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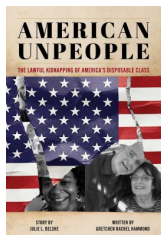
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# American Unpeople: The Lawful Kidnapping of America's Disposable Class

by [Julie L. Belshe](#) & [Gretchen Rachel Hammond](#)[Prometheus](#). Nov. 2026. 572p. ISBN 9781493094394. \$34.95. CRIME

COPY ISBN

On August 30, 2013, Rudy and Rennie North answered a knock at the door of their home in Las Vegas, NV. They were forcibly removed from their home and placed under the conservatorship of an "officer of the court." When their daughter, Belshe, arrived later, she had no knowledge of what had transpired. There had been no judge present, no trial, and no opportunity for the family to intervene. Investigative journalist Hammond uncovered similar accounts of conservatorship abuse involving thousands of victims in Detroit, MI. Together, Belshe and Hammond investigate the exploitation and theft perpetrated under conservatorship systems, the limited legal recourse available to victims and their families, and the devastating reality that many aging American are placed in nursing facilities against their wishes. The authors present a harrowing account of individuals

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stripped of their freedom, finances, property, and personal autonomy by professional guardians empowered to seize and liquidate their estates. This alarming and timely narrative serves as both an exposé and a warning, urging readers to learn about conservatorship abuse that can affect anyone.

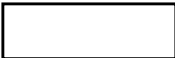
**VERDICT Readers will find Belshe and Hammond’s investigation compelling, sobering, and deeply unsettling; pair with Diane Dimond’s *We’re Here To Help: When Conservatorship Goes Wrong*.**

Reviewed by [M. Tiffany Messer-Bass](#) , Sep 01, 2026

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