

[DOWNLOAD] The Road to Hell: The True Story of George Jackson, Stephen Bingham and the San Quentin Massacre

The Road to Hell: The True Story of George Jackson, Stephen Bingham and the San Quentin Massacre

Paul Liberatore

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Paul Liberatore : The Road to Hell: The True Story of George Jackson, Stephen Bingham and the San Quentin Massacre before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Road to Hell: The True Story of George Jackson, Stephen Bingham and the San Quentin Massacre*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting history of a tragic event By Mark Jacobs I recently went on a tour of San Quentin prison. We were shown the spot where George Jackson was killed in 1971. I wasn't satisfied at all with the explanation of the event made by the tour guide, an officer with the CDC. This is a history written 25 years after the event. Still a lot of unanswered questions remain. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well Done By Harriet The detailed cross cultural and racial revolutionary relationship between Jackson and Bingham could only happen in America. Interested in American history and resistance to inequality, I highly recommend this book.

Examines the relationship of Black Panther George Jackson and his lawyer.

From Library Journal George Jackson, black revolutionary and author of *Soledad Brother* (1971), was killed on August 21, 1971 in an escape attempt at San Quentin Prison. Bingham, one of Jackson's lawyers, was suspected of having

passed Jackson a gun that same day. Three guards and two white inmates were murdered and others injured during the melee. Bingham went into hiding for 13 years, turning himself over to authorities in 1984. A jury subsequently acquitted him of conspiracy and murder charges. Liberatore's credentials for writing this account are solid: he covered Bingham's trial for the San Francisco Chronicle and had access to previously secret FBI reports, investigations, surveillance, and wiretaps of the Black Panthers and other radical groups. Even so, he readily admits that certain questions remain unanswered. Jo Durden Smith's *Who Killed George Jackson?* (LJ 10/1/76) speculates on a government conspiracy, while Gregory Armstrong's *The Dragon Has Come* (LJ 6/15/74) sheds light on Jackson's persona from someone close to him. While not definitive, this straightforward account is recommended for most libraries. ?Gary D. Barber, SUNY at Fredonia Lib. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist

Journalist Liberatore has written an in-depth account of the infamous San Quentin massacre that is as much a compelling account of the 1971 prison riot as it is a snapshot of the U.S. during the political upheavals of the late 1960s. *Road to Hell* focuses on the massacre's two protagonists: George Jackson, Black Panther field marshal and author of the prison memoir *Soledad Brother*, and his radical lawyer, Stephen Bingham. Armed with a 9mm pistol, Jackson launched the riot that ultimately resulted in his own death as well as that of five others. Suspected of passing the pistol to Jackson, Bingham fled to Europe. The differences between the two, Jackson, a working-class black man convicted of a \$70 robbery, and Bingham, a white Yale-educated lawyer from a prominent New England family, provide the most compelling material for the book. Liberatore seems to dwell mainly on Bingham. He was the more accessible subject, but Bingham also personified the New Left radical most clearly. Bingham's political awakening at Yale, his activism at Berkeley in the late '60s, his exile in Europe and return to the U.S. to face trial in 1983 is a stunning story. Ted Leventhal

From Kirkus sA fast-paced account, bloody and suspenseful, of a defining event in the history of the New Left. On August 21, 1971, the radical writer (*Soledad Brother*) and Black Panther leader George Jackson tried to shoot his way out of San Quentin Prison, where he had been jailed on a murder charge. Jackson died; so did three guards and two other inmates. The breakout attempt had been carefully planned, writes Bay Area journalist Liberatore, but no one could foresee its reverberations. One man whose life was forever altered was Jackson's white attorney Stephen Bingham, "blue-blooded, reared in wealth and privilege," who had come to embrace Jackson's goals of a unified political struggle. ("When the races start fighting," Jackson had written, "all you have is one maniac group against the other. That's just what the pigs want.") After Jackson's death Bingham went underground, a wanted man for his supposed role in smuggling a pistol for Jackson into the prison; he resurfaced a dozen years later and defended himself in a dramatic, emotional trial whose recounting occupies the last part of the book. Liberatore traces the evolution of Jackson and Bingham's political thought through the tumultuous years of Vietnam and the civil-rights struggle, and his portrait of the ever-changing New Left will fascinate those too young to remember times full of what a San Quentin official aptly called "bullshit talk by dilettante revolutionaries." While clearly admiring Jackson and Bingham for the strength of their convictions, Liberatore is no hero-worshiper; neither does he entertain radical-chic nostalgia for an era whose wounds are still fresh. Published to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the attempted breakout, Liberatore's chronicle adds considerably to our understanding of that time of trouble. -- Copyright ©1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.