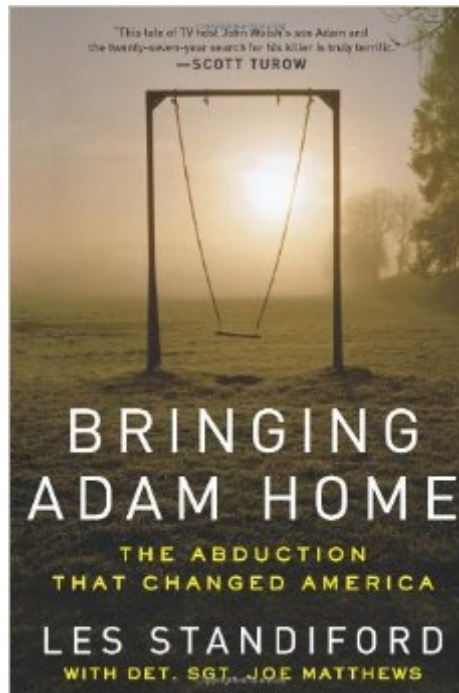


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Bringing Adam Home: The Abduction That Changed America



Synopsis

There are two periods of history that pertain to missing and endangered children in the United States: before Adam Walsh and after Adam Walsh. In the aftermath of that six-year old's abduction and slaying in 1981, everything about the nation's regard and response to missing children changed. The shock of the crime and the inability of law enforcement to find Adam's killer put an end to innocence and altered our very perception of childhood itself-gone forever are the days when young children burst out the doors of American homes with a casual promise to be home by dark. And, due in large part to the efforts of Adam's parents, John and Reve Walsh, the entire mechanism of law enforcement has transformed itself in an effort to protect our children. Before Adam went missing, there were no children's faces on milk cartons and billboards, no Amber Alerts, no national Center for Missing and Abused Children, no national databases for crimes against children, no registration of pedophiles-in fact, it was easier to mobilize the FBI to search for a stolen car or missing horse than for a kidnapped child. Such facts may be sad testimony to the weariness of a modern world, but there is also an uplifting aspect to Adam's story - the 27 years of undaunted effort by decorated Miami Beach Homicide Detective Joe Matthews to track down Adam's killer and bring justice to bear at long last. "Bringing Adam Home" tells the story-the good, the bad, and the ugly-of what it took for one cop to accomplish what an entire system of law enforcement could not. Matthew's achievement is a stirring one, reminding us that such concepts as hard work, dedication, and love survive, and that goodness can prevail. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

Les Standiford writes at the end of "Bringing Adam Home", "Perhaps, once upon a time, parents only worried about their kids when they took them to the beach or to the pool or hiking along some steep path. Now vigilance begins at birth, if not before, and for most the worry never ends." Such is the legacy of the abduction of Adam Walsh from a Broward County Mall the summer of 1981. I was a 12-year-old living in Miami that summer and, for me and my peers, his kidnapping and murder has lingered in our memories and left us wondering about his tragic fate. Standiford dutifully tells the story of what happened that day and in the almost thirty years since. Aided by the police detective who finally pieced the puzzle together, the author meticulously details what happened to Adam and all of the players involved, including scores of incompetent cops interested more in their egos than solving the murder of an innocent child. There are times that I was so angered by the tales of these egomaniacal officers, I had to put the book away to calm down. The book isn't perfect. The writing is often as dry as the police reports the author quotes from and some information is repeated seemingly ad nauseam. After finishing the book, however, I can better appreciate its tone. Since 1981, there has been much speculation and needless doubt about the man who murdered Adam Walsh, and Standiford clearly wants to ensure that the reader is left with no doubt about the perpetrator of the crime. He may overstate his case to the average reader, but he wants everyone, including any person still holding out doubt, to know that the evidence is very clear.

This is the true story of the kidnapping and murder of Adam Walsh and the agony that it brought to his parents John and Reve Walsh. It is testimony to the work of distraught parents to take up the cause of missing children and bring it to the public's notice and over twenty-five years develop a program to help the nation deal with the exploitation of missing children. In this riveting case regarding the loss of their son we are brought to grips with the tireless efforts of some law enforcement personnel who want to find Adam and get him home. We are also brought face to face with some law enforcement personnel who do not handle the case well, do not document interviews well, do not handle interrogation of suspects well and who do not follow up each and every lead and often stop just short of asking questions that would have served the case well. It is frustrating that within two years of the disappearance of Adam that they have a suspect in custody who on at least seven occasions to different detectives confesses to killing Adam Walsh. But for a series of terrible blunders he is never charged with that murder. There are some detectives who think he is lying.

Others who mishandled files and paperwork doesn't get put together properly. Also there turns out to be a small issue. The State Attorney General of Florida was proof beyond a shadow of belief before they will issue an arrest warrant. They want hard evidence, not just verbal testimonies. That person is Janet Reno. She was notorious for not wanting to prosecute any case that wasn't considered a slam dunk.

Adam Walsh was cut short by his abduction and murder from a Sears department store in Hollywood, Florida. His parents, John Walsh and Reve Walsh became advocates for children's rights all over the country. Their son's abduction and murder began a movement of protecting children. Still, the loss of their firstborn son, Adam Walsh, in a brutal, horrible crime is still painful and understandable so. John Walsh has made his life's work by bringing justice to those who are victims of brutal crimes. His wife, Reve, although the quiet reserved spouse, has maintained an active part in pursuing justice. This book is about finding the truth about Adam Walsh's abduction and murder and the botched police investigation. At the time, the local police department in Hollywood, Florida was not equipped to handle the abduction and the murder. The Hollywood Police Department in Florida couldn't handle his abduction and murder. They brought in the co-author Detective Sargent Joe Matthews from Miami Beach, Florida to help investigate the case. But despite the obvious murderer, Ottis Toole, the case was still not solved. The case would have been solved a long time ago if the police department had investigated Ottis Toole. Instead, police departments sometimes let their egotism and their pride before justice could take place. John and Reve Walsh had every right to be angry with their son's murderer but also with the local police department who failed to provide justice and closure while the killer was alive and confessing frequently. You might wonder why Adam Walsh is so important. The safety of children everywhere may have been because of the Walshes who became advocates for protecting children and innocent victims.

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