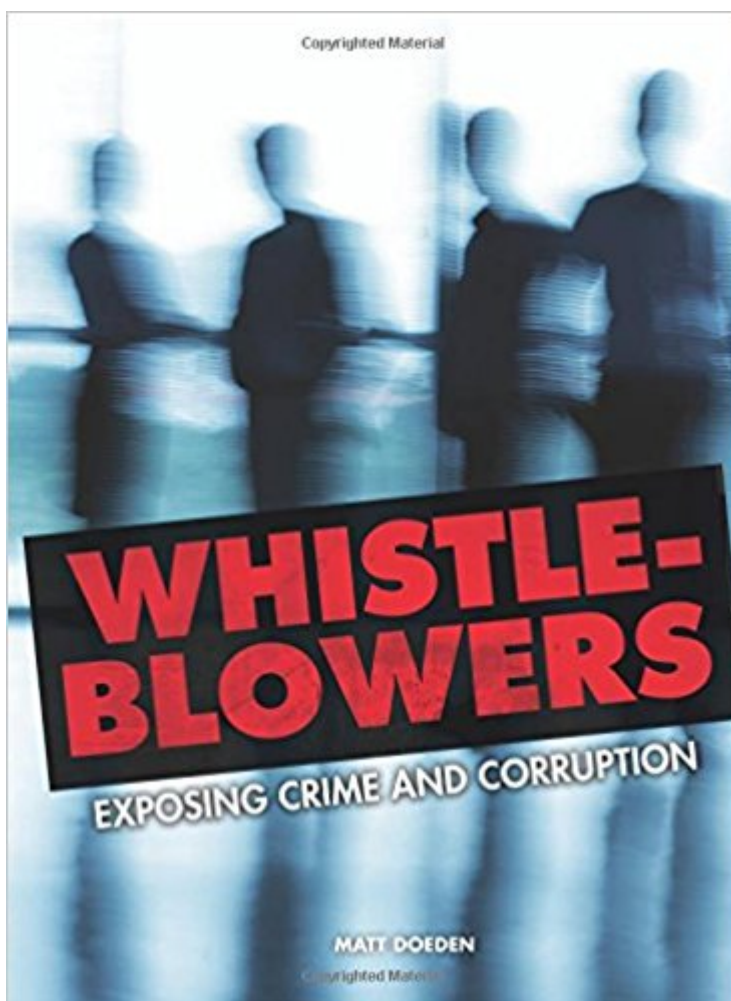


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Whistle-Blowers: Exposing Crime And Corruption (Nonfiction - Young Adult)



Synopsis

Sex abuse. Government spying on civilians. Lying under oath. These aren't the makings for crime novels—they're real-life stories uncovered by whistle-blowers with knowledge of deep, dark secrets. In one headline-grabbing case, Edward Snowden, an information technology specialist, revealed unauthorized US government surveillance around the globe. In another, Kathryn Bolkovac, a United Nations International Police Force monitor, went public with the involvement of UN peacekeeping forces in sex trafficking in war-torn Bosnia. In the 1990s, Jeffrey Wigand, corporate vice president at cigarette manufacturer Brown & Williamson, went public with a report of the ways in which Big Tobacco was lying about the health risks of smoking. In earlier decades, a whistle-blower known only as Deep Throat helped Washington Post reporters track down a plot to bring down the Democratic Party during a presidential election season—a cover-up that went straight to the White House. What drives whistle-blowers to go public with what they know? Is it ethical to breach confidentiality? What laws protect a whistle-blower? And what about the shattered lives that lie in the wake of exposing crime and corruption? Follow the complex stories behind intricate webs of deceit. Listen to whistle-blowers explain their motives. Then decide for yourself if it's worth it to blow the whistle on crime and corruption.

Book Information

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Social Issues

Customer Reviews

Gr 5 Up—This book looks at the most famous cases of whistle-blowing in the recent past. Doeden starts off by examining what kinds of protections have been put in place over time to help protect whistle-blowers from potential threats to their jobs or personal safety. Each chapter includes

a different whistle-blower, such as W. Mark Felt, aka Deep Throat; Jeffrey Wigand, who exposed the risks of tobacco and nicotine; Kathryn Bolkovac, who outed sex trafficking within the UN Peacekeeping Corps; Mike McQueary, a key witness in the Penn State child sex abuse; and Edward Snowden, who exposed the extensive surveillance by the National Security Agency. Because the author presents the cases from the perspectives of the whistle-blowers themselves, the book is somewhat biased in their favor, though there are some sidebars that present other views of the story (particularly with Snowden). Full-color photographs abound, and each image is well captioned, with additional information not found elsewhere in the chapter. There are also brief introductions to related films and books. At under 100 pages, the book is a little light for the intended audience, but there are few other works that cover this topic. A useful purchase. — Heather Massa, East Rockaway Public Library, NY

Matt Doeden was born in southern Minnesota and lived parts of his childhood in Golden Valley, Minnesota, and Madison, Minnesota. He studied journalism at Mankato State University, where he worked at the college newspaper for three years. In his senior year, he served as the paper's Sports Editor, which put him in charge of the entire sports section, the sports writers, and the photographers. He covered mostly college sports, but also the Minnesota Vikings, who held training camp at MSU. His work allowed him to meet and interview people like Dennis Green, Cris Carter, Robert Smith, and more. Matt went on to work as a sports writer for the Mankato paper, and then he got a job as an editor with a small children's publisher called Capstone Press, and in 2003 he decided to start his own business as a freelance writer and editor. Since then Matt has written and edited hundreds of books. Lots of them are on high-interest topics like cars, sports, and airplanes. He also writes and edits on geography, science, and even math.

To squeal or not to squeal, perhaps that is the question that many people have had to ask of themselves. Motives can range from self-serving to serving the needs of others. In this day and age, the term "whistle-blower" is the term many use when people divulge confidential information. The concept is nothing new and in fact there was actually a law enacted to protect the so-called whistle-blowers. During the American Revolution Commodore Esek Hopkins was abusing his position, treating "British prisoners of war with terrible brutality, including torturing them." Yes, there was a whistle-blowing incident and his shocking, immoral actions were exposed. The Continental Congress stepped up to the plate and passed a law to protect those who had exposed him. Whistle-blowers must "weigh

two main factors: social obligation versus the responsibility to protect privileged information. Most people find this very difficult to do because often the fallout can be devastating with the loss of a career and / or harassment. On the other hand, many of these people have gone down in history as heroes whose behavior we should emulate. The consequences are not always clear, part of the unknown that whistle-blowers have to weigh carefully before coming forth with that confidential information. A modern-day example of a whistle-blower is Edward Snowden. He “went public with confidential government documents in 2013 to reveal a massive and unauthorized surveillance campaign of citizens around the globe. The news was awash with the fallout Snowden had to face and is still facing. Is and was he a hero or a whistle-blower of the worst kind? Some individuals realize that being a whistle-blower is essential, but they need to run in by others to gain confidence to come forth. In March 2002, young New Jersey state trooper, Justin Hopson, had to do just that. His dream job could be lost if he reported the fact that his training officer had made an illegal arrest. Justin knew he would face some consequences, but “a group of fellow officers known as the Lords of Discipline” came down hard on him. He had “believed he could make a difference for the better, in this job. Would what Justin did cost him a bit more than he could have ever imagined? There are whistle-blowers who want to come forth, but are tentative. Will the cost be more than they can bear? One such person was W. Mark Felt, a man who had a lot to say about political scandal. Richard M. Nixon so wanted to be elected to the office of the presidency, he was willing to go to any length to get it, even burglary. An ill-hatched plan was to “break into the headquarters of the Democratic national Committee (DNC), a plan that would change history. Felt decided he was going to covertly talk to the press and was known only by the name “Deep Throat.” In this fascinating book you will find out about many whistle-blowers, people who somehow felt they needed to break confidence of one group for the betterment of another. This is a very candid book about whistle-blowers who impacted history young readers will learn from. Each student will be able to make his or her own judgment about the whistle-blowers presented in this book. Some are political, while many are on-the-job people like Sherron Watkins (Enron Corporation) who have decided to speak out. Whistle-blowers discussed include Commodore Esek Hopkins, W. Mark Felt, Jeffrey Wigand, Kathryn Bolkovac, Justin Hopson, Mike McQueary, Edward Snowden, and others. This well-written book would make an excellent read and discuss book in any homeschool or classroom setting. In the back of the book is an index, a short section with five other cases to consider, a Timeline (1777 to 2014), source notes, a

selected bibliography, and additional recommended book, website, and film resources to consider. This book courtesy of the publisher.

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