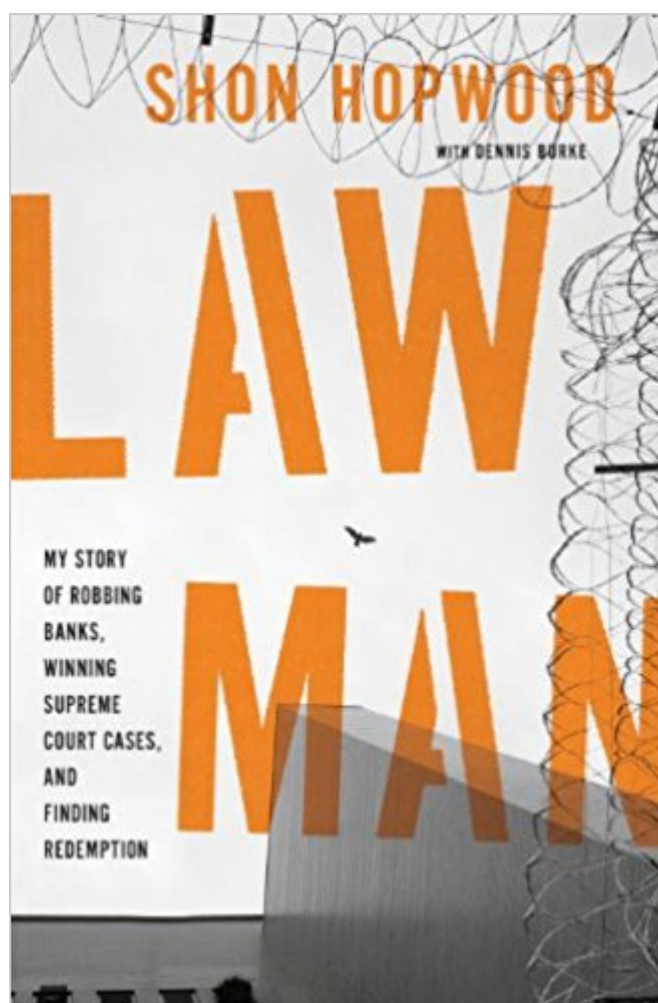


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Law Man: My Story Of Robbing Banks, Winning Supreme Court Cases, And Finding Redemption



Synopsis

Law Man is an improbable-but-true memoir of redemption -- the story of a young bank robber who became the greatest jailhouse lawyer in American history, and who changed not just his own life, but the lives of everyone around him. Shon Hopwood was a good kid from a good Nebraskan family, a small-town basketball star whose parents had started a local church. Few who knew him as a friendly teen would have imagined that, shortly after returning home from the Navy, he'd be adrift with few prospects and plotting to rob a bank. But rob he did, committing five heists before being apprehended. Only twenty three and potentially facing twelve years in Illinois' Pekin Federal Prison, Shon feared his life was already over. He'd shamed himself and his loving family and friends, and a part of him wanted to die. He wasn't sure at first if he'd survive the prison gangs, but slowly glimmers of hope appeared. He earned some respect on the prison basketball court, received a steady flow of letters from hometown well wishers, including a note from a special girl whom he'd thought too beautiful to ever pay him notice and, most crucially, he secured a job in the prison law library. It was an assignment that would prove his salvation. Poring over the library's thick legal volumes, Shon discovered that he had a knack for the law, and he soon became the go-to guy for inmates seeking help. Then came a request to write a complex petition to the Supreme Court a high-wire act of jailhouse lawyering that had never before met with success. By the time Shon walked out of Pekin Prison he'd pulled off a series of legal miracles, earned the undying gratitude of numerous inmates, won the woman of his dreams, and built a new life for himself far greater than anything he could have imagined. A story that mixes moments of high-adrenaline with others of deep poignancy, Law Man is a powerful reminder that even the worst mistakes can be redeemed through faith, hard work and the love and support of others.

Book Information

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Crown; First Edition edition (August 7, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0307887839

ISBN-13: 978-0307887832

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1.3 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 90 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #619,240 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #218 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > Midwest #438 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Lawyers & Judges #507 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Law Enforcement

Customer Reviews

"Magnificent" the story will inspire anyone who reads it. --Michael Santos, Huffington Post

"A story that moves from bleak to fairy-tale fantastic [the] transformation is both moving and inspiring. --Bookpage

"Tells a good story of the deepest kind of redemption. Well, written, inspiring and thoroughly enjoyable. --Tim Challies, Challies.com

"Affecting an unusual tale of punishment and redemption readers will root for Hopwood, as attempts to follow a different path. --Kirkus Reviews

"The only thing more remarkable than Shon Hopwood's against-all-odds redemption is the skill with which he's told his story. A good lawyer needs brains, compassion, insight, and a sense of humor. LAW MAN displays all these traits in abundance. The verdict is in, and this is an outstanding book." -- Jeffrey Ian Ross, Ph.D., coauthor BEHIND BARS: SURVIVING PRISON

"LAW MAN transcends the 'prison memoir' genre and offers a redemptive tale of the human spirit. From his damning portrait of his own transgressions to his exploration of criminal law, family, God, and love, Shon Hopwood paints a broad, troubling, wonderful canvass of a life transformed." --James S. Hirsch, New York Times bestselling author of HURRICANE: THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF RUBIN CARTER

"A magnificent book that captures the complexity of the American prison system both its casual savagery and its unanticipated ennobling aspects. What is ironic about this tale is also what is hugely intriguing, that a man sentenced to ten years for flouting the law is ultimately redeemed by his passion for the law, and for justice. This amazing story provides hope that people really can change their lives and make a difference. --Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean of the University of California, Irvine School of Law, and author of THE CONSERVATIVE ASSAULT ON THE CONSTITUTION

SHON HOPWOOD found love, a professional calling, and redemption while in prison. He now lives in Seattle with his wife and two children and attends law school. DENNIS BURKE cowrote the bestselling The Translator.

This memoir is, hands down, an entirely splendid reading experience. Shon and Annie have much to disclose on the human condition--covering the topics of multiple bank robberies, a 10 yr stint in federal prison during which he discovered a passion for law and brought cases to the supreme court, death, anorexia, spiritual redemption, and rebirth into love, freedom, family, and law school. If you are human, alive, flawed, and have ever made a mistake, here's your summer read. And yes, there is a fair amount of Christian sentiment--to those who are not like-minded, I was not put off. This review is coming from someone who is culturally Jewish and somewhat wary of much of the born again rhetoric. This book is for everyone.

I was looking forward to reading this book for several reasons. Mainly, I came to "meet" Shon Hopwood after he got out of prison and was working for Cockle and our firm had occasion to use their services. When he first told me he had robbed banks, served time and was writing a book, I couldn't wait for it to come out as I was admittedly very curious to read "his story." I found the book to be extremely compelling and read it in one sitting. Does it talk about his past and the bad decisions he made despite growing up in what appeared to be a supportive, loving family? Yes. Does it talk about prison life and what it was like being in the system and surviving? Absolutely. But the most impressive part to me was reading about a young man who not only learned from his mistakes, but somehow ended up on a road to helping others in prison with their appeals. This is the story of someone who decided that his past unfortunate choices were not going to define him and turn him into a person spending a lifetime of being in and out of prison. Instead, he immersed himself in legal books and studied the law, so he could help those around him who needed help with their appeals and, in turn, helped him get through his sentence. He took that knowledge to work in the legal field, and is now on a path toward law school. With Shon's willingness to make amends to his family and the surprising support of his community, he learned that his life could get back on a better track. Shon does a great job showing the present time and then flashing back to discuss his past. The relationship with Annie and coming to grips with his own faith is expertly woven throughout the book as well. In short, I found this book to be an inspiring reminder that it's never too late to start over in life. We can all have a second chance if we will just make the decisions we know to be right.

Hopwood's book is skillfully written, tightly edited, and moves so briskly it's hard to imagine how interminable ten years must have seemed in reality. That he survived and emerged intact is a

testament not only to his own strength, but to that of his family and friends. As Anthony Hopkins said in the movie "The Edge," "What one man can do, another man can do." If there is one Shon Hopwood, there are others who have the same potential. Failing to identify and salvage them is a tragic, unacceptable failure of our current system of justice. Convicted felons and their families need the perspective, hope and encouragement Shon's story offers. I will be following his progress and looking forward to knowing "the rest of the story."

This book is a great read for anyone. If you like a romance, you get that. If you like stories of redemption, its here. Its a fast read and a real page turner. But this book could do so much more good if it was available in paperback. Why paperback? Because this book can't be sent to prisoners as a hardback book. Only paperbacks are allowed to be mailed into prisons. I think books like Lawman should be required reading by every prisoner. Its one thing for someone to do their time in prison, quite another to build a life once they get out. This book gives a vital ingredient needed....HOPE. Shouldn't every prisoner read this story so they have an example of hope that can inspire them to build a great life once they get out?

What a great story! Hard to beat for true "Horatio Alger" impact about a misguided and indifferent young man from the Midwest who idly proposes bank robbery to his equally bored friend. Five "jobs" later the Author is sent to federal prison for 12 years at age 21. The turnaround in prison to become a "jailhouse lawyer" successfully petitioning the nation's highset court, sharing the joy of young and unrequited love turned "requited" is nothing short of miraculous. Bank robber felon to law school. What a great and inspiring read. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in a "feel good" book.
CE "Ted" Watts

This is sure to be a bestseller! A heartfelt true story that sounds like it was made for the movies! It is filled with every emotion from guilt, sorrow & remorse to redemption, love and inspiration. A unique way of understanding God's plan for all of us, listening to him when he speaks to us, and trusting in him without always knowing the outcome. A reminder about the good people in our lives who are put there for a purpose. Very thought provoking and enjoyable! I and a family member both finished the book in one setting because you just couldn't put it down!

This was a fantastic book and I couldn't put it down! Had it been fictional it would have been a great story but the fact that this is a real-life account makes it amazing. I have always believed that people

can change and Shon proves that! I am so glad for him that there are others out there who believe the same and gave him a chance to prove himself. This book kept me interested, made me cry, made me chuckle and made me think differently about our prison system. Great book!

This was a very special read for me! I worked for the Federal Prison System for over 20 years, most of it as a Counselor. Shon was on my caseload. This is the most amazing thing that can happen when something like this happens for someone! Very proud of him and what he has become and is doing to help others! This is a very easy and good read! Highly suggest this!!! Extremely proud!!!!!!

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