



Delivered from Evil: True Stories of Ordinary People Who Faced Monstrous Mass Killers and Survived

Ron Franscell

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A 12-year-old boy cowers in his closet while a lunatic killer slaughters his family...

A nursing student unwittingly opens her home to the serial killer on her front porch...

An 11-year-old girl drifts alone at sea on a flimsy cork raft for almost four days after a mass murderer kills her vacationing family aboard a chartered yacht...

A brave firefighter suddenly finds himself in the crosshairs of a racist sniper almost nine stories above the ground...

And, astonishingly, they all survived. From Howard Unruh's 1949 shooting rampage through a quiet New Jersey neighborhood to Louisiana serial killer Derrick Todd Lee's reign of terror in 2002, the corpses piled up and few lived to tell the horror.

Now, award-winning journalist Ron Franscell explores the wounded hearts and minds of the ordinary people these monsters couldn't kill. His mesmerizing accounts crackle with gritty details that put the reader in the midst of the carnage-and offer a front-row seat on the complex, painful process of surviving the rest of their haunted lives. In intimate, gripping prose, Franscell takes the reader on a pulse-pounding dash through the murky intersection of pure evil and the potency of the human spirit. This journey into the darkest corners of the American crime-scape is a penetrating work of literary journalism by a writer hailed as one of the most powerful new voices in true crime.

Delivered from Evil: True Stories of Ordinary People Who Faced Monstrous Mass Killers and Survived Details

Date : Published January 1st 2011 by Fair Winds Press

ISBN : 9781592334407

Author : Ron Franscell

Format : Hardcover 272 pages

Genre : Crime, True Crime, Nonfiction, Mystery

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From Reader Review Delivered from Evil: True Stories of Ordinary People Who Faced Monstrous Mass Killers and Survived for online ebook

npaw says

The writing was almost as painful as the stories. Loved the idea but poorly executed.

Beth says

Let's begin this review with this: the writing in this book is crap. Absolute and utter crap. It seemed like the author learned to write from lurid tabloids. However, the content was really interesting. Some of these people had interactions with truly heinous people, and it was interesting to see how they've coped with what they went through. There were some accounts that really didn't fit the bill of this book, at least by the subtitle: someone injured by a sniper's bullet - although tragic - does not have it as bad as someone who saw a murderer slaughter her whole family, in my opinion.

One note, to the publishers/editors/author (whoever was in charge): What was with the annoying "quotes" throughout the book? It looked like another thing learned from a lurid tabloid. Here's what bothered me: the "quotes" were from the text, and sometimes the placement would be odd. Like, the one time that the "quote" was the very sentence I just read. After the second chapter, I learned to ignore them, but they were still annoying.

Also, another note: Do be aware that there are some GRAPHIC pictures in this book. There is one of a naked dead woman, and another one where you can see a dead child. I'm not sure that was entirely appropriate to put in here - I really could have gone my whole life without seeing those pictures.

Songfire says

Good grief, this author certainly managed to hit every square on the bigot's bingo card. There's racism, homophobia, ableism, misogyny and don't get me started on the evangelistic preaching at every available opportunity. Never mind the sensationalist writing and atrocious grammar. Which I suppose I should have anticipated from the book title, but sometimes authors don't get a say in that...

London says

Something about the way the book was written came off as very cheesy despite the very real and traumatic stories.

Lyn says

Fascinating stories of brave people who survived terrifying encounters with mass and serial killers.

Ruth Turner says

I read some of the Goodreads reviews of this book where "tabloid style" writing was mentioned. I have to agree to a certain extent, and admit to quite a few eyeroll moments.

I'd never heard of these cases before, so it was an interesting read for me. Not only does author give graphic details of murders he also delves into the history of the perpetrators and their motivations. We also learn what has happened to some of the survivors in the intervening years.

Although nothing can excuse these dreadful crimes, I have to admit to a light tugging of the heartstrings for a couple of these murderers, especially Howard Unruh.

A good read. I enjoyed it.

Melinda Clayton says

True crime has always been one of my favorite genres because, from a psychological perspective, I find it fascinating. What caused the perpetrator to make the choices he/she made? What is the history of the individual?

Franscell does a wonderful job of exploring not only the motivations and histories of the criminals, but he carries it one step further and explores the motivations and histories of the surviving victims as well - an extremely important piece of the story that's often overlooked.

Huma Rashid says

Though not very well written, the stories of American mass killers and their victim-survivors are harrowing, cautionary, and compelling. I'm not going to lie - I'm the biggest bleeding-heart, whale-smooching, tree-hugging liberal hippie moon maiden, but this book made me want to go right out and (legally) buy a gun. It wasn't so much the horror of the actual attacks, though they were all gory and brutal; it was the fact that they happened in public locations where all of us go all the time, like restaurants, and college campuses, and they were so random and freakish and bizarre and devastating. If you're still naive enough to think that as long as you avoid dark alleys at night and are nice to the loner kids at school, you'll be fine, this book will shatter that illusion.

Seriously, yikes.

Meaghan says

This was a bit of a disappointment. I thought it would be more about the psychology of the victims, why some of them coped better than others. But in my opinion it focused far too much on the crimes themselves. Now, the information about the crimes was very interesting, as I had little prior knowledge of some of these mass killings and the book went into great detail. But that wasn't what I was looking for.

There are sooooo many books about people's criminal activities and I thought this one was supposed to be different from those, but it really wasn't. It was like the author just wanted to write another book about crimes and dressed it up a bit with the "survivors' stories" angle.

Miz says

A book that traces victims of crimes to what happened to them after the collective memory of the horrific events that they endured subsided. Some of the stories were interesting, some were tragic. I'm not giving this book 2/5 due to the survivors stories - more the method of storytelling which turned on sensationalism.

Lady ♥ Belleza says

Never disappoints

So can i say Amazon is evil? Haha hope this gets published. They demolished Shelfari.

However this book is first-rate.

Let's be honest, I am a sucker for authors who become my friend on Facebook. It helps when the author is highly recommended by people whose opinions I value.

Although I really like a long book chock full of all the gory details, sometimes I just want to breeze through a book, when that happens a collection of short stories will do. These are all true accounts and in my cheeky Goodreads review all I said was this book was first rate. Most of the accounts of the shootings / murders are, just the facts ma'am, the most detail comes from the surviving victims stories.

Every chapter gives the survivors name and the name of the shooting, the focus is on the victims, I like this, so often the killers get all the press. Some of these events were familiar to me, some I had never heard about. Like the book before this, this book has added more books to my, I want to read this pile.

Some shootings: (listing the ones I already knew about) **The McDonald's Massacre** in San Ysidro, California; **The Luby's Massacre** in Killeen Texas; **Tim Ursin and the Howard Johnson Sniper** (I think I read this on Ron's Facebook Page), New Orleans, Louisiana; the University of Texas Clock Tower shooter,

Austin, Texas.

I definitely recommend this book.

Fishface says

A moving, sometimes overwhelming book. There is not one situation in here that you would wish on your worst enemy. So many true-crime stories forget all the victims or only tell you how they got through the first week. This one helps you understand how they get through for the rest of their lives. Well worth seeking out. Note to author: This book seemed so heavily weighted towards mass murderers a la Charles Whitman. Not that their stories aren't very interesting, but... Maybe you could fit in a few more of those lucky (?) people who escaped kidnappers or serial killers in different settings for future editions? I guess I expected to see at least one Jonestown survivor in here...

Dierdra McGill says

It has been said a time or two that a serial killer is remembered, but how often do you remember the victims' names? Do you even know if any of them ever survived? *Delivered from Evil* brings the victims back into the spotlight and shares the stories of the ones whom survived these killers.

This is a collection of short stories, but all are about a victim who survived a serial killer. There are some heartbreaking stories, and some heartwarming ones. This is not an easy book to read as some stories involve small children and the book offers some graphic in nature pictures. For example, some pictures show victims lying dead on the ground, one of a woman stabbed to death in her bed, and one of a man who shot himself in the head. I do not mind these pictures personally but if you do I would stay away from this book.

The writing style of this book was more like an article than a book so that was a bit annoying at times to me and threw off the flow of the book until I taught myself to just ignore the words in grey. Which was hard for me at first. I also did not like that matter of fact tone in some places where there is no longer anyway to know what a person was thinking or feeling at the time. I suppose it is meant to make the book easier to read, but I would prefer to stick to facts only.

If you can stand a bit of blood and gore, or are just a hardcore true crime reader than I think that you would most likely enjoy this book.

♥ Marlene♥ says

Here I was not liking short true crime stories. How wrong I was. After *Online Killers* I picked this one and it was just as good.

What I liked was these were stories I had not heard before except the Charles (W)hitman story. I have been wishing for a book about him for 10 years or so so I was glad with the short story about him.

What made me like this book even more was that the author when he described heights and stuff he would use the American and add the European conversion. I wish all writers would do that.

The stories were very interesting and now I want to read more short stories.

Alison says

What "Jaws" did for the ocean, this book does for fast-food restaurants--I can't walk into a McDonald's now without wondering about the safest places to hide. Ron Franscell is a talented writer, eloquent and meticulous. He provides amazing insights into the minds of real-life monsters, the ones who haunt our nightmares. In the middle of the chapter about the McDonald's attack in San Ysidro in 1984, I turned on the news to hear that a man had walked into an IHOP in Carson City and shot 11 people. Sadly, no shortage of material for the sequel.
