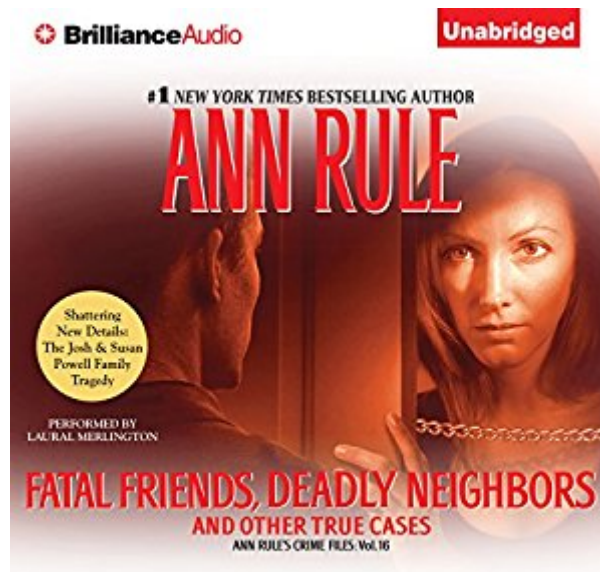




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# Fatal Friends, Deadly Neighbors: And Other True Cases: Ann Rule's Crime Files, Book 16



## Synopsis

It's a chilling reality that homicide investigators know all too well: The last face most murder victims see is not that of a stranger, but of someone familiar. Whether only an acquaintance or a trusted intimate, such killers share a common trait that triggers the downward spiral toward death for someone close to them: They are masters at hiding who they really are. Their clever masks let them appear safe, kind, and truthful. They are anything but - and almost no one can detect the murderous impulses buried deep in their psyches. These doomed relationships are the focus of Ann Rule's 16th Crime Files collection. In these shattering inside views of both headlined and little-known homicides, Rule speaks for vulnerable victims who relied on the wrong people. She begins with two startling novella-length investigations. In July 2011, a billionaire's Coronado, California, mansion was the setting for two horrifying deaths only days apart - his young son's plunge from a balcony and his girlfriend's ghastly hanging. What really happened? Baffling questions remain unanswered, as these cases were closed far too soon for hundreds of people; Rule looks at them now through the eyes of a relentless crime reporter. The second probe began in Utah when Susan Powell vanished in a 2009 blizzard. Her controlling husband, Josh, proved capable of a blind rage that was heartbreakingly fatal to his innocent small sons almost three years later in a tragedy that shocked America as the details unfolded. If anyone had detected the depth of depravity within Josh Powell, perhaps the family that loved and trusted him would have been saved. In these and seven other riveting cases, Ann Rule exposes the twisted truth behind the facades of Fatal Friends, Deadly Neighbors.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I really like true crime books, (as well as ID television.) This book is interesting - the style of true crime writing is different from fiction - and for some reason, even different authors writings on true crime "feel" quite a bit alike. (I like to find myself lost in this type book on an inside afternoon...and yet, I am completely mindful that these stories are only available for reading because something really bad happened to someone else!) In this book, I found myself making mental notes regarding safety and taking care in situations we too often take for granted. Good detail, and even on familiar stories, more than we got from the news. It's easy to read a bit at a time since there are various stories. ATTENTION, PUBLISHERS!!! When I purchase a book, if it's available on Kindle, I buy the Kindle version. I do NOT expect it to be missing parts of the book! Anyone truly interested in these real life stories, (and familiar with this genre from reading non-Kindle books over their years), will want to SEE the characters involved, and the building(s) - in the case of the one about the old hotel fire. It's NOT the same as fiction, where the characters are not real, and we are used to imagining them. These characters were or are real people, and since pictures are available for them, (and included in the non-Kindle version of the book), I can see no reason to leave the photo section out of a Kindle book! Many Kindle books include photos! Does the \$1.00 difference in Kindle price vs. paperback price really cost the photos? I'd rather pay the extra dollar and have the photos! BE NICE TO YOUR KINDLE READERS - THERE WILL BE MORE AND MORE OF US!

I doubt that I'll finish it. Often, Ann Rule's books hold my attention from the start. This reads as a narrative of facts. I find my mind wandering to other things. A disappointment to me. Though I enjoyed some of Ms. Rule's things very much, i.e., "The Stranger Beside Me," "Dead by Sunset," I doubt I will read any more of the crime files books. Perhaps they don't require the attention and commitment her full length books do.

In the chapter "Double Death for The Kind Philanthropists" Ann Rule gets some important facts wrong. I've been in both the homes mentioned; where the murders took place and the neighboring Denny Mansion. The picture labeled: "the Bramhall's mansion and grounds" is incorrect. The picture is actually of the Rolland Denny mansion. This is arguably Seattle's most historically significant home; however it is not where the murders took place. Second, while mentioning the mansion's owners she states: "None of the neighbors, however, felt that the Bramhalls had had particular

difficulties with the oddly dressed Moon followers....." Referring to Unification Church members, she seems to have made up something out of whole cloth. Unificationists have always had the practice of wearing the clothes of the prevailing culture where they reside.

Approximately one half of this book (the first 50%) is devoted to two recent news stories: Susan Powell and Lori Hacking - both from Utah, who disappeared and whose husbands were eventually found responsible for each woman's death. I love reading Ann Rule true crime mysteries, but I was not aware that a major portion of this book would be about two stories which had been played out for months and months in the press. As I wasn't interested in reading something I already knew most of the details about, I read only the last part of the book. The stories in the last part are Washington-based, not recent, and are shorter than the Powell and Hacking narratives. Good, but had I known that these recent stories of Powell and Hacking were a large part of the read, I probably wouldn't have bought it.

I've read every book Ann Rule has written, including the ones she published under her pseudonym, Andy Stack. I attended a book-signing when she released a new book about five years ago and am a fan on her web site. However, I've noticed with her last few books that her writing isn't as sharp as it used to be. She often repeats the same information so it seems like her proof-readers didn't do their job to pick up redundancy. Also, her last few books contained stories that were major headline news, so there was no surprise when I read her books. But I'm sure with 48 Hours, Dateline and all the other TV shows about modern crime stories it's difficult to find material that hasn't already been covered. Still, she manages to include a few juicy details that only a good homicide detective like herself could uncover. She's still my favorite author, and I always wait anxiously for her next book.

I am an avid Ann Rule fan! This is not at the top of my list of true crime books. Many were from the 70's and others were still I solved.

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