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Cover; Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction: Fear Eats the Soul; PART ONE. SEX PANIC; 1. Panic: A Guide to the Uses of Fear; 2. Innocents at Home: How Sex Panics Reshaped American Culture; 3. To Catch a Predator: New Monsters, Imagined Risks, and the Erosion of Legal Norms; 4. The Magical Power of the Accusation: How I Became a Sex Criminal and Other True Stories; PART TWO. THE PUNITIVE STATE; 5. Zero Tolerance: Crime and Punishment in the Punitive State; 6. Innocents Abroad: Taboo and Terror in the Global War; 7. Constructing Victimization: How Americans Learned to Love Trauma
8. The Victimology Trap: Capitalism, Liberalism, and Grievance
Conclusion: Whither the Punitive State?; Appendix 1: Race, Incarceration, and Notification; Appendix 2: Notes on Method; Notes; Index; A; B; C; D; E; F; G; H; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; Q; R; S; T; U; V; W; Y; Z

Sommario/riassunto

One evening, while watching the news, Roger N. Lancaster was startled by a report that a friend, a gay male school teacher, had been arrested for a sexually based crime. The resulting hysteria threatened to ruin the life of an innocent man. In this passionate and provocative book, Lancaster blends astute analysis, robust polemic, ethnography, and personal narrative to delve into the complicated relationship between sexuality and punishment in our society. Drawing on classical social science, critical legal studies, and queer theory, he tracks the rise of a modern suburban culture of fear and d