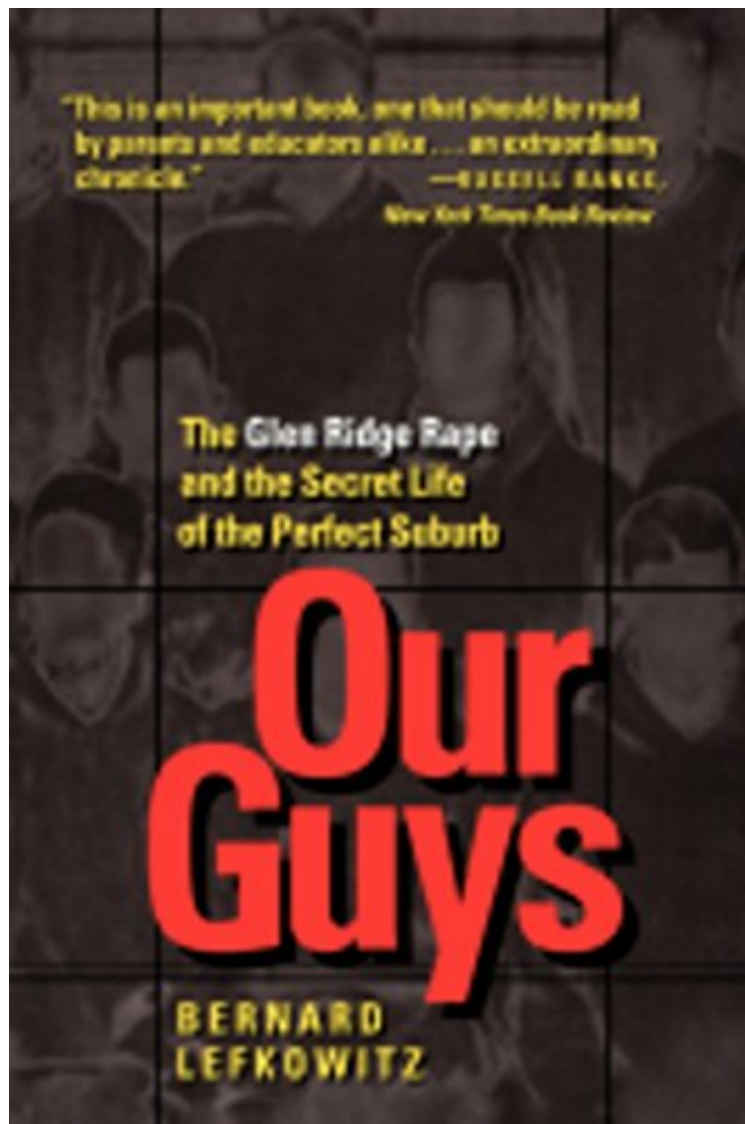


(Download) Our Guys: The Glen Ridge Rape and the Secret Life of the Perfect Suburb (Men and Masculinity)

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

*Bernard Lefkowitz*

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**Bernard Lefkowitz : Our Guys: The Glen Ridge Rape and the Secret Life of the Perfect Suburb (Men and Masculinity)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Our Guys: The Glen Ridge Rape and the Secret Life of the Perfect Suburb (Men and Masculinity):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Important study of a modern phenomenonBy EllieA very good in-

depth analysis of a terrible crime that was committed a couple of decades ago by a suburban high school crowd. A group of popular athletes lured a mentally challenged girl to a basement and viciously sexually assaulted her. The book deals with the problem of athletes expecting to get what they want and not be measured by the same standards as the rest of society. A microcosm of that society is analyzed in this very lengthy detailed book. Cultural and economic and racial elements are explored. Parts of the trial, interviews and narrative of actual events as well as photos are included. The book is more than a crime story; it is a sociological study and tale of how society's 'underdogs' are treated and how we ourselves have set this system up early for kids in school- that athletes rule and are popular and are never denied what they want- they are venerated by all members of the school, including staff and the outside world they live in. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Difficult subject but very well done By Paula Titus This book is eye-opening for sure. Very well written on a difficult subject. The author went step by step in explaining and helping the reader to understand the dynamics of this story and how the trial came to fruition. This is the best book I have read in a long time, highly recommend this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Monster In The Man By thirtdwinn Horrifying enough to keep you up nights- if anything like what's in this book ever happens- it means there are monsters everywhere- in the people that commit heinous crimes- and in the people that cover up those crimes because deep down they feel it's ok. Read it with the lights on and door locked.

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.

.com 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 Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. 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