

## What Critics Are Saying

### That Punk Jimmy Hoffa: Coffey's Transfer at War with the Teamsters

#### Comments:

"*That Punk Jimmy Hoffa!* sizzles with mob energy. It's a page-turner."—Steve Fischer, bestselling author of *When the Mob Ran Vegas*

An impressively candid, informatively detailed, inherently fascinating insider account, *That Punk Jimmy Hoffa! Coffey's Transfer at War with the Teamsters* is a unique and extraordinary historical footnote to the history of the national teamsters union and the corruption that was to eventually take it down. Unreservedly recommended for both community and academic library collections.—*Midwest Book Review*

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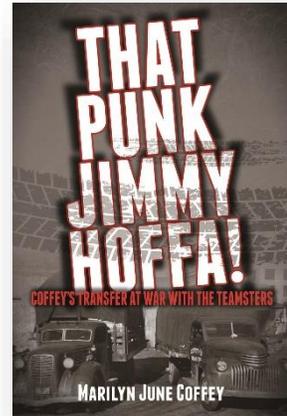
★★★★ This was a really good book. First off, I don't know much about Jimmy Hoffa except that he lived in Michigan and he is buried all over the Country! So, this book told a lot about the man and his practices, which were not on the up and up. He was mean and corrupt.

Tom Coffey took the rare stand against him for many years (20+) until he finally sold his Company so that he did not bow to Hoffa.

This gutsy and honest. book is told by his daughter, Marilyn. It is well written and I enjoyed her style. It was easy and fast to read. I would recommend it.—Bonnie Kernene, NetGalley Reviewer

★★★★ "This **engrossing book** tells the story of a family's reluctant participation in public affairs at a national level."

Marilyn June Coffey's *That Punk Jimmy Hoffa!* is a work of narrative nonfiction about the author's father's struggle against the Teamsters Union, led by Jimmy Hoffa, during the second half of the 1950s. It is a surprisingly fast-paced and highly personal account of a moment in American history and of those who played major roles in it.



The book's primary narrative concerns Tom Coffey, the owner of a Nebraska-based trucking company, and his fight against the Teamsters, who insisted on unionizing the company's employees. The book details the machinations of the Teamsters, led by Hoffa, as they did all they could to force Coffey to sign a union contract. Coffey resisted them to the point of having to sell his company.

After losing his business, Tom Coffey continued to fight the Teamsters, culminating in his testimony before the U.S. Senate Rackets Committee. The book not only shows Tom Coffey's side of that struggle, but also embellishes the historical record with narrative accounts of meetings between Hoffa and his associates, and interactions between players in the narrative, including Robert Kennedy and J. Edgar Hoover.

Threaded throughout the book is the younger Coffey's own story of how her father's troubles reverberated at home, and later followed her to college, where news of his failing business was well-known. Later, she got married, got politically active, and came into her own as a writer.

The book is composed of very short sections—all or nearly all of them are between one and two pages in length. This makes for fast-paced reading, giving the impression that history is whipping by as it is related. This earns the book a certain creative license, as it delivers private conversations for which there could be no official record. It gets away with this fictionalizing thanks in part to how brief the embellished scenes are.

The book is well-researched with an extensive bibliography. Its portrayal of figures like Jimmy Hoffa are no doubt based on historical record. He comes across as brash and pugilistic, reflecting the audacious measures he took to gain and exert power. The purpose of the book is to flesh out a moment in our national narrative, and it accomplishes exactly that.

*That Punk Jimmy Hoffa!* marries a personal account with the historical record. It tells the engrossing story of a family's reluctant participation in public affairs at a national level.—Robert Foreman, Foreword Clarion Review

Marilyn Coffey's entertaining new book about her father's battle with mob-connected Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa is a page-turning true story that only a daughter could tell. —Carole Rosenthal

★★★★This was a pretty good book. It's an insider's look at how Jimmy Hoffa tried to be a bully and lost.—Lisabeth Racine NetGalley Reviewer

*That Punk Jimmy Hoffa!* is loaded with well-researched history, features characters who jump off the pages, and moves at a brisk pace. Highly recommended.—Dan Reynolds, Author, *Dangerous DNA*

I was still in grade school when Mr. Hoffa disappeared. After reading the book I say whatever he got he deserved. The book was eye opening and told you things that you normally wouldn't read in the papers.—Sophie French, NetGalley Reviewer

Marilyn Coffey's superb research and compelling storytelling create a must-read tale.—  
Wayne M. Anson, Arthur and President of the Nebraska Writers Guild

★★★ Both Sides of the Struggle: Anyone who has ever heard of the American labor movement knows who Jimmy Hoffa is. Depending on what side of the fence you were on, he was either a great crusader for the common working man, or a vicious gangster and crook. Marilyn June Coffey's family owned a trucking business in the Midwest which came into Hoffa's sights during the effort to organize the Teamsters Union nationally. The book is her view of the struggle and tactics used against her father's trucking company.

=== The Good Stuff === \* As you can guess from the title, Coffey is not a fan of Hoffa, his union, tactics or colleagues. She relates tales of bullying, unfair business practices on the part of the unions, and organized campaigns, including violence—designed to punish the trucking companies. She portrays her father as a decent businessman, with happy employees, who is forced out of business by Hoffa's attempt to gain power.

\* Coffey is at her best describing the family life and day-to-day business surrounding a small, family-owned trucking company in the 50's and 60's. It was interesting to read of "long-haul" trucking done on gravel highways, or when 35mph was considered high speed travel. She presents her dad as a small-town businessman, known throughout the state, who did business by word-of-mouth and a handshake. Certainly a far cry from a modern logistics company with thousands of employees and vehicles.

\* The book does make a point about any struggle. While the "workingman" is held in high esteem by American culture, often some less than savory characters managed his interests, and his tactics could, on occasion, be as bad as the "robber-barons" he battled against. Clearly the author believes her father treated his workers fairly, and that may have been the case. But there were no doubt abuses, and in their struggle to gain a share of power and wealth, the unions destroyed a few businesses along the way.

=== The Not-So-Good Stuff ===\* Coffey is at her worst when retelling stories from third parties. She relates the "true" story of what happened to Jimmy Hoffa from another book—which I read and didn't necessarily believe.

\* Some of her explanations of the family business were a little hard to follow. For example, while it may be or have been a well-known term in the industry, I still don't really know what "peddle-drivers" were, or why they were so hard for trucking companies to manage. The book could have been a little more complete.

=== Summary ===The "family" and "trucking" parts of the book were excellent, and a thought-provoking look at where the gains of the unions came from. Other parts of the book— those that were not the author's direct experience— were a little bit sketchier and weren't as enjoyable for me. Still, overall a worthwhile read, and an interesting look at how trucking companies worked in the middle of the 20th century.— Andy Ladick NetGalley

Reviewer

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