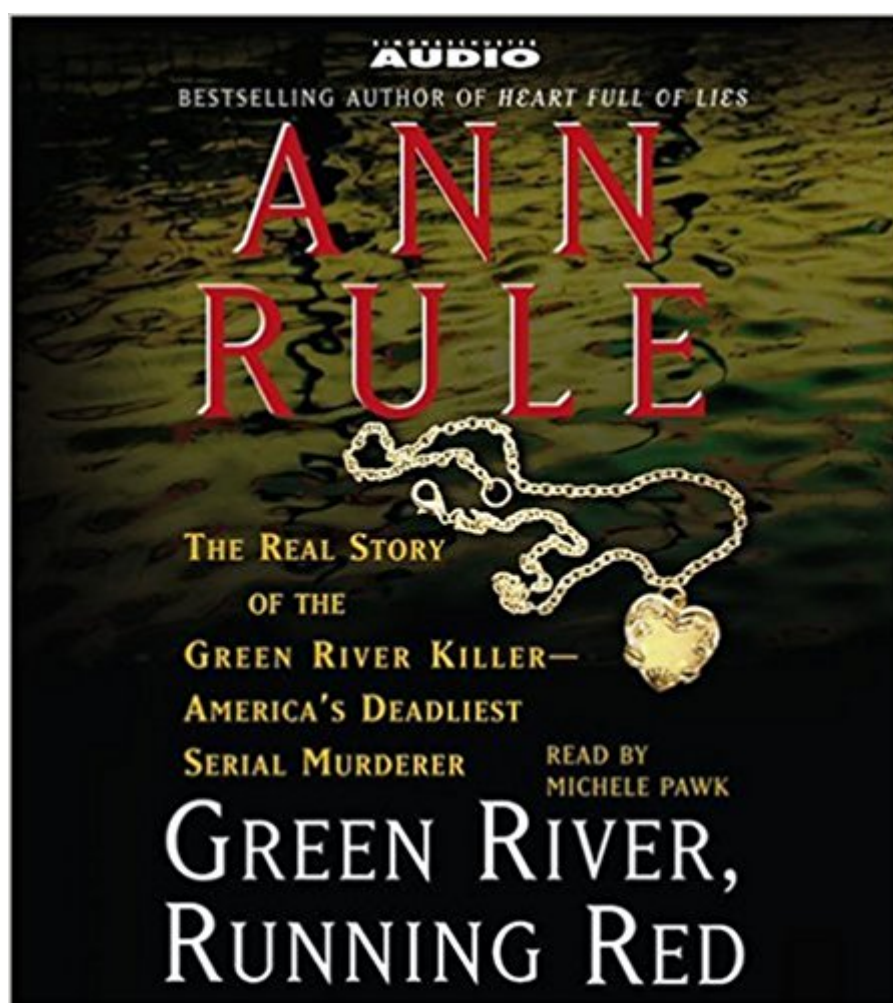


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# Green River, Running Red: The Real Story Of The Green River Killer--Americas Deadliest Serial Murderer



## Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller For the most extraordinary and personal book Ann Rule has ever undertaken, America's master of true crime spent more than two decades researching the story of the Green River Killer, who murdered more than forty-nine young women. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio; Abridged edition (September 28, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743538269

ISBN-13: 978-0743538268

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 1 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 287 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #576,410 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #352 in Books > Books on CD >

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## Customer Reviews

Veteran crime writer Ann Rule is uniquely qualified to chronicle the grisly career of Gary Ridgeway, the man convicted of being the "Green River Killer," the most prolific serial killer in American history. Not only is she one of the more successful true-crime authors, but for nearly 20 years, Rule was exceptionally close to the case, reporting on it for a Seattle newspaper, preparing a long-delayed book on the subject, and living within a few blocks of the strip of highway where most of Ridgeway's victims were abducted. In *Green River, Running Red*, Rule lends unique humanity to the string of murders that haunted the Seattle area throughout the '80s and '90s by exploring the lives of the dozens of young women who fell into prostitution and were ultimately murdered. Similarly, she catalogues Ridgeway's troubled and bizarre life in such a way that the reader becomes uncomfortably familiar with Ridgeway, although it's never truly clear what drove him to commit such heinous crimes. Along the way, she traces the decades-long struggle of the law enforcement officials assigned to the case as they tracked down countless leads, questioned innumerable suspects, and explored multiple theories that came up empty before finally cracking the case through a series of technological advancements and a little luck. But the most disturbing aspect of

the Green River killings (named for where the first victims were found) is how they occurred in relatively plain sight, with Ridgeway, seemingly living an unremarkable life, dwelling and working within a few miles of where his lengthy killing spree took place and evading capture for years. Rule skillfully weaves herself into her account, relating the psychic and cultural impact of the case as it evolved, but she never takes the spotlight off Ridgeway, his eventual captors, and the women who died at his hands.--John Moe --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When best-selling true-crime author Rule began tracking a series of murders taking place, by morbid coincidence, in her own southwest Seattle neighborhood, she said she caught herself referring to the female victims as numbers, based on the sequence of their disappearances. "I was horrified when that dawned on me," she admitted. "I never wanted to do that again." And so in detailing the grim story of Seattle's Green River killings--from the discovery of the body of Wendy Lee Coffield in July 1982 to the sentencing of truck painter Gary Ridgway last November on 48 counts of murder--Rule devotes most of her book neither to Ridgway nor to the noble efforts of law-enforcement officials to catch him, but focuses, instead, on the victims themselves. These women, most of them prostitutes, were victims even before their deaths--of disconnected home lives, of misplaced trust in boyfriends (who often pimped them on Seattle's notorious Pac HiWay), of their own need to rebel against their pain. Interweaving her individual profiles of the murdered women with the story of Ridgway and the officials who caught him (presciently swabbing his mouth years before DNA testing would finally give him away), Rule gives full, heartbreaking emotional weight to what America's most notorious serial killer truly wrought. A must for the author's legions of fans. Alan MooresCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ann Rule is the best True Crime Writer, Period. She passed away in 2015, weirdly around the same time i finished reading this novel, and i was sad to hear about her passing because she writes very powerful stuff. Best known for her book- *Stranger beside Me*, where she recounts the crimes and investigations of Ted Bundy, a narrative in which she appears as his friend. However, having read both, i truly believe this is the better of the pair. Now as far as the story is concerned, it alternates between the investigation, dissections of the people around the investigation, occasional forays into perspectives by the killer, and especially and most importantly, considers the lives of confirmed and potential victims. Reviewers and potential readers might be turned off by the overwhelming amount of page time devoted to the victims of the novel, but i think it's a real selling point. The victims are

almost entirely prostitutes. Sex workers are a difficult population to discuss, but Ann shows great sympathy for them. She dissects exactly how Laws seeking to eliminate prostitution end up making their lives worse, creating a vulnerable population and the precise social conditions for someone like the Green River Killer to rack up so many victims and get away for 25+ years. The other reason why this is a really important part of the novel is how Ann Rule humanizes each and every single one of them, and with so many victims the book blast you with its humanity and only at the end can you really recognize the damage this one man has done. Ann seems to recognize this too. She shows an anecdote that at some point in her writing of the novel, she discarded all names and just started to number the victims. Horrified by her own dehumanization of the people, Ann then proceeds to memorize the names of every single one. It's a touching moment, and one that really drives home what I feel is the ultimate point of her novel. Often times, in true Crime Accounts of serial killers, and in America's obsessions with them, we mythologize the Murderer, recognize only him in the swath of destruction. How many people remember Ted Bundy's name and not his first or last victim? But this novel puts the emphases on the destruction, showing us the tragedy that was lost. In the end, it was wrecked.

Hands down one of the most informative books about Gary Ridgway, especially his victims, his former wife, and a few of the detectives lives as well, I'm surprised she knew as much as the detectives did. She definitely knew the area well, I live along the road of 'Pac Highway' even work near the places where the prostitutes were picked up and take the roads Ridgway and his victims took. I hadn't known any of that until I read this book and it is very creepy to know that all of that happened at the area I live. Once again, she really did put hard work into this book.

Maybe because I have read about Gary Ridgway before, but I wasn't too crazy about this book. I lost interest after about 20 victims. It seemed repetitious and sometimes going off topic. I enjoy reading true crime novels, but this one didn't interest me a whole lot.

Anne Rule is an exceptionally good writer. Her experience with law enforcement shines through her writing. It is clear she has done much research on her subject.

In this book Ann told more about the victims than the killer. I feel that because the number of girls killed was so high it was impossible to tell their individual stories in one book. This was a new writing approach for Ann, and she does deserve merit for her efforts. I read this and found myself skipping

through pages as I never really connected with either the killer nor the victims. Too many unfortunate victims muddled together causing this story to not be clearly defined.

I started out reading easily and was interested. I ended up getting tired of 2-3 page summaries of the victim's lives. I think she was giving the victims a story because they're prostitutes and no one speaks for them and she gave them a voice but, when you have 50 or so victims, it gets really long.

As with all of this Author's books, "Green River, Running Red" is an excellent read. This particular book, as with other books written by this Author, delves into the dark psychological mind of a serial killer, "The Green River Killer." This book is a true account of an actual serial killer who terrorized and murdered young women in the State of Washington for well over a decade. How was the Green River killer able to elude police capture for so long? Who were his victims and how did they so easily fall prey to this madman? Who was this killer and what did he look like? How did the Green River killer choose his victims and, most importantly, 'why' did he choose to kill them? This book provides physiological insight, and answers, to many of these questions. It goes into depth concerning the police investigations, including how and why the Green River killer was able to elude capture for so many years. It gives the reader an in-depth look at the victims themselves, putting real-live human faces to the young women who fell prey, so easily, to the killer. It also provides the reader a look into the lives of these young women and provides insight into the various reasons they chose the lifestyle of prostitution. I highly recommend this read to anyone who is interested in true-life crime stories, especially physiologists, law enforcement officers, and criminologists, who are actively involved in the psychological study and/or apprehension of serial killers. This book will provide you insight, including 'lessons-learned' when it comes to profiling and apprehending killers such as the Green River killer. Actual photos of many of the victims, including the killer himself, are included in this book.

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