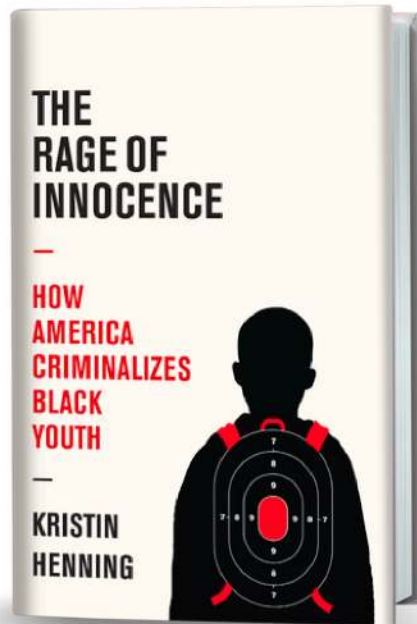


THE RAGE OF INNOCENCE

HOW AMERICA CRIMINALIZES BLACK YOUTH



A brilliant analysis of the foundations of racist policing in America: the day-to-day brutalities, largely hidden from public view, endured by Black youth growing up under constant police surveillance and the persistent threat of physical and psychological abuse.

Drawing upon twenty-five years of experience representing Black youth in Washington, D.C.'s juvenile courts, Kristin Henning confronts America's irrational, manufactured fears of these young people and makes a powerfully compelling case that the crisis in racist American policing begins with its relationship to Black children.

Henning explains how discriminatory and aggressive policing has socialized a generation of Black teenagers to fear, resent, and resist the police, and she details the long-term consequences of racism that they experience at the hands of the police and their vigilante surrogates. She makes clear that unlike White youth, who are afforded the freedom to test boundaries, experiment with sex and drugs, and figure out who they are and who they want to be, Black youth are seen as a threat to White America and are denied healthy adolescent development. She examines the criminalization of Black adolescent play and sexuality, and of Black fashion, hair, and music. She limns the effects of police presence in schools and the depth of police-induced trauma in Black adolescents.

Especially in the wake of the recent unprecedented, worldwide outrage at racial injustice and inequality, *The Rage of Innocence* is an essential book for our moment.

"A serious and thoughtful book about a subject of great importance, and it deserves to be widely read . . ."

—New York Times Book Review

"It offers both a tribute to the humanity of Black children and a searing portrait of what we lose every time we shuttle another Black child into the pipeline."

—Washington Post

"Copiously documented and passionately argued, [The Rage of Innocence] is a powerful and persuasive call for change."

—Publishers Weekly, *starred review*



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KRISTIN HENNING has been representing children accused of crime in Washington, DC for more than twenty-five years and is a nationally recognized trainer and consultant on the intersection of race, adolescence, and policing. Henning was previously the Lead Attorney of the Juvenile Unit at the D.C. Public Defender Service and now serves as the Blume Professor of Law and Director of the Juvenile Justice Clinic and Initiative at Georgetown Law. Henning is the co-founder of a number of initiatives to combat racial injustice in the juvenile legal system, including the Ambassadors for Racial Justice program and a Racial Justice Toolkit for youth defenders. She is also the recipient of many awards, including the 2021 Leadership Prize from the Juvenile Law Center. Henning has written numerous law review articles and other publications advocating for reform in the juvenile legal system.



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