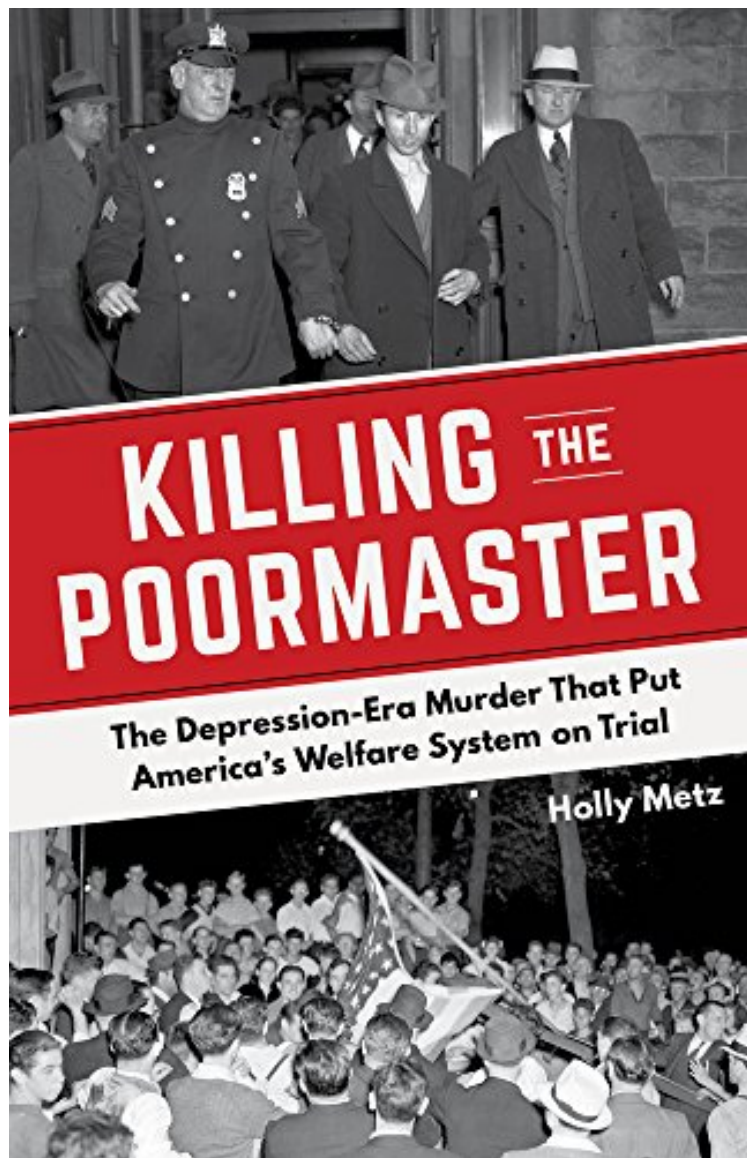


(Read ebook) Killing the Poormaster: The Depression-Era Murder That Put America's Welfare System on Trial

Killing the Poormaster: The Depression-Era Murder That Put America's Welfare System on Trial

Holly Metz

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Holly Metz : Killing the Poormaster: The Depression-Era Murder That Put America's Welfare System on Trial before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Killing the Poormaster:

The Depression-Era Murder That Put America's Welfare System on Trial:

On February 25, 1938, Hoboken's reviled poormaster, Harry Barck, wielding power over who received public aid, was murdered, the prosecution would assert, by an unemployed mason named Joe Scutellaro. In denying Scutellaro money, Barck had suggested that the man's wife prostitute herself rather than ask the city for aid. The men scuffled. Scutellaro insisted Barck fell on his own paper spike; the police claimed he grabbed the spike and stabbed Barck in the heart. A team led by celebrated attorney Samuel Leibowitz of Scottsboro Boys fame argued that Scutellaro's struggle with the poormaster was a symbol of larger social ills. The issues examined in *Killing the Poormaster*—massive unemployment, endemic poverty, and the inadequacy of public assistance—remain vital today.

"A vivid and illuminating book. By focusing on particular events in the late 1930s Holly Metz manages to reveal the political dynamics of relief and the real tragedies our policy produces." Frances Fox Piven, author, *Regulating the Poor*, and Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York "Holly Metz offers a grim and fascinating glimpse of Americans left to the mercy of petty bureaucrats and party pols once federal relief was withdrawn in the mid-1930s. Gripping history, *Killing the Poormaster* is also a warning to those who would continue to casually slash assistance programs today. A powerful and compelling book." Stephen Pimpare, author, *A People's History of Poverty in America* "Holly Metz not only opens wide a window on a fascinating epoch in American history, she sheds light on the bitter class enmity that continues to plague us today. *Killing the Poormaster* is a meticulous and mesmerizing look at our past, the story of one man who struck back at an unfair system and in so doing, ripped the cover off a city's legacy of corruption and injustice." Anthony DePalma, author, *City of Dust* and *The Man Who Invented Fidel*