."Kate Sheehan, Library Journal (starred review)"An absorbing story . . . In his moving first book, Rachlin, with confidence and care, relays both the terrifying personal costs and complex legalities, so dependent on fallible humans, of wrongful conviction and imprisonment."Annie Bostrom, Booklist"In this compelling tale of crime and punishment (of the wrong person), Rachlin explores a horrible case of wrongful conviction and ultimate exoneration. Willie Grimes maintained his innocence in his 1988 trial, but was convicted on flimsy evidence and served over 20 years behind bars. By twinning Grimes' story with the establishment of North Carolina's Innocence Inquiry Commission, which was responsible for overturning the conviction, Rachlin enlarges the book's scope, making it not merely a chronicle of a serious miscarriage of justice, but a broader indictment of a flawed system, and the prison industrial complex, that made it possible."The National Book "Ghost of the Innocent Man is plainspoken-frank, yes, but even more potently, unadorned--either when Grimes is speaking or Rachlin is writing . . . The story is clean and tight, emotionally and psychologically expressive and expressionistic, and easily visualized by the mind's eye . . . A fine debut effort."Peter Lewis, Barnes Noble About the Author Benjamin Rachlin grew up in New Hampshire. He studied English at Bowdoin College, where he won the Sinkinson Prize, and writing at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, where he won Schwartz and Brauer fellowships. His work has appeared, or is forthcoming, in the New York Times Magazine, TIME, and the Virginia Quarterly . He lives near Boston. Ghost of the Innocent Man is his first book.