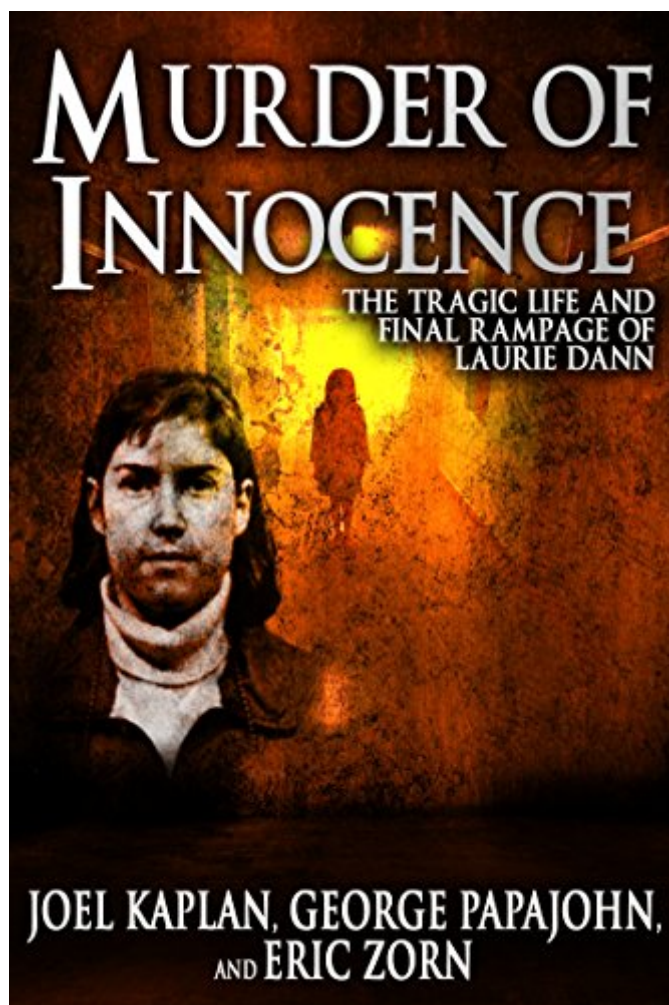


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Murder Of Innocence: The Tragic Life And Final Rampage Of Laurie Dann



Synopsis

Early on a May morning in 1988, Laurie Dann, a thirty-year-old, profoundly unhappy product of the wealthy North Shore suburb of Chicago, loaded her father's car with a cache of handguns, incendiary chemicals, and arsenic-laced food. Driven by fear and hate, she was going to make something terrible happen. Before the end of the day, Dann had blazed a murderous trail of poison, fire, and bullets through the unsuspecting town of Winnetka, Illinois, and other North Shore suburbs. She murdered an eight-year-old boy and critically wounded 5 other children inside an elementary school. It finally took a massed force of armed police to end the killing. The shocking story of innocence destroyed by a rich young babysitter inexplicably gone mad made headlines all across the nation and inspired at least two psychotic killers to follow her example. What led her to do it? Could she have been stopped? The case raised a host of agonizing questions that have remained unanswered until now. In this book, three Chicago Tribune reporters who covered the Laurie Dann tragedy have pulled together all the available police evidence, unearthed valuable psychiatric information, and interviewed at length scores of people who knew Dann, many of whom had never before spoken to the media about this case. Despite clear and ominous warning signs, a young woman of beauty and privilege was allowed to deteriorate and go slowly berserk and no one stopped her. Her parents, her doctors, and the police officers who knew her pathological behavior all failed her at critical times. By its passivity and silence, a community comfortable and quiet on the surface, yet reluctant to admit its underlying flaws, became an unwitting accomplice to the final rampage of Laurie Dann. *MURDER OF INNOCENCE* is a searing portrayal of a family and a society unable to cope, and of a young woman who wanted all too desperately only to be loved.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was so highly detailed that I skipped parts (too much background on every single person, town and house) but the story itself was great. Obviously you know something bad is coming, but this slowly increases the tension and is possibly the best true crime I've read.

I am an avid reader of true crime and found this tale of horror on the same scale, if not better than true crime writer, Ann Rule. Detailed, well-researched, well edited, and sensitive to its victims--the surviving victims--children who were physically and emotionally harmed, as well as their families and school personnel. The entire community was harmed but I didn't get a sense that the incident(s) brought them closer together as the authors presented conflicting information. I normally avoid reading true crime books that involve children but I am glad I read this book as I now understand some of the dynamics of school shootings.

I have read many true crime stories but nothing like this , the story is riveting. Very well-written too. Not for the light hearted.

What a tragic story. It is so sad that this person was clearly mentally ill and people were either unwilling to get her the help she needed or just ignored the problem. The book is well-written and kept my attention through out. It didn't bog down with trial details or anything like most true crime books do. The background information on all the people was a little too wordy. I did Google it after I finished the book to see if there was any further information about the cases that evolved.

The story itself seemed to go on forever. The story was well written and it seems that the authors did their homework.

The book was hard to put down. You hear about crazy people ever day going off the deep end, but this was really interesting to travel through from start to finish. I couldn't wait to read more and find out what would happen next.

I couldn't put the book down. What an awful tragedy. It's very well written. Gives insights into loved ones blind to someone so terribly ill. Our mental health care and laws were better 60 years ago than they are today. There's no way to prevent someone so obviously ill until they kill or maim somebody.

This was a really good book. I love to read true crime books and this was a great read.

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