



## If Loving You Is Wrong: The Shocking True Story of Mary Kay Letourneau

By Gregg Olsen

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#### Teacher's Pet

Within hours of giving birth to her sixth child, Mary Kay Letourneau had her baby daughter whisked from her arms. She was then shackled and returned to her jail cell. Just a few years ago, the pretty, personable Seattle schoolteacher was living a life many would envy—she had a handsome husband, four beautiful children, and a beloved following of students. Then she was accused of child rape, and her whole world turned upside down.

#### Rapist Or Victim?

How did a 34-year-old married teacher fall in love with one of her sixth-grade students? Was it a complete lapse of judgment, or—as she contends—the meeting of two soulmates? Were the two planning to run away together—before police caught them in a parked car? Did the couple have illicit sex in every room of the Letourneau house, as the teenager told the tabloids? Read about the case that shocked the world and rocked the headlines—about the lonely life of Mary Kay Letourneau and the young object of her obsession, the boy who fathered two of her children. You may think you know the story of Mary Kay Letourneau—but you don't know the whole story until you've read *If Loving You Is Wrong*, by veteran true crime writer Gregg Olsen.

Includes interviews with Mary Kay Letourneau.

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

The tale seems ripe for tabloid exploitation: the fresh-faced blond elementary schoolteacher and mother of four just couldn't keep her hands off that 13-year-old boy. Worse yet, Mary Kay Letourneau had become obsessed with the slight, Samoan teenager while he was still a student in her sixth-grade class--and he fathered two babies with her. Yet in the hands of true crime writer Gregg Olsen, *If Loving You Is Wrong* becomes a poignant profile of an emotionally stunted young woman tightly wound up in a web of lies too fragile to sustain the weight of her own compulsions.

The facade the Letourneaus presented to the world was that of a devoted, upwardly mobile young couple. In reality Steve and Mary Kay were on the verge of financial and emotional bankruptcy. They married because she'd become pregnant and appearances were everything to Mary Kay's parents, ultra-conservative, family-values-promoting politician John Schmitz and his icy wife, Mary. Olsen, whose previous books include *Abandoned Prayers* and *Black Widow*, does a superior job with the story, interviewing Letourneau herself as well as friends and neighbors, researching and assembling the facts behind the lurid headlines in a nonjudgmental manner that allows readers to draw their own conclusions about the bigger issues at stake. Was Mary Kay Letourneau a pedophile, a child rapist, a female Humbert Humbert? Or was she, as she claims, a woman who'd found a soul mate and a true love that defied America's puritanical norms? Read *If Loving You Is Wrong* and decide for yourself. --Patrizia DiLucchio

#### Review

"Wonderfully researched...Searing and brilliant...A must-read!"-- Ann Rule, bestselling author of *Bitter Harvest*

#### About the Author

Gregg Olsen is the acclaimed author of several true crime books, including: *The Confessions of an American Black Widow*, *Abandoned Prayers*, *Bitter Almonds*, *Mockingbird*, and *Starvation Heights*.

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**Antonio Sisson:**

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