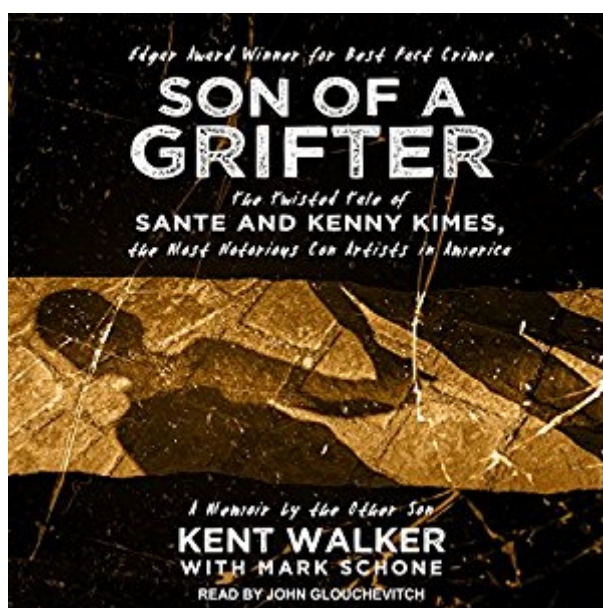


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Son Of A Grifter: The Twisted Tale Of Sante And Kenny Kimes, The Most Notorious Con Artists In America: A Memoir By The Other Son



Synopsis

In 1988 a troubled young man and his flamboyant mother were arrested for murdering a wealthy widow in her New York City mansion. Suddenly America was transfixed by a pair of real-life film noir characters. The media couldn't get enough of the twisted relationship between Sante Kimes and her 23-year-old son, Kenny. But the most chilling story of all was never told - until now. Kent Walker, Sante's elder son, reveals how he survived 40 years of "the Dragon Lady's" very special brand of motherly love and still managed to get away. As a child Kent watched his mother destroy his hardworking father, Ed Walker, and then - with Kent's painful collusion - snare what Sante called "my millionaire". When she married seemingly respectable real-estate developer Ken Kimes, it was a match made in hell. For the next two decades, Kent's mother and stepfather indulged in a globetrotting orgy of criminal behavior, laying waste to each other and anyone who got in the way. When Kent's half brother, Kenny, was born, Kent was 12 years old - old enough to know that he was his younger sibling's only protector.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 16 hours and 38 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: June 27, 2017

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B072WBLMMK

Best Sellers Rank: #70 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > True Crime #101

in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > Crime & Criminals #430 in Books >

Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime

Customer Reviews

For those readers who have read books about psychopaths by "experts" who study them, Kent Walker's book is a completely different take on the subject. Walker, together with investigative reporter Mark Schone, has written a memoir on what it is like to have a sociopathic parent whom he both loves and hates. He talks about how he was taught to help his mother Sante to shoplift at a very early age, later to help her with her fraudulent schemes, and finally the struggle to break away

from her to try and live a decent, law-abiding life with a wife and children of his own. It wasn't easy. Because he had a millionaire stepfather whom he also loved, and who was totally under the influence of this clever and manipulative woman, and a younger half-brother whom he loved and tried to save, Kent Walker was bonded to the family in which he grew up. He tries so hard to understand why he was able to break free from the life of crime, but his brother was not. Throughout his life, and even today, he seems torn about his feelings toward his parents. His biological father once told him, "You won't get closure (paraphrase)." You can search online for Sante and Kenny Kimes and learn about their life of crime, but only here do you get the inside story of these people. This is a shocking and heart-rending memoir, and should be read by anyone who is interested in the people that surround and are affected by a psychopathic member of the family.

I really could not put this book down, except to keep checking online references every once in a while to reassure myself this really happened...and it did. It is absolutely incredible. Really, really something you need to read for yourself to see what humans are capable of...even if you think you have seen or heard it all, this may prove you wrong! At the very least, I am willing to bet you won't be bored...Sante is really the kind of person they have in mind when they say truth is stranger than fiction. Btw, I read this book months ago, have read probably at least fifty books since, and still remember it vividly, if that gives any indication of its impact.

I feel like this book was part truth and part lie. I feel like he has a protective version of the truth and it's only the things he feels comfortable saying out loud that we get to hear. I do not believe that this book was soul baring no holds barred truth. I do believe that his mom and brother had a sexually inappropriate relationship but that the author is either too embarrassed or too proud to speak about it, amongst other things. And having no pictures makes this book no half as good as it could be. The author had an insight into one of the most twisted relationships I have ever heard of, and instead of giving the reader a behind-the-scenes look at it he just barely enhanced upon things we already knew. Mediocre book at best.

When I began reading this book, I quickly realized it was about an odd woman and her quirky son whom I'd seen featured on television news. I actually considered not reading it because of who the book was about. However, after the first few pages I was hooked. The way the writer revealed himself; the good, the bad, and the ugly made the events that unfolded in his childhood, and well into his adulthood very real. He was forthcoming with information that most people would rather

sweep under the rug in fear of harsh judgement. The writer seamlessly puts you in the very room where fighting, and conniving take place. Before you realize it, you are drawn into the family's secrets, as if you had your own place at the dinner table. The writer does an excellent job revealing his vulnerabilities, anger, and fears while revealing, the personal tragedies, and triumphs of having a grifter for a mother. If you're interested in true crime non-fiction, this book will not disappoint.

This was a well written page turner that I found difficult to put down . I don't think I've heard the story of this mother and son duo told by other outlets quite the way Mr Walker did. No one but the author can deliver such an in depth look into what it was like to grow up in an toxic environment.

Well the son starts off the book with honest descriptions of his family and himself. This isn' the tale of the Walton's..but it's intriguing and you wonder why she was allowed to manipulate the system and humans for so long..evil woman. Well written.

After reading this book, there were so many unanswered questions. Why did she do the horrible things she is accused of? Mere greed doesn't explain her behavior. She was wealthy, at least for the greater part of her life. Perhaps she was an excitement junkie, but why the murders? I guess there will never be a satisfactory answer into the psyche of someone so twisted. When one looks for cause and effect, it's always against the backdrop of normal behavior as we understand it. Sante simply moved in an alternative universe of her own devise.

Painfully unflinching about his own role in the otherworldly events perpetrated by his mother, an astounding sociopath and, ultimately, notorious murderer, Walker achieves the near-impossible feat of allowing us to see her as human. Well, almost. The characterization of everyone else in this mesmerizing story is also extraordinarily rich and nuanced. Compelling is too mild a word to describe this book.

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