



In the Name of Love and Other True Cases

Ann Rule

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Inside a circle of trusted friends...one was a killer.

Jerry Harris was a self-made California millionaire who, at age forty-four, had it all: booming businesses, yachts, a mansion, a beautiful wife, and a voice to rival Elvis. No one who knew this well-liked, generous man could make sense of his sudden disappearance one autumn night. On a final phone call to his brother from his Mercedes, Jerry breathed a muffled oath -- then the line went dead. For Jerry's wife, Susan, it was just the beginning of an unwavering, eight-year search for the truth behind her husband's vanishing. Through exclusive access to an FBI agent inside the investigation, Ann Rule unmasks a man driven by malevolence and hidden jealousy to destroy Jerry Harris' magnificent business empire. She expertly profiles a criminal mind that stopped at nothing in a scheme of greed and violence. With the riveting power of a Greek tragedy, Rule reveals the dark underside of an all-American success story, and a wife's ultimate triumph of justice in the name of love. Including other unforgettable accounts of true crime, this is Ann Rule at her chilling best.

In the Name of Love and Other True Cases Details

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Author : Ann Rule

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From Reader Review In the Name of Love and Other True Cases for online ebook

Rebecca Huston says

Five tales of cold-blooded murder. The title tale is the longest, going into the disappearance of Jerry Harris, a self-made millionaire with successful businesses and a lovely wife, Susan. When Jerry seemingly vanished into thin air, Susan never gave up hope -- or determination. It would take eight long years to see justice served, and the tale is a very twisted one indeed. The other four are much shorter, all of which have the idea of love, be it selfish, obsessive or the lack of it completely. Two inserts of black and white photographs help to give faces to the story. Overall, this gets about four stars from me.

For the longer review, please go here:

http://www.epinions.com/review/In_the...

Books-Books-And-Oh-More-Books says

As usual Ann Rule is the Queen of True Crime Novels

Marca says

Another well-detailed true crime book from Ann Rule. There is one main story, followed by several short tales. The main story is from over 25 years ago: the murder for hire of a man named Jerry Harris who was a force in the business world in California in the 1970's and 1980's until his murder in 1987. His wife Susan never gives up hope that his killer will be arrested. Susan, and nearly everyone else who knew Jerry, knew who killed Jerry, either directly or indirectly, but there is no evidence that prosecutors can use. Steve Bonilla was a hanger-on wannabe of Jerry's. Jerry was nice to Steve and occasionally let Steve invest in some of Jerry's businesses. (Steve's mother had some money.) Jerry usually did not need Steve's mother's money, but Steve's mother would give Jerry money to keep Steve occupied. Steve, however, is an evil sociopath seething with envy at everything that Jerry has. Steve eventually arranges for Jerry's death, and then tries to take all Jerry's businesses away from Susan. Susan holds Steve at bay with lawsuits, but this just causes Steve to escalate. The book tells the story of a nice guy with a nice wife who loves him whose lives are turned upside down by the type of evil the reader prays never to encounter. Susan spent over a decade dealing with this evil in one way or another. Rule does a good job of detailing what Susan went through. The book was published in the late 90's. I'd be interested to know where the main players are now.

Sherry Lynn Wood says

Amazing true story

A little jumpy at times. I had to reread parts at times to understand. Sad tragic loss for the family. A relentless wife seeking truth and justice. Praise for that!

Dorsi says

This is my 2nd Ann Rule book. I didn't like it quite as well as the first book but I liked it nonetheless. I listened to this one audio style. It was read by Laural Merlington and she does a fine job. 3.75 stars in my ever so humble opinion.

Jim Thomas says

One of the early Case File Collections of Ms. Rule is a good one and in this one I think I preferred all the shorter stories. Anyone who reads Rule know that her Case File series feature one story that like a novel or short novel followed by usually a story that would equal the length of a novella, followed by one or two even shorter stories, sometimes the last might be about the length of a short story. This setup and style makes it easier to read through these by giving the reader a break. Nicely balanced. I care nothing about reviews where people feel like listing many plot and character details or seem to think it's imperative to write an entire synopsis of the complete book. Just give me a gut feeling about how it effected you as the reader. Some people however love those detailed rather than something like this where the reviewer complains of other reviewers! It's true crime. It's Ann Rule. Read the damned thing.

Michaela says

The title story is a heartbreaker. An innocent man cut down by greed and jealousy. It definitely seems like a case that was close to Rule's heart and the pain and fear and turmoil of it comes through in every word. A tragedy of Shakespearean proportions.

Of the other cases, The Most Dangerous Game definitely hit me hard. There are some scary, crazy people out there. Trust no one.

Katherine Addison says

**In the Name of Love*: Danville, CA, 1987 (the murder of Jerry Lee Harris and the completely batshit insane plot to kill his wife)

*"Murder and the Proper Housewife": Bellevue, WA, 1974 (attempted murder-for-hire, orchestrated by a woman who felt her best friend would be better off with the best friend's husband's trust fund instead of the husband; n.b., the best friend had no idea)

*"The Most Dangerous Game": Index, WA, 1971 (sociopath befriends, stalks, and nearly murders two teenage girls)

*"How It Feels to Die": Seattle, 1979 (abusive stalker ex-husband comes within a fraction of an inch (or a smattering of cc's of blood) of murdering his ex-wife's three roommates)

*"The Killer Who Never Forgot ... or Forgave": Kent, WA, 1966 (wife cheats on husband; husband murders wife and the baby he thinks was fathered by another man--but not the older daughter he's sure belongs to him; tried, convicted, sentence overturned, tried again, convicted again, served thirteen & a half years & was paroled)

Meh.

Mostly, short form is not Ann Rule's A-game. The short pieces (articles instead of books) are flat and kind of aimless. The book-length piece, *In the Name of Love*, suffered a weird disconnect for me. Rule talks outright about how much she liked Susan Harris and how much she felt she would have liked Jerry Lee Harris, and while I certainly felt sympathy for both of them, I didn't *like* either of them, and I actually kind of feel I would have disliked Jerry Lee Harris intensely. This is not to say that I think he "deserved" to be murdered or anything of the sort--nor do I think that I need to like the protagonists of a true crime story--but there comes a point as a reader where the more an author tries to make me like a character, the more I set my heels and pin my ears back and refuse to budge. And it makes the experience of reading weird and a little uncomfortable.

Also uncomfortable was her use of "nerd" as a derogatory term to describe the murderer, when (a) even in 1998, "nerd" was a derogatory term only if you were a "jock," *Revenge of the Nerds* style, and (b) Steve Bonilla is a horrible human being and a complete *loser*, but he isn't a nerd. He isn't fucking smart enough. (Present tense because, hey, Bonilla is still on death row.)

Basically, Rule and I come from very different social backgrounds, and sometimes the evidence of this in her unexamined assumptions about her readers becomes really jarring.

Donna says

One of her best books, and I lived one street over from them at the time in Blackhawk.

DAISY DISNEY says

I lost this book, or rather misplaced it. If I ever get around to finding it I will finish it since I was 75% done. The main story in the book was long but somewhat interesting. Not Rule's best work. :/

Katy says

The main story was quite repetitive at times. the other short stories were featured in her other novels.

Alisi ? wants to read too many books ? says

I enjoyed this book. I do have to say one thing:

The killer was a complete and utter moron on a level that even *I* have never seen before. Ms. Rule talks at length about Jerry's good luck but I think the killer had much, much better luck.

This is the guy who has (apparently) tried to have several people killed. Has tried to steal. Had a bomb put under a car sp to kill his ex (of which, when the bomb didn't go off, still let HIS OWN CHILDREN ride in

the car knowing and seeing the bomb was still in place.) Tried to make a pyramid scheme. Bought the ingredients to make a meth lab (AND WAS CAUGHT WITH STUFF BY THE FEDS.) Used and wasted almost of his families fortune. Ruined every business he tried to run AND skimmed money off of them. And he pretty much always had a job or money when he needed them because of his kind-hearted friend Jerry. And he pretty much walked away scot free from all of this.

And, if that isn't all, when he was convicted of murder, his crimes brought him the chance of getting the death penalty. He had all these ex-wives that he took hits out on and his children come and cry and all but one of the jury members agree to give him the death penalty. So, basically, he had a mistrial at the sentencing portion.

All this and he still probably could've gotten life in prison save for the fact that he then actually tried to put a hit out on Jerry's widow and some of her family.

How fucking stupid are you? The prosecutor railed to the jury to give him death because he'll never stop and his lawyers said he's no criminal mastermind and that he couldn't get up to anything bad in prison.

All of this was admissible on the next sentencing phase and I'm certain no one would be surprised when I say he got the death penalty.

How the hell does this idiot do extremely difficult tasks like dressing himself each morning?

Rossy says

The short stories were great, but the main story was amazing and heartbreaking.

As a lot of reviewers said, it dragged at times, but that's the way it happened in real life and I guess we needed to know all the facts. I felt really sorry for the Harrises, they didn't deserve anything that happened to them and Susan's ordeal was almost never-ending!

It was my first Ann Rule book and I'll definitely read all of her books I can get my hands on.

Spencer says

I thought the 4 short cases were more interesting than the main case.

Mikayla says

The title, novel length, story was very intriguing! As is usual with Ann Rule's books I could not wait to see what would happen next. Ann Rule always makes me feel great emotions toward the characters, and I particularly like the fact that, while her own opinions on the cases and the people involved in them are clear to see, she is very good at portraying the people without much bias on her part. She gives the impressions that she has gleaned from other people involved in the cases and she does so rather objectively.

I gave the book 3 stars because, while it is earlier than other of her books in the crime files series, there were a great many stories that I had already read. With her having researched so many cases I would expect that there would be plenty of stories to be told, enough that there wouldn't need to be repeats.

If I had not already read so many of the other stories then I would have surely given this book 5/5 stars.
