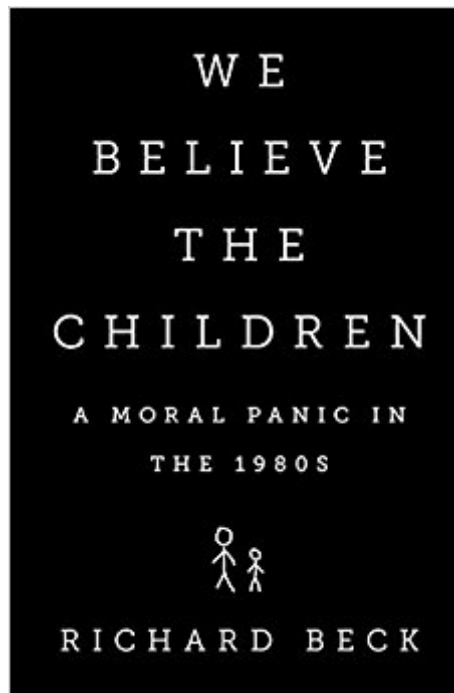




The book was found

We Believe The Children: A Moral Panic In The 1980s



Synopsis

A Wall Street Journal Best Book of 2015 A Boston Globe Best Book of 2015 A brilliant, disturbing portrait of the dawn of the culture wars, when America started to tear itself apart with doubts, wild allegations, and an unfounded fear for the safety of children. During the 1980s in California, New Jersey, New York, Michigan, Massachusetts, Florida, Tennessee, Texas, Ohio, and elsewhere, day care workers were arrested, charged, tried, and convicted of committing horrible sexual crimes against the children they cared for. These crimes, social workers and prosecutors said, had gone undetected for years, and they consisted of a brutality and sadism that defied all imagining. The dangers of babysitting services and day care centers became a national news media fixation. Of the many hundreds of people who were investigated in connection with day care and ritual abuse cases around the country, some 190 were formally charged with crimes, leading to more than 80 convictions. It would take years for people to realize what the defendants had said all along—that these prosecutions were the product of a decade-long outbreak of collective hysteria on par with the Salem witch trials. Social workers and detectives employed coercive interviewing techniques that led children to tell them what they wanted to hear. Local and national journalists fanned the flames by promoting the stories' salacious aspects, while aggressive prosecutors sought to make their careers by unearthing an unspeakable evil where parents feared it most. Using extensive archival research and drawing on dozens of interviews conducted with the hysteria's major figures, n+1 editor Richard Beck shows how a group of legislators, doctors, lawyers, and parents—most working with the best of intentions—set the stage for a cultural disaster. The climate of fear that surrounded these cases influenced a whole series of arguments about women, children, and sex. It also drove a right-wing cultural resurgence that, in many respects, continues to this day.

Customer Reviews

A Wall Street Journal Best Book of 2015 A Boston Globe Best Book of 2015 Intellectually nimble; [Beck's] argument should prove far more enduring than all the lies and self-deceptions, so credulously believed in the 1980s, that this book does a devil of a job correcting. —New York Times Understanding a moral panic requires perspective; distance from the emotional heat of anger and anxiety. Sometimes it is precisely those who didn't live through it who are best suited to providing that perspective. In *We Believe the Children: A Moral Panic in the 1980s*, Richard Beck accomplishes this difficult feat, and he does so calmly, detail by meticulous detail. A thorough account... His important book gives readers

who don't know the story; or who think it is over, so 20th century; an understanding of its lingering, pernicious effects on our lives;. Mr. Beck's book is valuable because it is timely and comprehensive. He not only tells the story of a moral panic with a fresh eye but provides context, identifying the forces that preceded it as well as those that fed it and have kept it going today. — Wall Street Journal

[Download to continue reading...](#)

We Believe the Children: A Moral Panic in the 1980s Back to the 80s: 1980s Fads and Fashion Coloring Book: Adult Coloring Books Fashion, 80s Coloring Book, 1980s Coloring Book, Fashion Coloring Book ... Fashion Coloring Book for Adults) (Volume 1) Panic Attacks Workbook: A Guided Program for Beating the Panic Trick Panic Stations Guide To Statement Analysis: Are they lying to you? (Panic Stations Guide to Life the Universe and Everything Book 14) The Panic Workbook for Teens: Breaking the Cycle of Fear, Worry, and Panic Attacks (An Instant Help Book for Teens) The Trouble with Reality: A Rumination on Moral Panic in Our Time Dangerous Games: What the Moral Panic over Role-Playing Games Says about Play, Religion, and Imagined Worlds Mission of Honor: A moral compass for a moral dilemma Morality and Moral Controversies: Readings in Moral, Social and Political Philosophy The Faith: What Christians Believe, Why They Believe It, and Why It Matters Why We Believe What We Believe: Uncovering Our Biological Need for Meaning, Spirituality, and Truth The Monk and the Yak: Children's Picture Book: Moral Story for Kids on Friendship and Trust in Life, Age 3-10) (Inspiring Children's Books Collection Like, Totally 80's Adult Coloring Book: 1980s Adult Coloring Book Mad World: An Oral History of New Wave Artists and Songs That Defined the 1980s Spoke: Images and Stories from the 1980s Washington, DC Punk Scene Billboard No. 1 Hits of the 1980s: A Sheet Music Compendium (Piano/Vocal/Guitar) (Billboard Magazine) Songs of the 1980s: The New Decade Series with Online Play-Along Backing Tracks Asking the Audience: Participatory Art in 1980s New York We Were Going to Change the World: Interviews with Women from the 1970s and 1980s Southern California Punk Rock Scene Hip Hop on Film: Performance Culture, Urban Space, and Genre Transformation in the 1980s

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)