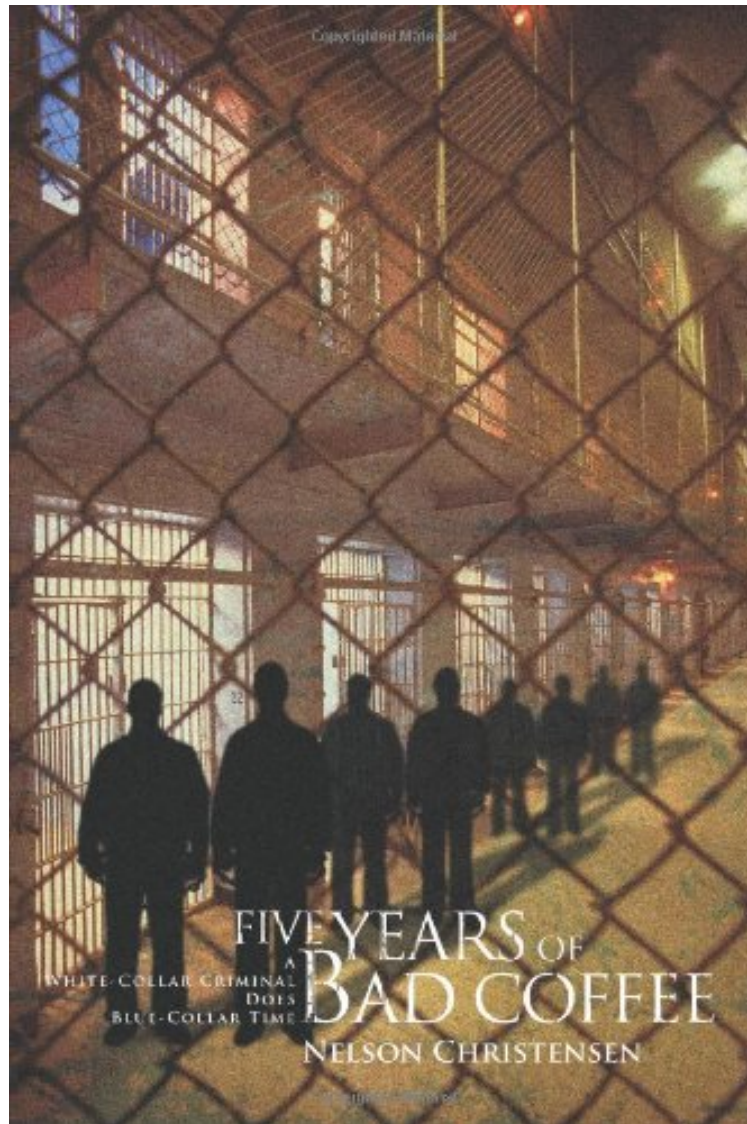


(Library ebook) Five Years of Bad Coffee: A White-Collar Criminal Does Blue-Collar Time

Five Years of Bad Coffee: A White-Collar Criminal Does Blue-Collar Time

Nelson Christensen

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Nelson Christensen : Five Years of Bad Coffee: A White-Collar Criminal Does Blue-Collar Time before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Five Years of Bad Coffee: A White-Collar Criminal Does Blue-Collar Time:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Woman's Point of View By Audrey Hepburn The author's

description of the bus in the first 2 lines of the book made me feel cold and wet, just like he described it. However, as I got more into it, I felt his description of everything was too lengthy. That was about the author. The story is good, but I think it's more for a man. The blurb said prison changed his life for the better, but he didn't write about that, and therefore, I felt let down at the end. Also, there was a lot of obscenity, which probably goes with the territory, but I found it to be offensive from a woman's point of view..3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good but not perfect

By Matthew DandaI enjoyed this book because for some strange reason I am fascinated by the perspective of a white, middle-class male in a typical American prison. It is a nice collection of his personal musings and writings, presented in chronological order. The only critique is that it had the potential to be so much more...if only he had the benefit of a professional editor to smooth out the bumps. For example, he often talks about the friendships he made with other prisoners, but never really described these friends in enough detail that we got to know them ourselves. He spoke of the we're-all-in-this-together-so-let's-make-it-work attitude of the guards, and referenced neurotic and/or socially inept female guards, but never really showed us more than these few broad statements. He talked about how he grew intellectually from all the reading he did in jail, but never really demonstrated his growth in his stories. And finally, he didn't even touch on the effects of his incarceration on his family, friends, and "outside" life. The very brief descriptions of the visits from his friends and relatives suggest that they themselves had a relaxed attitude toward the legal system, and I would have liked to have known more about them, so that I could connect his personal life with his propensity to commit a crime. So it was a good read, and I did enjoy it, but I lament that it could have been so, so much better with some polishing.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Ever wonder what's it like to go to prison?

By Bobo not FifiChristensen is that rare criminal that's not white collar enough to do time in a country club prison but literate enough to write a good tale. Although I've never been inside a jail I suspect this book captures the nuance of the entire experience. He speaks with authority, humor and self awareness. I stumbled on Five Years by chance. It's good. Buy it and read it.

Prison is in many ways not as bad as one expects, and in some ways it is worse. It was different for me, as a white 58-year-old professional with no prior record, than it was for many of my younger fellow inmates. In a strictly physical sense, prison is generally not dangerous or brutal. You can safely "drop the soap" (Just don't bend over to pick it up!)It's every middle-class American's worst nightmare. One day, author Nelson Christensen was a successful and respected attorney. The next, he is charged with fraud and embezzlement and is on his way to several years in prison.Landing first in a tough and nasty high security prison, then in a remote forest labor camp, and finally herding cows on a prison farm, Christensen lives in close confinement and works with men of all races, most of them half his age. He is beat up twice by fellow inmates for comments he makes from his smart-ass lawyer's mouth. After resolving to do "good time," Christensen decides to make the best of his situation. He works hundreds of hours with significant success in preparing appeals and petitions for his fellow prisoners. He also writes songs and poems about his experience and is a popular entertainer among his peers and the staff.Five Years of Bad Coffee is an upbeat, inspiring story about a man who resolves to face the punishment for his crimes and, in the end, comes out a better person from the experience.

About the AuthorNelson Christensen lives in Seattle, Washington.