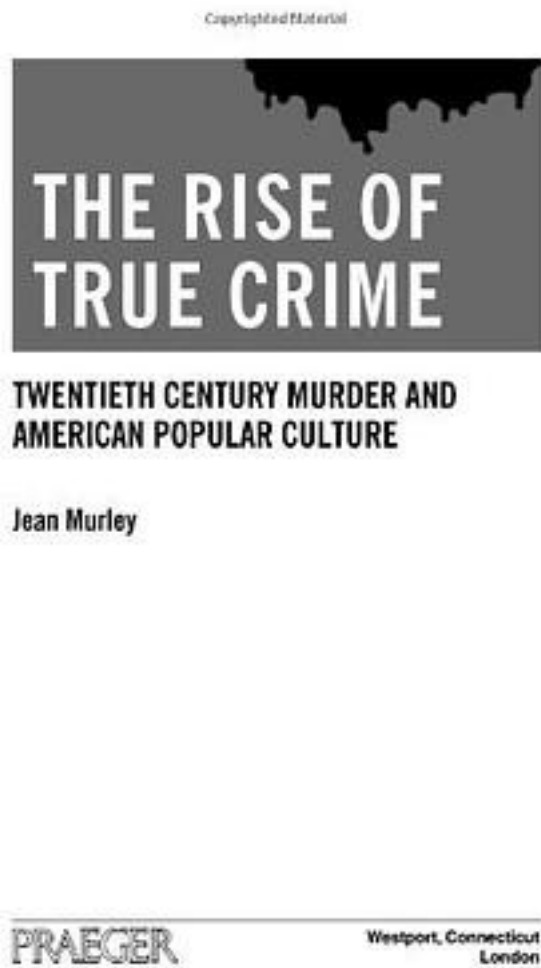


The Rise of True Crime



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This book describes and explores the origins, growth, and cultural impact of the true crime genre in American popular culture. During the 1950s and 1960s "True Detective Magazine" developed a new way of narrating and understanding murder. This publication was more sensitive to context, gave more psychologically sophisticated accounts, and was more willing to make conjectures about the unknown thoughts and motivations of killers than others had been before. This turned out to be the start of a revolution. With skyrocketing crime rates and the appearance of a frightening trend toward social chaos in the 1970s, books, documentaries, and 'fiction' films in the true crime genre tried to make sense of the Charles Manson crimes and the Gary Gilmore execution events. And in the 1980s and 1990s, true crime taught pop culture consumers about forensics, profiling, and highly technical aspects of criminology. Through the suggestion that certain kinds of killers are "monstrous" or outside the realm of human morality, and through the perpetuation of the "stranger-danger" idea, the true crime aesthetic has both responded to and fostered our culture's fears. True crime is also the site of a dramatic confrontation with the concept of evil, and one of the few places in American public discourse where moral terms are used without any irony, and where notions and definitions of evil are presented without ambiguity. When seen within its historical context, true crime emerges as a vibrant and meaningful strand of popular culture, one that is unfortunately devalued as lurid and meaningless 'pulp.' "The Rise of True Crime" examines the various genres of true crime using the most popular and well-known examples. And despite its examination of some of the potentially negative results of the genre, it is written for people who read and enjoy true crime, and wish to learn more about it.

作者介绍:

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