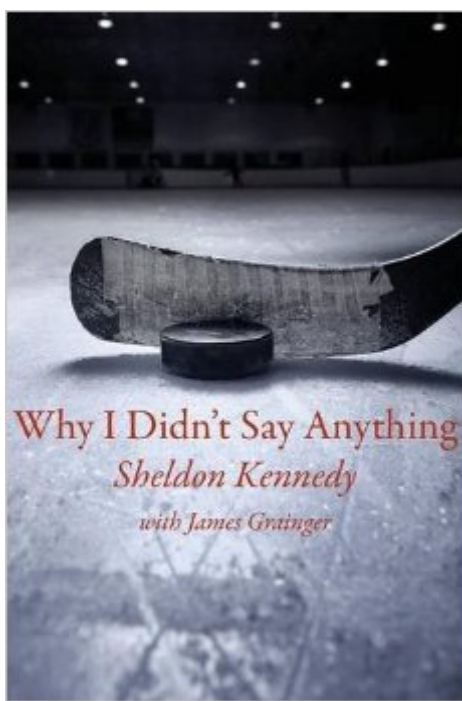


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Why I Didn't Say Anything



Synopsis

In 1996, Sheldon Kennedy rocked the insular world of Canadian hockey by announcing that his former minor-league coach, Graham James-the Hockey News 1989 Man of the Year-had sexually abused him more than 300 times. The media portrayed Kennedy as a hero for breaking the code of silence in professional hockey and bringing James to justice. The heroic myth intensified in 1998 when Kennedy announced that he was going to in-line skate from Newfoundland to British Columbia to raise awareness of sexual abuse. The skate raised over \$1 million for Canadian Red Cross sexual abuse programs, and Kennedy settled in Calgary with his wife and young daughter. Anyone who has followed hockey is familiar with the story of ex-NHL player Sheldon Kennedy. As one of the most promising hockey talents to emerge from the Canadian minor leagues in the last two decades, Kennedy was destined for hockey greatness. But after he was drafted by the Detroit Red Wings in 1988, he attracted more attention for his off-ice antics than for his contributions to the score sheet. Plagued by rumours of drug and alcohol abuse and a string of injuries, Kennedy drifted from team to team. The happy ending promised by the headlines never materialized. Still haunted by the demons of sexual abuse, Kennedy's life spiralled out of control. He has come forward to tell his story, and the story of coach Graham James, who eventually was released from prison and coached hockey in Europe.

Book Information

Paperback: 246 pages

Publisher: Insomniac Press (January 9, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1554830362

ISBN-13: 978-1554830367

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviewsÂ (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #881,912 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #108 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Hockey #332 inÂ Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hockey #804 inÂ Books > Sports & Outdoors > Winter Sports

Customer Reviews

Sheldon Kennedy was a hockey player that seemed destined for greatness. He played for Canada's gold-medal-winning at the 1988 World Junior Hockey Championship. Then when he reached the

major leagues he fell apart. It never seemed that his skill or talent was too low, but the drinking, drugs and other off the court antics seemed to create an atmosphere doomed for failure. He drifted through three teams in a nine year career, never reaching the heights that seemed within his grasp. Upon his retirement, he announced that during his early years of being coached by Graham James he had been sexually molested by James several hundred times. Most of this book is on the after effects in Kennedy's life as a result of the abuse. It is a story of using drugs and alcohol in an attempt to heal what never should have been in the first place. It was a fierce struggle that is continuing to this day.

This book isn't for the weak at heart. Sheldon hockey player was the first to come out with allegations against Graham James. The story rocked the hockey community. Although, in recent times, Theo Fleury has received more news for *Playing With Fire*, I found this one to be a "better" read. It was more coherent and Sheldon is somewhat more eloquent- not relying on cursing to get his picture across. Don't be fooled, this book is not an easy read due to the subject matter, but read in conjunction with Theo's book you get the "whole" picture. Both men have dealt with the devastation well into their adult lives and let us in on what went on, for them, both on and off the ice.

I grew up as a big hockey fan of Sheldon Kennedy. I was horrified when I read about what Graham James did as a coach and then after reading this book, it makes me sick to read what all happened and how much affect something like that can have on a young child. It was well written and hard to put down. My brother in law doesn't read and I left him borrower this book over a camping trip and he read the book all day long and finished it in one day. It is very well written.

What a powerful and frightening story. Sheldon tells it unflinchingly; it's almost brutal in its honesty. This book should be required reading for every parent, teacher, police officer; it should just be required reading, period.

The story portion of it was good. I thought the end of the book could have used some work. There wasn't enough focus on whether Graham was convicted of anything after the judge went easy on him. What about all the other victims? Did they ever prosecute? How are Jana and Ryan doing? There were some errors in transcribing. A few words out of place, but overall a good read.

One of the best and easiest to read autobiographies I have ever read. I would recommend this book

to anyone, especially hockey fans. Sheldon Kennedy is very brave for Making his story public.

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