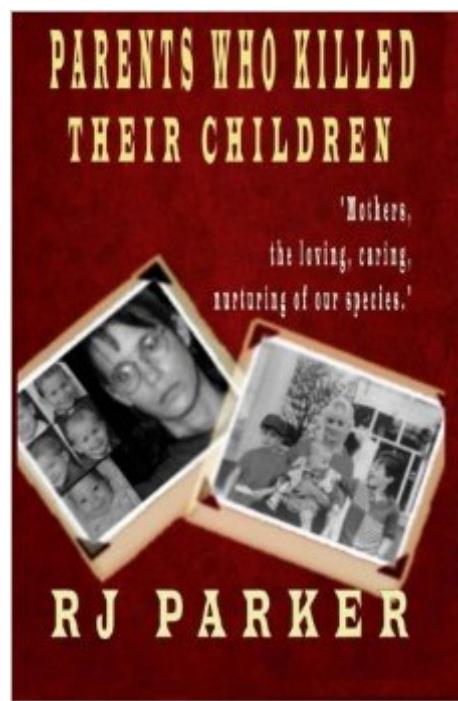


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# Parents Who Killed Their Children



## Synopsis

What could possibly incite parents to kill their own children? This collection of "Filicidal Killers" provides a gripping overview of how things can go horribly wrong in once-loving families. Parents Who Killed their Children depicts ten of the most notorious and horrific cases of homicidal parental units out of control. People like--Andrea Yates, Diane Downs, Susan Smith, and Jeffrey MacDonald--who received a great deal of media attention. The author explores the reasons; from addiction to postpartum psychosis, insanity to altruism. Each story is detailed with background information on the parents, the murder scenes, trials, sentencing and aftermath. PUBLISHERS WEEKLY - "valuable resource and reference book for Criminologists and Psychologists on the fraught subject of maternal filicide, supported with ten case studies. A clear-eyed view on the most heartbreak of crimes." SUSPENSE MAGAZINE - "Parents Who Kill Their Children is a great read for aficionados of true crime. The way the author laid the cases out made the hair on the back of my neck stand up." CASES INCLUDE: Andrea Yates Darlie Routier Susan Eubanks Lianne Smith Alan Bristol Jeffrey MacDonald Deanna Laney Susan Smith Tonya Thomas Diane Downs "Acclaimed true crime author, RJ Parker, has a knack for collecting high-profile cases under specific themes. This collection about parents who kill their children provides a fast-paced, gripping overview of how things can go horribly wrong in once-loving families. From Andrea Yates to Jeffrey MacDonald to Susan Smith, Parker reports on the stunning case details and suggests reasons why the parental bond can get so twisted. The updates at the end of each chapter add a lot, since popular media rarely follows up. An important reference for true crime readers." - Dr. Katherine Ramsland, Ph.D., bestselling author of "The Mind of a Murderer" and "The Ivy League Killer." "Too many times, we assume the parenting instinct is natural, particularly in females. RJ Parker proves, with accounts of parents who murder their own children, the instinct can simply be missing entirely. In this harrowing collection of cases, Parker explores the crime of filicide, and seeks to find an answer: why a parent could murder their child."-Judith A. Yates, Author of "When Nashville Bled" & "The Devil You Know," winner of the 2014 Silver Falchion Award for True Crime"Is there anything more reprehensible than filicide--that is, the intended act of a parent killing his or her own child? In "Parents Who Killed Their Children," the award-winning true crime author RJ Parker shines a powerful light on this dark and sordid phenomenon. First, Parker offers a number of possible psychological and environmental causes (or at least correlates) of filicide. Then he presents ten shocking, real life case histories of parents who murdered their children. The result is a book that is bound to make you rethink the absolute sanctity of motherhood and reflect on why some mothers do indeed "eat their young." This is a powerful read and another hard-hitting, compelling entry by RJ

Parker." - Dr. Scott Bonn, Ph.D, criminologist, professor and author of the forthcoming "Why We Love Serial Killers" October 2014 from Skyhorse Press. "The only thing more shocking than female serial killers is when mom or dad kills their own children. RJ Parker has collected some of the most notorious and horrific cases of homicidal parental units out of control. Shocking and gripping." - Dr. Peter Vronsky Ph.D., investigative criminal justice historian and filmmaker. The author of the bestselling history of serial murder, "Serial Killers: The Method and Madness of Monsters" and "Female Serial Killers: How and Why Women Become Monsters."

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book was well written and easy to read. It had some cases I remember hearing about and some I've never heard of. Well researched and to the point stories. I would recommend this book to any true crime fan . This book was written by one of the best true crime authors out there. I can't wait to read other books he's written.

Very good book. Very sad subjects. I learned new aspects to old cases & read of other cases I had never known before. Despite the sad aspect of children losing their lives to a parent, this book kept my mind on point as to what was the story behind the scenes rather than just pulling my mind into the depths of the horrors. Very well written. Thank you for pulling all of these stories together for this book. I will be reading many more of your offerings.

This book held my interest, which is usually hard to do. The only complaint I have is that this book

was not long enough!! It was a very quick read for me. The true crime books I like to read are the ones that the author spends more time revealing the back ground and the actual crimes of the perpetrator(s) and do not fill half the book with the trial details, which I find boring. Even though this book was short stories, Mr. Parker gave the reader enough info on the persons committing these crimes for us to understand what was going on before, during and after.

Being a Crime Scene Investigator, I'm always interested in crime books. Although this book is about parents who kill their children, it was extremely interesting and well-written. I notice a lot of authors add unnecessary information for dramatics, but this author did not do this. He talks about the perpetrators and their histories, their crimes and the facts of the case, and the aftermath/trial. As I'm reading, I actually get images in my mind about what I'm reading because of Parker's writing style. Although I was familiar with most of the cases, there were some I had not heard of before. I recommend this book to anyone who just wants to know why a parent would murder their own child(ren). It's such an emotional subject and so difficult to understand. The book was interesting and enlightening. I just ordered another of Parker's books, *Serial Killers*.

Because of the subject matter this is a tough read. For a parent to willingly harm and kill their children is such a tragedy and hurts the heart. However the author has done an excellent job summarizing these cases and I read through this book very quickly. He is an excellent author and I really enjoyed this book.

RJ Parker has done it again. *Parents Who Killed Their Children* will make you tear up and at the same time, make you want to go after the monsters who have taken life away from their babies. While some of the reasonings may be understandable (depression after delivery and such), there is still no logical explanation of why anyone one would kill their own child (or children as the case may be). Each case presented in this book, gives the reasoning, but yet, at the same time leaves you looking at the parent as the monster they are. Highly recommend this book for true crime readers.

I've literally just finished reading *Parents who killed...* and I thought it was absolutely brilliant. The ten cases included are absolutely fascinating and covered by RJ Parker in such a way that he skilfully combines fact and story telling, creating the background of the characters, the details of the crime - which tackle the gruesome subject of, as the title suggests, parents killing their own children - but also what happened after. Plus Parker's writing style is very fluid and makes it easy to both get

engrossed in the story, but also to keep turning the pages and move from cases to case. I think anyone who likes CSI type books, films or TV will find this a really great read. If there was anything more that I could ask for, it would be that it was longer. Although even that is slightly unfair, because at 280 pages it's more than decent in size! I hope there is a volume 2 coming....

As an avid True Crime reader, each one of these stories was already familiar to me. I have read complete books written on a lot of these women who killed their children and I must say that Mr. Parker did an excellent job on condensing a lot of the information into one chapter for each story of a parent who killed their children. I can only imagine how hard that must have been, but he did a complete and excellent job of telling the reader a detailed story about each individual person who committed these awful crimes against innocent little children. Like Mr. Parker said on more than one occasion, children should be loved and cared for, not abused and murdered by those who gave him or her life! If you haven't read a previous written book on these murderers, rest assured you will get a thoroughly told story within the covers of this book.

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