



The Want-Ad Killer

Ann Rule

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From #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Ann Rule of a serial killer who was sentenced to die--yet lived to rape and murder again...and again...

After committing his first grisly crime, Harvey Louis Carignan beat a death sentence and continued to manipulate, rape, and bludgeon women to death, 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.

Written by true crime master Ann Rule, the stories of Carignan's gruesome assaults and murders are rendered in nail-biting detail along with the dogged efforts of the talented detectives whose harrowing work predates DNA testing and modern forensics. 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.

The Want-Ad Killer Details

Date : Published September 1st 1983 by Berkley Books (first published January 1st 1983)

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Author : Ann Rule

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From Reader Review The Want-Ad Killer for online ebook

Louise says

From back cover:

"After his first grisly crime, Harvey Louis Carignan was sentenced in Anchorage, Alaska, to be hanged. But a legal loophole freed this monstrously strong and driven man to continue to manipulate, rape, and bludgeon women to death...in Washington State, where want ads lured young girls like lovely Kathy Sue Miller...in Minnesota, where young women on the highways became his prey - while justice was thwarted time after time by a killer whose twisted legal genius matched 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."

Claire says

So, I put this in my couldn't finish shelf - which is pretty bad, because I read about 2/3 of it, but just couldn't complete it. The title is deceiving! And altogether just didn't captivate me at all.

Jeanine says

Well researched and written..

Martyna says

More like 3.5 stars maybe, but it would be unfair to only rate it 3 stars because it was immensely interesting and I couldn't point out too many things wrong with it if I tried. The one annoying thing about Rule is that sometimes she sounds like your a bit old-fashioned, annoying, but well-meaning aunt or grandmother ("she was such a pretty young lady" kind of thing). I'd say that some of her writing doesn't age that well, but the depiction of the actual scenes of crime (horrifying rape and murder in this case) stays evocative, poignant and haunting. A must for fans of true crime!

Jlsimon says

This book delves into the case and defense of Harvey Carignan. Rule does an excellent job at introducing Carignan and the women in his life. One thing that can be said about Rule's books is that even though you know in advance not to expect a happy ending, you can at least expect a satisfactory conclusion.

This book is well researched and then told in a clear chronological order that is also a perk to reading the work of Ann Rule. I appreciate the case work that was done in this book. It goes into some depth on the insanity defense that was used in this case. It was something that I don't remember ever happening with any of the other true crime books I have read.

Jackie says

Typical Ann Rule fare about Harvey Louis Carignan (aka "Harvey the Hammer") who has a penchant for bludgeoning his victims with a [spoiler ahead] hammer.

Morgan says

Worth the download

I've recently discovered true crime novels and this one didn't disappoint. I couldn't put it down. I'd read it on the shuttle to work on my phone just so I could keep going during the day . Rule is a master in this genre and I'll be getting more of her work.

Katy says

Disappointed

I've read multiple other books by Ms Rule and usually find them so intriguing that I hate to put a book of hers down. I expected this book to also be enthralling , I read half of it with high hopes, but in the end I decided to move on. I definitely won't let this detail me from trying out her plethora of other work though!

Katherine Addison says

[library]

This book is about the abominable Harvey Louis Carignan (who is STILL ALIVE, he is ninety). It is a perfectly competent recounting of his crimes & trials, nothing wrong with it at all. I don't recommend the audio book, as OVer emPHAtic READER is [breathless pause] OVer emPHAtic, but this is certainly a clear, concise summary of Harvey Carignan as a serial killer.

Dionne says

I hadn't heard much about this guy until reading this, Ann Rule does a great job as always.

Trent Zelazny says

My first Ann Rule book. I can see why she was the most popular true crime writer of our time. Very well researched, and the people, the victims, perpetrators, and detectives, while they are indeed real people, Rule has the ability to truly bring out each person's humanness, be it good, indifferent, or highly disturbing. I'm now halfway through another of hers. And I'm psyched because she wrote so many.

Jan Sydnam says

I'm a big Ann Rule fan. First, she's one of the pioneer females police officers in law enforcement. Second, she wrote about several areas of crime where I was involved. The want ad killer and I made contact and I was wise enough to listen to my gut to "get out and run!" I did, and later read about this monster in The Want-Ad Killer.

Stacey Wade says

As always Ann Rule delivered a true crime book that was riveting, fact filled, saddening, horrifying, yet needing to be told.

This book is about a serial rapist-killer who actually should have been sentenced for a crime 30 years prior to actually finding himself permanently in prison. During that time multiple rapes and murders of young women occurred by Harvey Carignan's hand. A man who though I wish I could say was just completely insane due to the nature of his crimes, and his attitude about those crimes, I can not, evidence says otherwise,

I am thankful to Ann Rule for this book and all of her many other true crime stories she gave to us prior to her own passing. I am a believer that every victim, alive or passed away, has a story that should be heard and always remembered.

Anita says

A true crime story, but not that well-written.

Felicity says

Although this book is about the third of the size of 'The Stranger Beside Me' and 'Green River Running Red', this is merely because Carignan's reign of terror wasn't as prominent or widespread as Bundy's or Ridgway's. I love Ann Rule's style of writing, it is so easy to follow, and she writes in such a concise manner than you feel you are being given all of the information, without any longwinded and unnecessary additions. The cases in this book are so sad, and I was relieved to do some research after I finished the final page, and

to know that Harvey Carignan is still in prison at the age of 83, and wasn't paroled early like investigators feared.
