

Publisher Cautious on Unabomber's Book

Doreen Carvajal

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There are certain publishing rituals that necessarily must be abandoned when an author lives in a Federal prison cell under 23-hour lockdown with just a 13-inch black-and-white television for company.

With the approaching publication of Theodore J. Kaczynski's memoir, "Truth Versus Lies," the book's small independent publisher, Context Books, is trying to figure out just how to promote a title about brotherly resentment and dysfunctional family life without much help from the writer. Mr. Kaczynski is serving a life sentence in a Colorado prison for a series of bombings that left 3 people dead and at least 22 wounded.

Mr. Kaczynski, who eluded the Federal authorities for more than 17 years, has written a book that does not dwell in any way on the crimes he pleaded guilty to in the Unabomb case. That is because he is seeking a review of his case by a Federal appeals court, said Context's publisher and founder, Beau Friedlander. So instead, he said, Mr. Kaczynski's memoir is an attempt to offer a more complex view of himself than portrayals that characterized him as insane.

Much of the 368-page book is devoted to the literary dissection of David Kaczynski, the brother who made the wrenching decision to alert the Federal authorities about his suspicions that his only sibling might be the Unabomber.

Along with a chapter on "My Adolescence; Family Dysfunction; Verbal Abuse," Theodore Kaczynski has devoted at least eight chapters to his brother, from "My Brother's Ambivalent Feelings Toward Me" to "My Brother's Relations with Linda Patrik; I Break Off With Him" to finally "How My Brother's Attitudes Changed Under Linda Patrik's Influence; Why He Denounced Me to the F.B.I." (Ms. Patrik is David Kaczynski's wife.)

This book is about the ways Mr. Kaczynski "was misrepresented by the media after his arrest," Mr. Friedlander said. Mr. Friedlander said he proposed the project to Mr. Kaczynski. He added that any share of Mr. Kaczynski's book proceeds would be placed in a special escrow account for bombing victims or their survivors.

The book is scheduled to be published this year. About promoting it, Mr. Friedlander conceded: "You have a hard time. You don't do an author tour and Kaczynski is not chummy with the media."

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