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The Pain within my Soul: Short Stories about Crime and Life

By Irina Zakirova



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The Pain within my Soul: Short Stories about Crime and Life By Irina Zakirova

The title of this book *The Pain within my Soul* speaks for itself, since the author uses real-life stories from personal experience and each story may personally touch the reader's soul. Not by chance, the subtitle of the book is *Short Stories about Crime and Life*, where it is sometimes hard to divide one from the other. This book introduces a collection of stories about crime and life written in different styles of writing. The author of the book, during her experience as both a journalist and a police officer, would interact with people who committed crime. That's why these stories are based on true events and real people though for ethical norms, the names of the characters and places were changed. The author defines causation of crime through her own perspective. Despite the public's negative perception towards criminals, the author tries to convey the idea that some criminals had no other choice but to commit a crime in order to survive in their tough periods of life. The author shows that a border between understanding criminals and non-criminals might be indecipherable and only one step is enough to move from a non-criminal to a criminal and vice versa. These real stories are examples of particular types of crime and issues in criminal justice system, for example, turf wars among criminal justice agencies (story: Nobody's); disadvantaged families as a major factor which leads adolescents to run away from home (story: Fruit Garden); social demographic characteristics such as: poverty, lack of education as factors which lead to prostitution (stories: On the Corner of Earth; Flower of the Blind Alley; Weeping Blizzard). Other stories provide by itself examples of different types of crimes: group rape (stories: He gave me Up; Valley of Crying Tulips), murder (story: Twisted Vine of Destiny), coerced confession (story: Two Steps into the Past; I Confess). This collection of stories will be of great interest to students of law and criminal justice as well as the general readers.



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Editorial Review

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IRINA ZAKIROVA is adjunct assistant professor at Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration Department at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. She earned a PhD in Legal studies - with a focus on compensation for damages, two Master's Degrees in Journalism and Criminal Justice as well as First Professional Degree in Law. She has an experience as a journalist, police officer, jurist and lecturer.

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