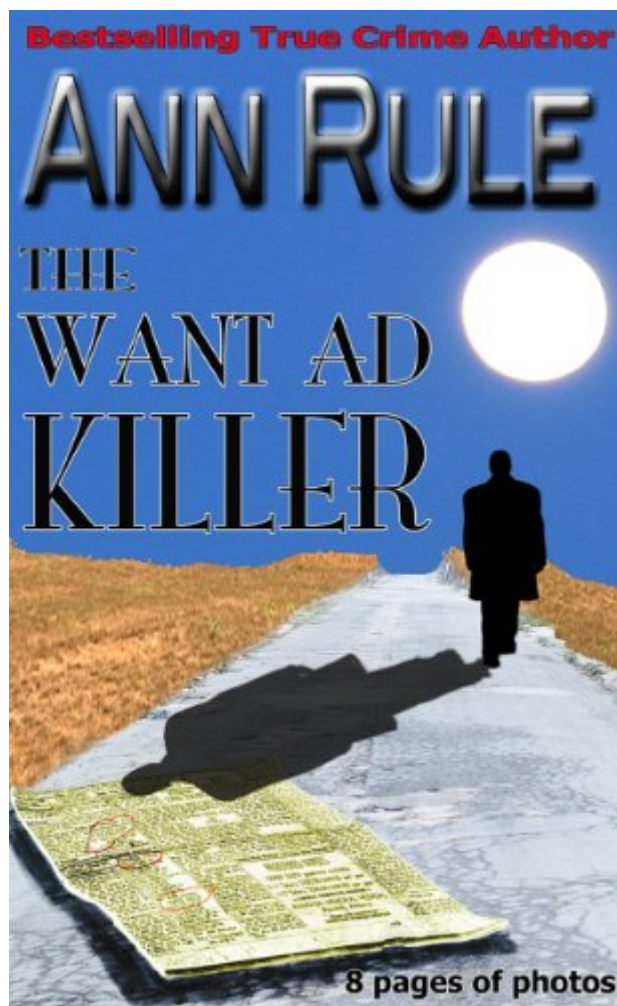


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The Want Ad Killer



Synopsis

After his first grisly crime, Harvey Louis Carignan beat a death sentence and continued to manipulate, rape, and bludgeon women to deathâ ”using want ads to lure his young female victims. And time after time, justice was thwarted by a killer whose twisted legal genius was matched only by his sick savagery. Here, complete with the testimony of women who suffered his unspeakable sexual abuses and barely escaped with their lives, and of the police who at last put him behind bars, is one of the most shattering and thought-provoking true-crime stories of our time. Includes 8 pages of photos

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Maybe TOO well. I had to stop reading at night so I wouldn't have nightmares. There were no gorey pictures (although there were interesting ones) but the scenes were described so I could see them in my mind and was afraid of bad dreams. But it was a really interesting way to get into the mind of a psychopath (I will never use the term "psychotic" wrong again. It's because of killers like this that I am pro death sentence.

Ann Rule has long been my favorite true crime author. I was deeply saddened to hear about her recent passing. This is one of her older books, but it displays her unique talent to keep you on the edge of your seat throughout the book while she recounts the horrific events and delves into the psyche of the person behind the crimes. This is the heart wrenching true account of a very troubled man who despised women throughout his life and ended up leaving a trail of blood that extended through several states. It highlights the flawed legal system that existed at the time which allowed convicted criminals to be paroled and back on the streets after just a few years. You won't want to read this when you're alone.

The title of this true crime account of Harvey Carignan's vicious assaults and murders is a little misleading. You might think Carignan lured young women to respond by repeatedly placing ads in match-up/lovelorn columns. Actually, he didn't often seem to use newspaper ads to attract victims. On the few occasions he did use that ploy, he was advertising for help at his gas station. So don't read this book expecting to find another "Lonely Hearts Killer." Many of Carignan's victims were victims of opportunity - hitchhikers or girls stranded by the side of the road. Also, don't expect to read about a lot of fancy forensics. This book was an early entry in Ann Rule's true crime series. She wrote it in the 1980's, and it describes crimes committed in the 60's-70's and before. So there's no DNA or other high-tech investigation. Most of the detective work is simple dogged persistence. It is a relief though that the detective work described here, unlike the investigations of so many other crimes you read about, didn't involve a lot of miscommunication and leads that got lost in the smoke of inter-departmental rivalries. There's a little of that, but most of the frustration involved in the Carignan case centers around the official need to allow Carignan his legal loopholes and to delay arresting him pending the accumulation of solid evidence. Meanwhile, the suffering of victims mounts. So as you read this, you might find yourself thinking of ways in which the balance can be restored between the public's right to safety and the accused's right to due process. Most of your attention though will probably be absorbed just reading about and fearing for the victims. As ever, Ann Rule paints you into the scene, watching, waiting, worrying. Rule has the gift of evoking the tragedy with telling detail. One mother long had premonitions of some horrible fate that would befall her daughter. Her unease increases as she waves what she still thinks is a routine good-bye to the girl, looking at her through the "smudged" window of a bus. Such simple common details as the obscuring, erasing smudge on a bus window is what gives these chronicles their special poignancy. This "Updated Edition" includes some of the results of a revealing interview with

Carignan.

As always, Ann Rule delivers the complete account of a monster who has lived among us posing threats to many young women. Harvey Carignan, who characterizes himself as a victim of all the significant women in his life seeks revenge wielding power over women he has lured into his vehicle. Some lived to testify of a terrifying ordeal!! I couldn't fall asleep after reading 2/3 of the book. Yet, when it happened, I felt an eerie presence. A shadow of a huge man covered me and a cold shiver went through my body like a sharpened knife. Without my head leaving the pillow from the living room sofa, I ran to my bedroom with that ghastly behemoth upon my heels and his hot breath on the back of my neck!!! I closed the bedroom door locking it behind me! My feet were firmly planted so that I too would not feel the pangs of horror so many women before me had felt. I have got to stop reading these books! True crime is the most frightening genre of literature. My eyes opened and my heart was racing until I realized it was just a nightmare induced by reading The Want Ad Killer by Ann Rule. There are no happy endings in true crime. However the author does this story and the countless victims who suffered by the hand of this monster as much justice as possible. Great read for true crime fanatics!

Ann Rule writes well so it is an easy read but the killer ends where he begins and just wreaks horror along the way. Nothing likable or redeemable or surprising about him.

Love Ann Rule, but wonder if this was written by her or finished by her daughter. I was sorry to hear of her passing, but glad her daughter is an author. The style was a bit different, but still very interesting. Her research is impeccable and her connections to the criminal mind after so many years is amazing.

I hesitate to give this book a three because of who the author is. I know she did meticulous homework to write this. It just didn't hold my interest (no offense against those who are now deceased or their grieving loved ones). I just found myself bored as early as the victim, went to look at the gas station job. I know she is at peace now, however. I just wouldn't recommend this book to another TC reader. However, I would recommend almost ALL of the Rule's books. Just an aside.

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