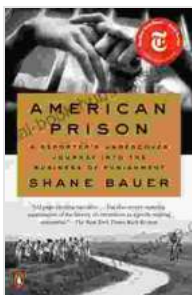


# Reporter Undercover Journey Into The Business Of Punishment: A Long Tail of Injustice

In the United States, the criminal justice system is a big business. And like any other business, it is driven by profit. This has led to a system that is more focused on punishment than rehabilitation, and that disproportionately impacts people of color and the poor.



## American Prison: A Reporter's Undercover Journey into the Business of Punishment by Shane Bauer

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 37099 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 366 pages



To expose the shocking truth about the business of punishment, reporter went undercover for a year, working in various roles within the criminal justice system. What he found was a system that is stacked against the poor and the disadvantaged, and that is more interested in making money than in serving justice.

One of the most disturbing things that reporter found was the widespread use of private prisons. Private prisons are for-profit companies that house inmates for a fee. This creates a perverse incentive for prisons to keep their beds full, and to do whatever it takes to generate revenue.

As a result, private prisons have been found to engage in a number of abuses, including:

- Overcrowding
- Inadequate healthcare
- Use of excessive force
- Denial of basic necessities

In one case, reporter witnessed a private prison guard beating an inmate for no reason. When he reported the incident to his superiors, they told him to keep quiet or he would lose his job.

The use of private prisons is just one example of how the criminal justice system has become a business. Other examples include the use of for-profit probation companies, which charge people fees for supervision and other services; the use of asset forfeiture laws, which allow police to seize property from people who have been arrested but not convicted of a crime; and the use of mandatory minimum sentences, which require judges to impose harsh sentences on certain crimes, regardless of the circumstances.

These are just a few of the ways in which the criminal justice system has become a business. And as long as it remains a business, it will continue to

fail the people it is supposed to serve.

## **The Human Cost of Mass Incarceration**

The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world. In 2016, there were over 2.3 million people in prison or jail in the United States. This is more than the total number of people incarcerated in all of Europe.

Mass incarceration has had a devastating impact on communities of color. African Americans are incarcerated at a rate that is five times higher than whites. And Latinos are incarcerated at a rate that is twice as high as whites.

Mass incarceration has also had a devastating impact on families. When a parent is incarcerated, children are more likely to drop out of school, get involved in crime, and experience poverty.

The human cost of mass incarceration is immeasurable. It is a stain on our nation's conscience.

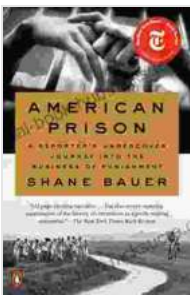
## **The Long Tail of Injustice**

The criminal justice system is not just failing the people it is supposed to serve. It is also failing the taxpayers who foot the bill. The United States spends more money on corrections than any other country in the world. In 2016, the United States spent over \$80 billion on corrections. This is more than the total amount of money spent on education by all 50 states combined.

The long tail of injustice is a heavy burden on our society. It is a burden that we can no longer afford to bear.

The criminal justice system in the United States is in need of major reform. We need to end mass incarceration, reduce the use of private prisons, and invest in rehabilitation programs. We also need to address the racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

The long tail of injustice is a serious problem, but it is not insurmountable. We can create a more just and equitable criminal justice system, but it will take hard work and dedication from all of us.

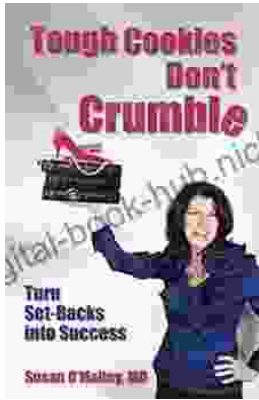


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