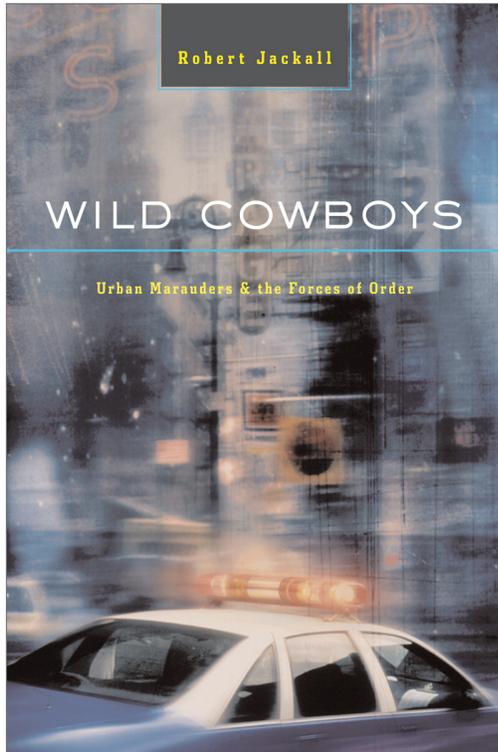


WILD COWBOYS

Urban Marauders & the Forces of Order

Robert Jackall



Robert Jackall has done several years of fieldwork with New York City police detectives and prosecutors, among whom he is known as "The Professor." He is the Class of 1956 Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs at Williams College and the author of *Street Stories: The World of Police Detectives* (HUP).

"*Wild Cowboys* has a great deal to tell about the formation and operation of emerging 'criminal enterprises.' Moreover, and perhaps more important, this book is a fly-on-the-wall look at how the 'forces of order' think and go about eradicating the opposition... Mr. Jackall is at his best when he fleshes out how police detectives single-mindedly overcame dead-end leads, sidestepped or neutralized competing units within the ranks of the police bureaucracy and parlayed fragments of accurate information to solve several particularly vicious pieces of Wild Cowboy handiwork... Anyone interested in the techniques of criminal investigation could not find a more comprehensive and readable primer than this book."
—Alan Mass, *New York Law Journal*

In this bloody urban saga, Robert Jackall recounts how street cops, detectives, and prosecutors pieced together a puzzle-like story of narcotics trafficking, money laundering, and murders for hire, all centered on a vicious gang of Dominican youths known as the Wild Cowboys. These boyhood friends, operators of a lucrative crack business in the Bronx, routinely pistol-whipped their workers, murdered rivals, shot or slashed witnesses to their crimes, and eventually turned on one another in a deadly civil war. But Jackall also tells a cautionary tale—one of a society with irreconcilable differences, fraught with self-doubt and moral ambivalence, where the institutional logics of law and bureaucracy often have perverse outcomes.

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