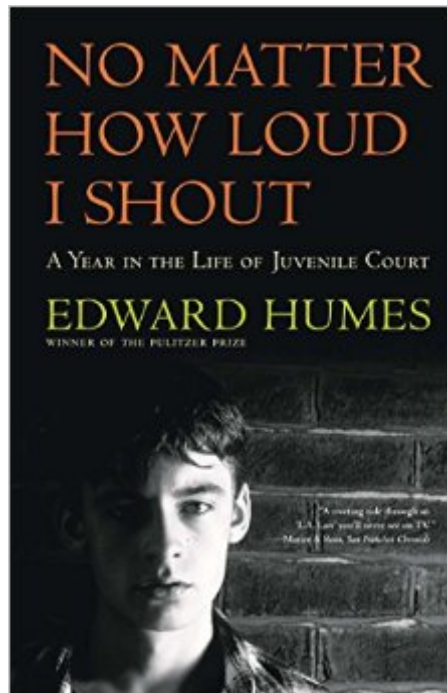


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# NO MATTER HOW LOUD I SHOUT : A Year In The Life Of Juvenile Court



## Synopsis

Now updated with a new introduction and afterword, this award-winning examination of the nation's largest juvenile criminal justice system in Los Angeles by a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist is a very important book with a message of great urgency, especially to all concerned with the future of America's children • (Booklist). In an age when violence and crime by young people is again on the rise, *No Matter How Loud I Shout* offers a rare look inside the juvenile court system that deals with these children and the impact decisions made in the courts had on the rest of their lives. Granted unprecedented access to the Los Angeles Juvenile Court, including the judges, the probation officers, and the children themselves, Edward Humes creates an unforgettable portrait of a chaotic system that is neither saving our children in danger nor protecting us from adolescent violence. Yet he shows us there is also hope in the handful of courageous individuals working tirelessly to triumph over seemingly insurmountable odds. Weaving together a poignant, compelling narrative with razor-sharp investigative reporting, *No Matter How Loud I Shout* is a convincingly reported, profoundly disturbing discussion of the Los Angeles juvenile court's failings, providing terrifying evidence of the system's inability to slow juvenile crime or to make even a reasonable stab at rehabilitating troubled young offenders. Humes draws an alarming portrait of a judicial system in disarray.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I was one of the victims listed in this book. It was an accurate account of what happened from my point of view and gave me some insight into what two affluent teenagers were doing robbing me at

gunpoint in a "supposedly" low crime part of Los Angeles, The Palos Verdes Peninsula. We've since moved and my children are grown with families of their own now. It's no fun looking at "the stupid end" of a gun & one especially in an unsophisticated teenagers hand. My story in the book just goes to prove that the more money you have for defense the better deal you're going to get,period.For the record, our family has been changed forever. I'm a lot more cynical toward someone who looks like a "gang-banger" irrespective of their race. My children have a hatred toward Koreans even though they are Asian (We are Filipinos) themselves and I'm afraid that that bias will be transferred to my grandchildren, I certainly hope not.I just hope the two young men that robbed me that evening will turn their lives around and become productive members of society. My late Grandfather once told me that even though I would not always be able to provide every material wish for my children just spending time loving them would serve them well as adults and it has.Thank God I'm still alive to write this. It all could have been so different.I hope none of you have to experience what we have. God bless you all.

Let me start by saying that I really enjoyed this book. Mr. Humes is a wonderful writing who has the skills to draw the reader in in such a way as to "experience" the things he is writing about. Readers, though, ought to be aware that this is a book about a very specific system-the California Juvenile Justice System-which as most people in the field know is substantially different than, say the juvenile system in Topeka, Kansas. I think part of the book's utility, and the reason I think anyone in the field out to read it, is the way in which Humes makes salient the individuals that make up the larger system in much the way Marc Parent did in Turning Stones.

I read this book for my sociology class. It was the best I've read. The stories of these kids are so involving and twisted that you wonder if this is book is fiction. This gives such insight to the problems of todays juveniles and how the court system fails them repeatedly and how the kids fail themself. Truly sad and yet reminding us how cold life can be and how fortunate some of us actually are relative to these kids. Although you can read this book in a few hours, it's still worth having on your shelf. This book is part indictment of the system and part spotlight on the troubles ahead for us all if it's not corrected.

NMHLIS was written back in 1996. I don't know how much things have changed since, but I can't imagine they're that much better. The difference is that nowadays, a kid who habitually beats up adults and steals their handbags isn't going to be protected by juvenile barriers. They'll try him as an

adult and he'll do time. The justice system in this portrayal is torn between adult and child attitudes. If the kid is tried as a juvenile for theft, he'll end up in a youth facility until adulthood, so if he's 16, he could be in there until he's 21, and that's 5 years! In the adult court, he'd get 6 months, but at the risk of being in an adult prison, where he can be severely exploited or killed. Around this time, Judge Judy Sheindlin wrote "Don't Pee On My Leg and Tell Me It's Raining," about her experiences as a juvenile court judge. The NYC family court was a "criminal college" where kids committed violent crimes, went to youth facilities, came out, went back to their terrible neighborhoods, and back to where they started. NYC had a string of out-of-control killings committed by teenagers, all of whom were repeatedly in trouble. But for murder, the cases had to be moved to adult court, and these kids eventually ended up in adult jail. In "Scared Straight" a convict tells the kids "you're like a dog that keeps peeing on the carpet, after a while the judge doesn't know what to do with you anymore." These kids in NMHLIS would eventually end up serving long sentences in jail. The judges had thrown up their hands and said "I don't know what to do with you anymore!"

Used this book for a class on the inadequacies of the juvenile legal system in rehabilitating youth. It was a wonderful book that gave a first hand description of going through the judicial system and incarceration of youth

Much like Mr. Humes' "Monkey Girl," he combines great writing and outstanding investigative work to produce a must read book. To say that the current approach in dealing with children is dysfunctional would be putting it mildly. A chronically underfunded juvenile system, a short-sighted or unaware populace and no political will to fix this huge cancer is very well depicted in the author's book. Most of the repeat offenders, identified in the system as Sixteen Percenters, know full well how laughably arbitrary and ineffective justice is meted out to them. Though the scenes depicted are about the Los Angeles' juvenile court system, it is indicative of a national problem. Even in my very low crime-rate state of Maine, people who have worked within our juvenile-court system have said that Mr. Humes analysis is right on the money. Though it was published in 1996, his reporting holds up to today's zeitgeist. The book was extremely compelling, but so infuriating that I could barely see straight. If you'll excuse me, I'm going to go hug my two young sons, now.

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