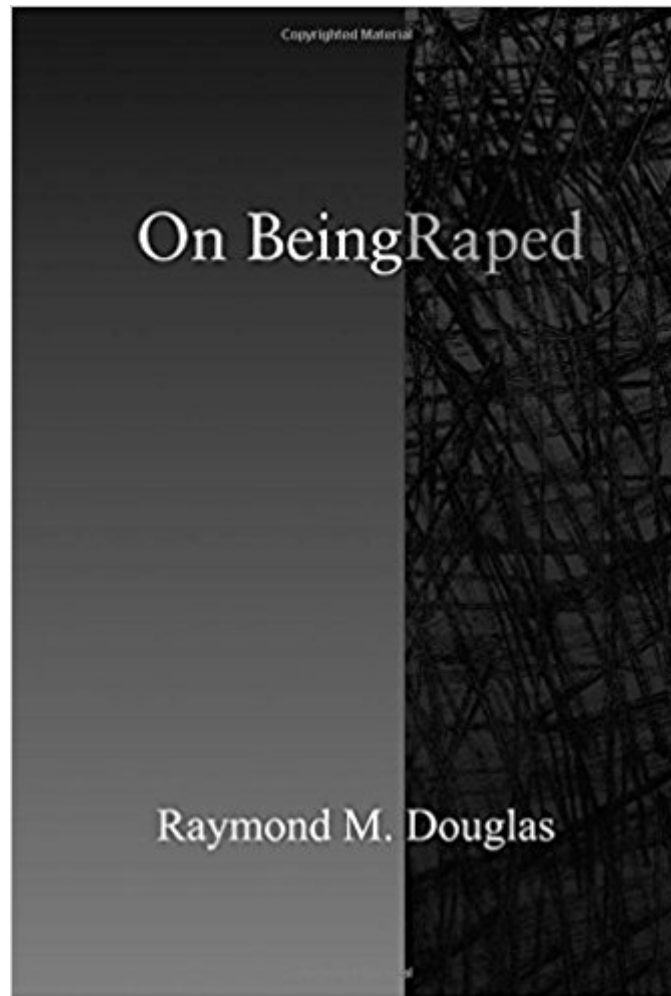




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On Being Raped



Synopsis

A personal and moral inquiry into the crime we do our best to ignore: the rape of adult men. When Raymond M. Douglas was an eighteen-year-old living in Europe, he was brutally raped by a Catholic priest. He eventually moved to the United States and became a highly regarded historian, writing with great care about the violent expulsion of Germans from Eastern Europe after the Second World War, and parsing the complicated moral questions of these actions. But until now, Douglas has been silent about his own experience of trauma. In *On Being Raped*, Douglas recounts this painful event and his later attempts to seek help to lay bare the physical and psychological trauma of a crime we still don't openly discuss: the rape of adult men by men. With eloquence and passion, he examines the requirements society implicitly places upon men who are victims of rape, examines the reasons for our resounding silence around this issue, and reveals how alarmingly prevalent this kind of sexual violence truly is. An insightful and sensitive analysis of a type of bodily violation that we either joke about or ignore, *On Being Raped* promises to open an important dialogue about male rape and what needs to be done to provide adequate services and support for victims. "But before that can happen," writes Douglas, "men who have been raped will have to come out of the shadows... A start has to be made somewhere. This is my attempt at one."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There is so little information or resources available on the topic of male-male raped or forced sodomy. That poverty makes this far too common event even more traumatic for survivors. I am

deeply grateful that the author told his story, and marvel at the eloquence and profoundly elegant thought revealed in his writings. I was particularly impressed with the final chapter, in which he navigates the difficult terrain of trauma and faith and cultural context. Well done, well done. I wish every church leader would read this, but especially Roman Catholic priests.

The subject matter is horrible, but I so admire and praise the author for doing the best he can to be articulate and try to bring this tragedy into world consciousness. It is so naive to think that men can't be raped, and the way the available social service organizations treated him when he sought help was/is ludicrous and inexcusable. I am glad he chose to share his story even though I feel it must have cost him a great deal.

The author is a brave man to bring this subject out in print. I found it very compelling and also disturbing that the subject has been underground for so long and ignored while its victims have had to struggle to cope with life. This book may change that. I hope so.

It is about time something like this was written & I applaud the author for doing what he has done.

• The Church, it transpires, has no fewer than six patron saints of rape victims: St. Agatha, St. Agnes of Rome, St. Dymphna, St. Potamiaena, St. Solange, and St. Maria Goretti. (Why so many, one might ask? but that question surely answers itself.) All of them are female, and none of them was raped. (26) • The book was phenomenally clear, focused, and relentlessly thorough in dissecting the experience, but possessed a dry, sardonic wit that kept a heavy subject from becoming morose. I loved this book, and I am so grateful that Dr. Douglas told his story. This is actually the third book I've read this year that analyzed rape, the other two being • Missoula • by Jon Krakauer and • I Will Find You • by Joanna Connors. Unlike some I don't find this a hard topic to read about. I feel it is vital to read about. Like Douglas writes, the aftermath of a rape leaves the victim knowing in a visceral, expectant way that, • the veil that separates normal life from barbarity and horror is tissue-paper thin, and can be torn aside with shocking ease and a complete lack of warning. Dreadful things can and do happen, and having once happened can do so again. (82) • I choose not to remain ignorant of those dreadful things.

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