



Our Guys: The Glen Ridge Rape and the Secret Life of the Perfect Suburb (Men and Masculinity)

By Bernard Lefkowitz

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It was a crime that captured national attention. In the idyllic suburb of Glen Ridge, New Jersey, four of the town's most popular high school athletes were accused of raping a retarded young woman while nine of their teammates watched. Everyone was riveted by the question: What went wrong in this seemingly flawless American town? In search of the answer, Bernard Lefkowitz takes the reader behind Glen Ridge's manicured facade into the shadowy basement that was the scene of the rape, into the mansions on "Millionaire's Row," into the All-American high school, and finally into the courtroom where justice itself was on trial.

Lefkowitz's sweeping narrative, informed by more than 200 interviews and six years of research, recreates a murky adolescent world that parents didn't—or wouldn't—see: a high school dominated by a band of predatory athletes; a teenage culture where girls were frequently abused and humiliated at sybaritic and destructive parties, and a town that continued to embrace its celebrity athletes—despite the havoc they created—as "our guys." But that was not only true of Glen Ridge; Lefkowitz found that the unqualified adulation the athletes received in their town was echoed in communities throughout the nation. Glen Ridge was not an aberration. The clash of cultures and values that divided Glen Ridge, Lefkowitz writes, still divides the country.

Parents, teachers, and anyone concerned with how children are raised, how their characters are formed, how boys and girls learn to treat each other, will want to read this important book.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Leslie, a sweet-natured young woman with the mental age of an 8-year-old, just wanted to be friends with the high school football stars. When they invited her down into the basement rec room of a suburban home, she jumped with joy at being included. The young men raped her--with a baseball bat and a broomstick. In this vividly detailed book, Bernard Lefkowitz brings us into the daily life of Glen Ridge, New Jersey, the hometown of Tom Cruise. It's an affluent white community that values propriety, order, discretion, continuity, and a fantasy of the gentleman-athlete. Lefkowitz writes of the boys who raped Leslie: "These Glen Ridge kids, they were pure gold, every mother's dream, every father's pride. They were not only Glen Ridge's finest, but in their perfection they belonged to all of us. They were Our Guys." What's ultimately most shocking about this crime is how ordinary it was, how predictable--how in one way or another it's happening now, all across America.

From Library Journal

Curiosity, says journalist Lefkowitz (*Tough Change: Growing Up on Your Own in America*, Free Pr., 1987), brought him to investigate the web of circumstances contributing to the 1989 alleged gang rape by teenage jocks of a 17-year-old retarded girl in a seemingly image-perfect New Jersey town. The theme of this compelling narrative is disturbing?the difficulty of achieving gender justice compounded by the fact that the socially isolated young woman chose compliance in the naive hope of acceptance, and a set of community values that put young male athletes on pedestals, their various "transgressions" ignored or dismissed. Glen Ridge is probably not an atypical community. Parents, teachers, and others need to understand what Lefkowitz so capably exposes about the "All-American" male cultural setting. Highly recommended for a broad readership.?Suzanne W. Wood, SUNY Coll. of Technology, Alfred
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From [Booklist](#)

They were always the popular guys in high school: the jocks. And even though their football team was lackluster and their grades were average, at best, they were still the clique that "ran" the school. Sure, they had occasional run-ins with the police, but in the affluent town of Glen Ridge, it was understood that boys would be boys. Their parents always paid the damages, and the affairs were kept politely quiet. When 13 of these young men were accused of sexually assaulting a mentally disabled girl, the town rallied behind them and did its best to ostracize the girl. It is a case that is still generating headlines today, and Lefkowitz has written a compelling account of the incident and the resulting trials. He examines a part of American culture that appears to condone wildness and aggression in its young males and passive servitude in the females. *Our Guys* is an insightful work that could be as fundamentally important, and as widely read, as Mary Pipher's *Reviving Ophelia* (1994). Highly recommended. *Eric Robbins*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marie Boyd:

Are you kind of stressful person, only have 10 or even 15 minute in your day time to upgrading your mind expertise or thinking skill even analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book when compared

with can satisfy your limited time to read it because this time you only find reserve that need more time to be go through. Our Guys: The Glen Ridge Rape and the Secret Life of the Perfect Suburb (Men and Masculinity) can be your answer because it can be read by a person who have those short free time problems.

Mary Blackwell:

The book untitled Our Guys: The Glen Ridge Rape and the Secret Life of the Perfect Suburb (Men and Masculinity) contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains her idea with easy way. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was compiled by famous author. The author will bring you in the new period of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can start their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice learn.

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