

# A P E R T U R E

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# John Lueders-Booth: Inside Stories

The Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Framingham is a special prison. It is a women's prison, the first in the country. Founded in 1879, it served to incarcerate unmarried women for "begetting" (Hester Prynne's crime in *The Scarlet Letter*). Now it imprisons them for, among other things, shoplifting, organized prostitution, using and trafficking in heroin and other drugs, armed robbery, and murder. Many women at Framingham were convicted for helping their husbands or boyfriends commit crimes. Many of them have done time before, and many have dependent children who are in the care of relatives or court-appointed foster parents.

In the fall of 1977 I went to the Framingham prison to set up and teach a photography class. In the course of this work I began photographing the inmates. For the next four years I continued to go to Framingham three or four days a month to make photographs and to teach.



























