

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910825730103321
Autore	Benedict Helen
Titolo	Virgin or vamp : how the press covers sex crimes // Helen Benedict
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York ; ; London, : Oxford University Press, 1992
ISBN	1-280-44224-7 9786610442249 1-4237-3830-6 0-19-535872-4 1-60129-956-7
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (318 pages)
Disciplina	364.1/53
Soggetti	Sex crimes - Press coverage - United States Press - United States - Public opinion Public opinion - United States Mass media - Objectivity - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliography: p. 295-299 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Intro -- CONTENTS -- INTRODUCTION -- 1. Rape Myths, Language, and the Portrayal of Women in the Media -- 2. Sex Crimes in the Press: A Recent History -- 3. "A Policeman in Every Bedroom": The 1978-1979 Greta and John Rideout Marital Rape Case -- 4. "She Should Be Punished": The 1983-1984 New Bedford "Big Dan's" Gang Rape -- 5. "How Jennifer Courted Death": The 1986 Killing of Jennifer Levin -- 6. The Jogger and the Wolfpack: The 1989-1990 Central Park Jogger Case -- 7. Conclusion: How the Press Should Cover Sex Crimes -- NOTES -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX.
Sommario/riassunto	In the last few years, the national press has lavished coverage on several major sex-related scandals: the Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill hearings, the William Kennedy Smith rape trial, and the Mike Tyson case. With each event came lurid stories pitting either a loose or virginal woman against an unwilling or monstrous man. Such extreme coverage, argues Helen Benedict, perpetuates myths that are harmful to victims of these crimes (and sometimes to the accused). In Virgin or

Vamp Benedict examines the press's treatment of four notorious sex crimes from the past decade--the Rideout marital rape trial in Oregon, the Big Dan's pool table gang rape in Massachusetts, the "Preppy Murder" in New York City, and the Central Park jogger case--and shows how victims are labelled either as virgins or vamps, a practice she condemns as misleading and harmful. Benedict also looks at other factors that perpetuate the misunderstanding of rape. For instance, she shows how the New York press presented the Central Park jogger rape case as motivated by racism because of its unwillingness to consider rape an issue of gender. She also addresses our inherent language bias, the press's tendency to use sexually suggestive language to describe crime victims, and its preference for crimes against whites. In conclusion, Benedict offers a number of solutions that will help reporters cover these increasingly common crimes without further harming the victims, the defendants, or public understanding..
