



## The Death of Innocence

*John Ramsey , Pat Ramsey*

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The parents of JonBenet Ramsey, murdered in her Boulder, Colorado, home on Christmas night, 1996, answer their accusers by sharing their hearts, emotions, and reflections, and they reveal their own theories about the crime. of photos. Proceeds to go to the JonBenet Ramsey Children's Foundation.

## The Death of Innocence Details

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## **J.M. says**

Hmm. After reading this, I feel the parents didn't actually participate in the killing of JonBenet, but I can't conclusively eliminate the possibility that they weren't involved in some sort of cover-up to protect someone else. It was nice to see things from their points of view, but too many things in the case don't add up to me. Unfortunately this book didn't clear away all of my misconceptions.

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## **Carla JFCL says**

I'm fascinated by this case and wanted to give the parents their say. I found the book compelling and reasonably well written. But, I still think Patsy accidentally killed JonBenet in a fit of rage, and everything that happened after that was one big cover up that quickly got out of control. Maybe someday I'll be proven wrong, and then I'll rewrite this review ...

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## **Kayla Elam says**

This offered some very useful information about the case! I also enjoyed the stories about JonBenet. John is coming out with a new book and I'm very excited to read it. For those of you reading it now, there may be some parts you may want to skip over. I think the Ramsey's just wanted to add some extra information to get people to know them better so people understand that they're just normal people and that they would have never done this to JonniB.

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## **Jbradley86 Bradley says**

This gives the Ramsey's personal story about the death of their daughter, JonBenet. It was bad enough to have their daughter murdered, but they were victimized a second time by both the police and the media. There was a time when I thought they might have had something to do with JonBenet's death. After reading this book, I am convinced that they are innocent.

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## **Lynn says**

Jon Benet's parents tell their side of the story: police incompetence, media lynching, faith in God to get them through. I should have rated this higher as I really enjoyed it but my interest in "true crime" is a little embarrassing!

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## **Kelly says**

I read to page 74 and then quit, for the following reasons:

1. Like most people, I'm interested in the whodunit aspects of this case. The who, how, and why. I just want the facts, the evidence, the theories, and that's it.
2. Whether the Ramsey's had anything to do with the murder or not, a book written by John and Patsy is obviously going to be biased and centered around defending themselves.
3. I don't want to read about Patsy's cancer. I have hypochondria about that sort of thing, and reading or hearing about it just plants worry in the back of my mind.

and 4. I realized on page 63 that I really do not care for Patsy Ramsey. I've always had a vague feeling of dislike for her b/c of all the pageant stuff, but now I have even more reason not to like her. Specifically, she says about moving to Boulder: "The people also seemed very different from southerners. Many Boulder public officials and citizens seemed to pride themselves in being on the cutting edge of progressive causes, like the environment, the welfare of the poor, China's human relations policies, independence for Tibet, and the right of homosexuals, bisexuals, and transvestites. These people claimed to be very tolerant, but that tolerance only seemed to extend to those who held similar views. I soon noticed there were no fur coats in politically correct Boulder." --She says all this like it's a bad thing!!! Her hoity-toityness turns my stomach and makes me angry (most especially the fur part), and I don't wish to read any more of this.

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## **Jon says**

In my humble opinion I think they are completely full of malarky.

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## **Janice Williams says**

If you have an interest in true crime stories, or in what it is like for families who face the unthinkable sorrow and rage of losing a child to murder... if you wonder what goes on behind the scenes and "the rest of the story" that is not explained on CNN or tabloid TV or in popular magazines...if, in short, you are a person who thinks and wants to know more before jumping to conclusions, then "The Death of Innocence" is a book you will find fascinating.

Written in 2000, John and Patsy Ramsey share the story of their family and how it was ripped apart when Jon Benet was murdered on Christmas night, 1996. You'll also learn some things that might surprise you, like the fact that beauty pageants were not a primary focus of Jon Benet's life and many of the videos and pictures shown on TV were released without the Ramsey's permission (sold by videographers and photographers at these pageants to the media) and Jon Benet's parents' dismay and revulsion as the clips were altered to make their daughter seem provocative.

A few years before Jon Benet's death, Patsy battled ovarian cancer (Patsy Ramsey eventually died of ovarian cancer at age 49 in 2006). She describes this battle and John describes changes within his business, and this

puts the story into context as we learn of their life together, their children, and their ties to Georgia and Charlevoix, Michigan. We learn what the police did not do, what the FBI did, what leads were never followed up on... what happened to Jon Benet was a terrible crime, but what happened to the lives of the Ramseys was also terrible.

I've also reviewed the book "Columbine" on Goodreads as well as "The Great Deluge." I enjoy learning more about the details behind headlines. With each book I read, my view of CNN, FoxNews, even the ABC/NBC/CBS nightly news programs deteriorates. PBS and NPR are the only news organizations I trust at this point, and even then, just as a starting point to learn more about any event that might interest me. I have let go of the need to jump to conclusions, but do like to learn more because, as a writer, I think it is helpful to gain insight into these stories and the very human lives behind them.

This is a well-written book and I admire the editor who, I can imagine, had a difficult task. Not because of any lack on the part of the Ramsey's writing, but because of the wealth of information, anger, sorrow, and details that all were likely considered and culled through to come up with a readable, sensible story...I know from my work experience how difficult that can be, and it is a testament to the Ramseys that they ended up with a book so well-written.

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### **Marylou says**

This book was published in 2000, but it is still unbelievable how this family has suffered because of the media. And today the media is exploiting thousands of people who want to just live a normal out-of-the-spotlight life. Why are so many people so sure THEY have the all the right answers and KNOW the truth! To read this book makes you wish it were fiction, but unfortunately it did happen. It is a true story ... my heart goes out to the Ramsey family. Read it and see what you think!

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### **Melissa Lee says**

Can a book be conniving?

Can a rich person used to getting whatever they want be narcissistic enough to try and make people feel sorry for them - not for their loss, but for what the media did to their reputation?

I'm having a hard time finishing this book. I've still got chapters to go. I have to keep putting it down because my bull shit radar is beeping off the charts. I read it with an open mind - really - hoping to convince myself of their innocence, and the complete opposite is happening. It doesn't help that they are very unlikeable people. It doesn't help that most people can't relate to their level of wealth. It doesn't help that they "don't remember" key events. Like John forgot his own home alarm code so he didn't set it the night JonBenet was murdered, but earlier in the book Patsy tells the story of a time while house hunting in Boulder John randomly remembered the alarm code to a house (given by a real estate agent) and they broke into a home to see it. It doesn't help they flaunt their wealth and "good southern common sense" on almost every page. It doesn't help that the book reads like the ransom note does.

I used to think Patsy the Histrionic covered it up, and Feces Smearing Burke did it (with the flashlight while playing with the trains - maybe she took pineapple.) Now I'm not sure she didn't have her own hand in it. Control Freak to The T, Matchy Matchy, maybe she didn't like changing those piss filled sheets and she

snapped. One thing for sure - she did not go to sleep that night. No way Patsy Ramsey would be caught DEAD in the same outfit as the night before. Alas, Patsy never got into pajamas... she was up all night writing that Gone With the Wind epic of a ransom note.

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### **Angela says**

Good well informed book. I do not believe John or Patsy Ramsey murdered their child. I believe they went through utter turmoil at her loss. And I believe everything they wrote about how the police only looked at them as the killers and did not explore any other avenues. They was way too much evidence to prove they did not do the crime, than to prove they did. That is why the grand jury did not indict them. Just because there are cases where the parent or parents kill their child or children doesn't mean every case will turn out in that way. The police in Boulder did not let the evidence lead them, they let their own opinions lead them.

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### **A.R. says**

Apparently, it's not enough for parents to suffer through the murder of their child, the flawed justice system and the media vultures have to blame the parents. In this chilling true story, we find that not only did the media falsely accuse the parents of this crime, but also the Boulder PD joined in on this folly, and that none are safe from false accusations in a country that worships gossip.

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### **Colleen says**

The JonBenet Ramsey case has caught my interest and I've been reading as many books about it as I can. Is this one important? Yes. Is it interesting? No.

This book gives the reader a view of grieving parents who are comforted by their religion. This could be of some use to someone who has lost a child. That is all well and good but...

John and Patsy have moments of such arrogance that it makes it difficult for me to feel sympathy for them. For example, when contrasting their investigation methods to the Boulder police, John claims they didn't want to "do a 'Boulder police' and rush to erroneous conclusions." (Page 216) That's a little below the belt.

Maybe it is just me but they seemed like the kind of people used to getting their way and if not they would just fire the person. Right off the bat the Ramseys hired their own investigators instead of trying to work with the Boulder police.

If you read this book, I would recommend reading Foreign Faction - Who Really Kidnapped JonBenet? and/or JonBenet: Inside the Ramsey Murder Investigation for a balance. There are some stark contrasts between what the Ramseys give as facts and what the police give as facts.

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## **Pamela Hamilton says**

Jon Benet's murder happened at a time in my life when I had experienced several tragic events in my own life and the news story was so disturbing to me. Knowing the shock and agony that John and Patsy must have felt to discover their daughter missing and then finding her dead in the house, and then to be accused of her murder was heart wrenching. The story seemed to parallel my own on so many levels and I followed it closely. I knew that Patsy had died of cancer since then, but I wasn't sure if the case had ever been solved. I found the book a couple of weeks ago in a lending library and knew I had to read it. I struggle to find the words to describe my feelings as I read about the injustice that was done to this family. I tried to go to the website that was on the back cover of the book to see if there was more information since the book was written 12 years ago. I couldn't find the website so I googled John Ramsey and came across an article that mentioned he had written another book, *Beyond The Suffering*. I started reading it last night.

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## **DAISY DISNEY says**

To be honest after reading this book I really don't know what to believe about the Ramsey's. A part of me feels like they are hiding something, but at the same time after reading this book I can't help but feel sympathy for them for what they have endured. This whole case has got to be a living nightmare. I did learn some things about the flaws in our justice system that was I not aware of before. It is very frightening how much the police department dropped the ball on many of the evidence found at the crime scene. I also found it very horrific how these tabloid magazines are able to print and publish such heinous stories about victims and children! I mean there should be a limit of moral ethics at some point. It was disgusting to read some of the headlines that were put out there by the media about JonBenet.

It is so hard to believe that this case has not been solved especially with the hair DNA and the footprint left behind. It really makes me think something fishy might have been going on within the police department, or again the ball was dropped somewhere along the line during the investigation.

Overall, this book was an interesting one. It was one sided in that of course the Ramsey's spend 90% of the time declaring their innocence throughout the book. But who can blame them, after seeing how the Media portrayed them. It will be very interesting to see if this case will ever be solved in our lifetime. I think if and when it is solved for sure the media will be as aggressive as they first were when the crime first broke airways. It is just so sad that Patsy is no longer here to see the murderer brought to justice (should that ever happen).

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