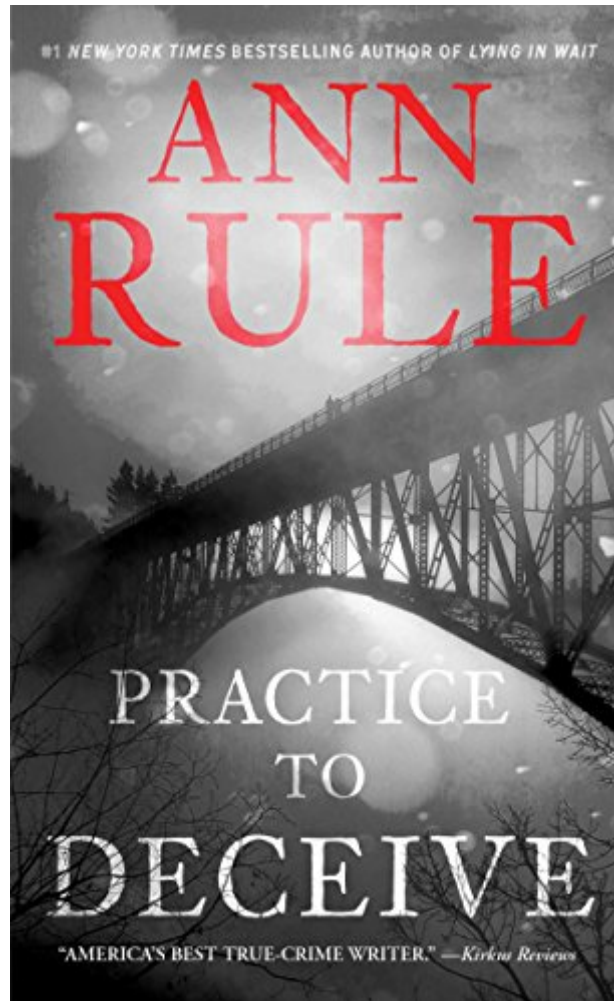




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Practice To Deceive



Synopsis

From “America’s best true-crime writer” (Kirkus Reviews) Ann Rule comes the New York Times bestselling mystery novel of drama, greed, sex, scandal, and murder on an eerie island in the Pacific Northwest. Nestled in Puget Sound and accessible only by ferry, Whidbey Island is a gem off the coast of Washington State where life is insular and the island’s year-round residents tend to know one another’s business. But when the blood-drenched body of Russel Douglas is discovered the day after Christmas in his SUV, the whole island is shocked. No one can imagine who among them could plot such a cold-blooded crime. And like a cast of characters from a mystery novel, a host of Whidbey residents fall under suspicion. Brenna Douglas was Russel’s estranged and soon-to-be-ex wife, who allowed him to come home for a Christmas visit with their children. Brenna often complained to her good friend Peggy Sue that Russel was physically and emotionally abusive. Married three times, Peggy Sue’s own life has been one of extremes: hers is a rags-to-riches-and-back-again tale. But in 2003, her love affair with married guitarist Jim Huden led the two Whidbey Island natives to pursue their ultimate dreams of wealth and privilege—even at the expense of human life. Unravel the tangled web woven by Russel Douglas’s murder in *Practice to Deceive*, the newest heart pounding true-crime tour de force from Ann Rule.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I love Ann Rule's books but this one was very hard forme to get through. It seemed as though the same informationwas repeated page after page after page. I was verydisappointed. Usually, Ann Rule's books keep me up at night.Not this one. I had a hard time picking it up once I put it down.I will return it for a refund \$10.00 is too much to pay for a bookthat is so boring. I skipped several chapters and didn't' miss a thing.

Ann Rule is an amazing author and I've loved most of her books. This one, however, was the story of a too complicated crime and investigation. To give her credit, she does warn readers several times that the investigation was very complicated, over many years, and covered many different states. The warning was not enough...she should have passed on this one for a book!Because you have had to slog through so many pages and so many different suspects (and too much detail on non-suspects), it's tiresome and you start to not really care who did it.If you are looking for a good true-crime book, pick one of her other ones.

I am a huge Ann Rule fan, but I'm starting to waiver. Her last 2 books have been sorely disappointing. I just finished this book and I still have no idea why it was written. There is no resolution, no motive, no plot. I am very confused why this story was ever written. It has no "hook." And it certainly has no "The Stranger Beside Me" or "Small Sacrifices" grab. Very disappointing.

I waited so long for this book to come out as I am a major Ann Rule fan. What an absolute mess of a book it is . So much detail about all of these peripheral characters that leads the reader to no where but boredom. I hate to say it, but Ann has list her touch. One gets the impression that she had planned to write about this murder case and despite the fact that it turned out to be an unworthy case to warrant 400 pages, she wrote it anyway and just threw it out there. it has no resolution, it delves I to the minutiae of people's lives for no reason, and at the end the reader is left baffled as to why she would even consider this a good read.

I eagerly awaited Ann Rule's latest book but was greatly disappointed with it. Wondered if Rule couldn't have found a better, more interesting story to write about. Her last few books are not nearly

as good as earlier works in my opinion. I would advise readers (and especially Ann Rule fans) to skip this one and hope her next effort will be better.

I really tried to like this book, but it was difficult. I found it repetitive and meandering. The structure made no sense, and the way the "plot" was revealed was slower than it had to be. For example, the author jumps around (through time) so much while talking about Peggy Sue Stackhouse's family BEFORE SHE WAS EVEN BORN, that she frequently seems to say the same thing, as if reminding herself where she was going. It got distracting, and I would have preferred a simple, linear progress, if indeed the family history was necessary, which it really wasn't. A huge chunk of the book was spent in discussing The Stackhouse's family tragedy, which had nothing to do with this case, so it really seemed as if the author was padding the covers BECAUSE there was no discernible motive. "We don't know why Peggy or Jim killed Russ, so all we can do is talk about Peggy's family prior to her birth" instead of addressing in any meaningful way Brenna's family life, why Peggy would have worked so hard to convince Jim that a man he'd never met needed to die. If you don't have enough info to talk about the case in question, then why write the book? The story is utterly un compelling. Then there were the couple of errors I found, even getting the victim's name wrong in witness quotes. I don't know what she was thinking with this book, but reading it was annoying as hell. I just kept saying, why are we all of a sudden talking about so-and-so's high school life when we were just talking about their college a second ago, or their infancy? Why have you mentioned fifteen times that one person had bad dreams because of their mother's death? We got it! It doesn't need to be in every friggin paragraph about this person! And so forth. It was really difficult to enjoy, and frankly, put me to sleep several times.

I looked forward to this book coming out and pre ordered it as I am a major Ann Rule fan. This latest book by Ann Rule stretches over decades and most of the US in putting together the reasons for the murder of Russel Douglas on Whidbey Island. Brenna Douglas was Russel's estranged and soon-to-be-ex-wife, who allowed him to come home for a Christmas visit with their children. But Two days after Christmas on 2003, a man's body was found in a car. The body had a single gunshot and was thought, initially, to be a possible suicide - as the holiday period is difficult for many. However, it was quickly established to be a homicide and the man identified as Russel Douglas. Brenna often complained to her good friend Peggy Sue that Russel was physically and emotionally abusive. Married three times, Peggy Sue's own life has been one of extremes: hers is a rags-to-riches-and-back-again tale. married guitarist Jim Huden and Peggy Sue

had a love affair which led the two Whidbey Island natives to pursue their ultimate dreams of wealth and privilege at the expense of Russel Douglas. Unravel the tangled web woven by Russel Douglas's murder in *Practice to Deceive*. How the investigators tracked down who and why the murder happened is what makes this interesting. It has plenty of twists and turns. The kindle version of this book has illustrations, which were exceptionally well presented on the kindle book. If you like true crime, then you will certainly appreciate this in depth look at a crime and its aftermath. R.I.P. Ann rule

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