

On New Year's Eve 1997, Ben Smart and Olivia Hope went partying with friends in the beautiful Marlborough Sounds. By New Year's Day they were missing. The search to find Ben and Olivia, or – as the days wore on – to find out what had happened to them, immediately chilled New Zealand.

It was every parent's nightmare. And it was a sad awakening to the fact that even in a place as idyllic as the Sounds, which many Kiwis saw as paradise on earth, tragedy and evil could occur.

Detective Inspector Rob Pope was charged with establishing Ben's and Olivia's fate. His inquiry had to find explanations for four grieving parents and an outraged community. And it soon had to find a killer and bring him to justice. The case became the biggest investigation Pope had been involved in throughout his police career.

John Goulter, a journalist, writer and father, followed the case from its early stages. With the co-operation of Pope, he tells the story of the investigation and subsequent trial. Never before has a case attracted so much media attention. But Goulter found there was an untold story going on behind the headlines. *Silent Evidence* is that story.

John Goulter spent ten years in the Press Gallery in Parliament, mainly as political editor of *The Evening Post*. His subsequent work includes columns and articles in *The Press* and *Metro*, and a television documentary, *Crown v. Calder*. He wrote *No Verdict: New Zealand's Hung Jury Crisis*, also published by Random House New Zealand. He is currently chief press secretary to Opposition Leader Jenny Shipley.



RANDOM HOUSE
NEW ZEALAND

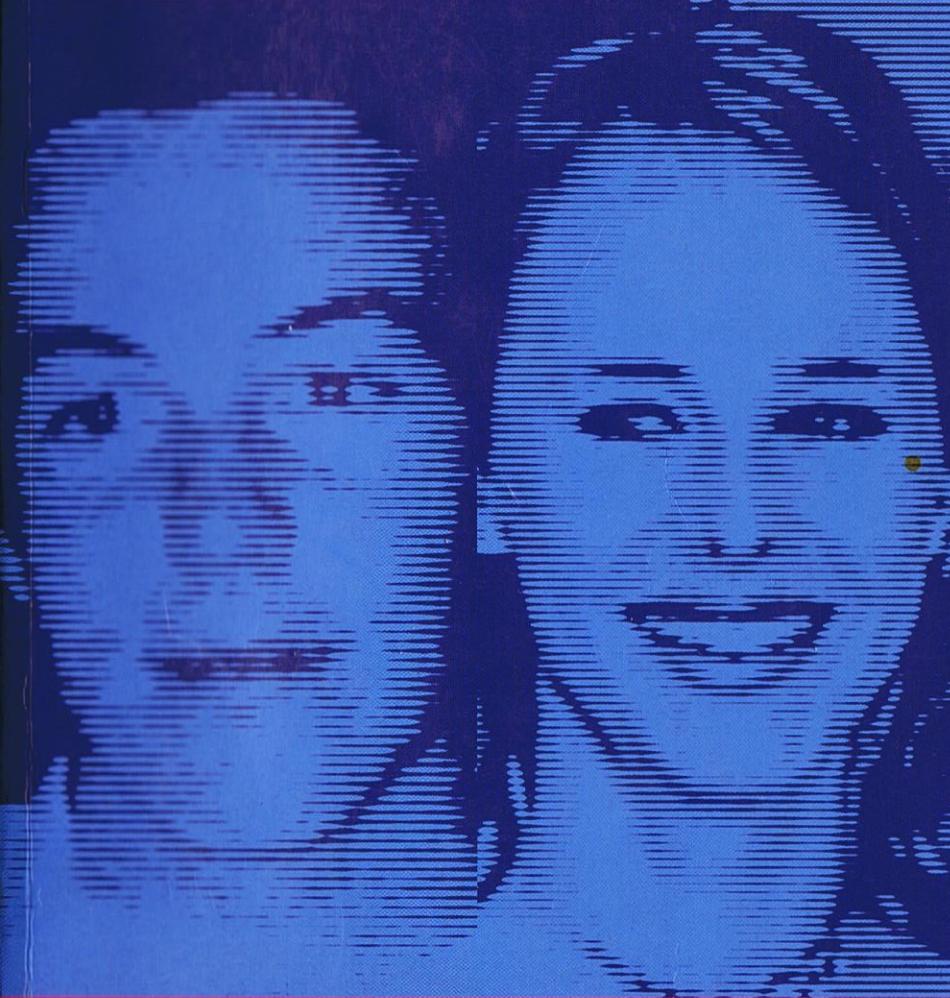
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Inside the Police Search for Ben and Olivia

SILENT EVIDENCE JOHN GOULTER

SILENT EVIDENCE



JOHN GOULTER
with a foreword by Rob Pope