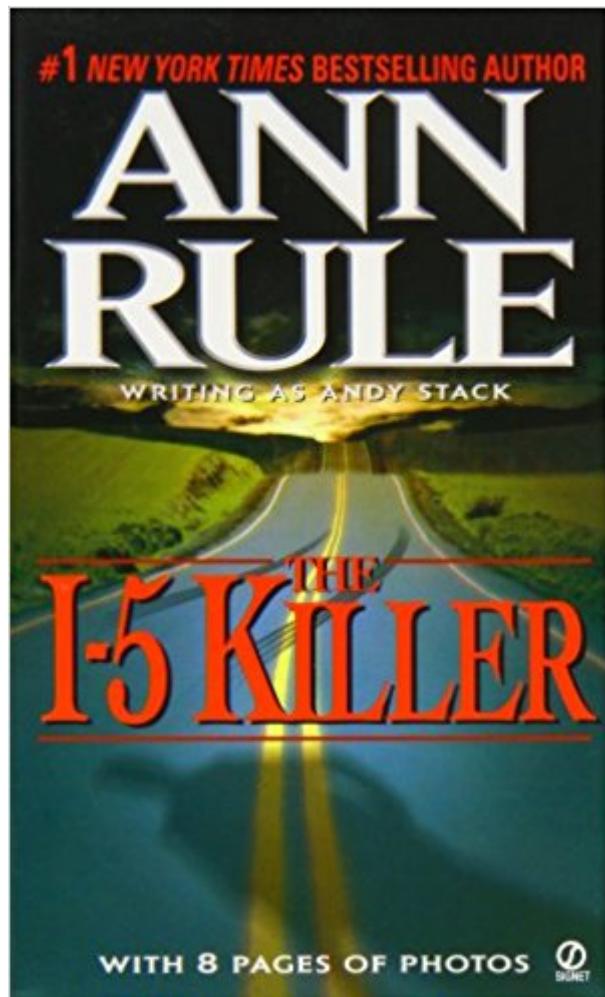


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The I-5 Killer, Revised Edition



Synopsis

As a young man, Randall Woodfield had it all--a star athlete, good looks, and an award-winning student. Working in the swinging West Coast bar scene, he had more than his share of women. But he wanted more than just sex. An appetite for unspeakable violent acts led him to cruise the I-5 highway through California to Washington, leaving a trail of victims along the way. As the list of the dead grew, the police mobilized to stop a twisted killer who had 44 known deaths to his name.

Praise for Ann Rule: "Vivid...Extraordinary...A page-turner!"-- "New York Times Book Review," for "Small Sacrifices" "Rule has an instinct for suspense, knowing just what information to leak to the reader and when."-- "Washington Post Book World," for "Small Sacrifices" "A shattering story...carefully investigated, written with compassion but also with professional objectivity."-- "Seattle Times," for "The Stranger Beside Me"

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Customer Reviews

Although I have read a considerable number of true crime novels, this is the first Ann Rule book I've ever read. I generally avoid books that have covers where the author's name is in bigger print than anything else, but as the saying goes, "don't judge a book by its cover." Sure enough, Rule has crafted a very suspenseful story about serial rapist and murderer Randall B. Woodfield. I've seen a number of ...reviewers bemoan the absence of a rigid chronological approach in this book, but I feel that this book would not have been nearly as successful in conveying the horror of Woodfield's crimes if they had simply been discussed one after another. By first introducing us to various women who had the misfortune to become involved with Woodfield, we are even more shocked when some

of them turn up dead. Also, this book is generally oriented around the investigators who were hunting an unknown serial rapist and murderer; these detectives were not able to piece together a complete catalog and timeline of Woodfield's crimes until late in the investigation. There seems to be no consensus about Rule's body of work -- whether or not she's getting better as time goes on, or whether or not she's "lost it." Regardless of what you think about her writing career as a whole, "The I-5 Killer" is a gripping true crime story. Woodfield's life and crimes are introduced and explored from a variety of perspectives. This certainly isn't the best true crime story I've ever read -- at times it feels like the story wanders a bit, and sometimes there seems to be extraneous detail -- but this is still an above-average book.

Wow! What a page turner! I just bought this book yesterday and I haven't been able to put it down but just long enough to sleep and write this review! I have recently moved to a part of town with only one book store. I have been searching like mad for an Ann Rule book. Before I could find one that I hadn't read yet, I had to settle for some other true crime books. I didn't like them at all. Finally, I have another Ann Rule book in my hands and it is just what I wanted. Although I am only half way through this book, this is some kind of story. After reading a couple of other true crime books, I now know for sure why I look so forward to an Ann Rule book. The difference is obvious. This story in particular, is horrific. How can anyone be so cruel, so heartless? It boggles the mind. Ann Rule gives you insight on the killers home life and social life as a child and teenager. You keep asking yourself where it all went wrong. He could have had the world. True crime such as this is more than just reading. It gives the reader knowledge and teaches that you must always be cautious of your surroundings and the people that you meet. You can never be too careful. No one tells a story of true crime as well as Ann Rule. No one.

The title of my review is kind of taken from the back of the book which I think is understandable. Again, Ms Rule has written with knowledge & with an edge that keeps one hooked from page to page. This book was the most terrifying I've read so far just because the killer, Randall Woodfield, spent a great amount of time in the area where I grew up (SW Portland) and at the same time when I was 16 years old (the age of girls he was attracted to). The bar where he worked is less than a mile from where I lived at the time. I probably saw him at some point but did not know it. I think that's pretty scary! Randall Woodfield was a sick, disgusting pervert that received exactly what he deserved...LIFE in prison. Ms. Rule's research states that he is not eligible for parole until he is the age of 81 years old. God help us all if he is still alive! This book just goes to show that you cannot

judge a book by its cover. Even though someone may look like an Adonis, it does not mean that they are the same way on the inside. Randall Woodfield still is every young woman's nightmare. Ann Rule writes with such detail and really brought this story to life for me.

Though Randall Woodfield committed incredibly frightening and really unspeakable crimes, Ann Rule, when she wrote this, was apparently just beginning her writing career, and it shows. Her usual well-researched detail is not as much in evidence here, though she does better here than with Lust Killer and Want-Ad Killer. The courtroom scene was so boring that I found myself skimming paragraphs, something I only do when I've lost interest and want to get DONE. Anyone who's interested in Ann Rule would be better served by reading her later works, which are superb. When Ann Rule is at her best, she carries me along to the point that I'm up locking doors. In this case, though Woodfield's crimes were utterly terrifying, Rule seems so distanced as an author that the crimes' true impact is lost.

I have read two previous books by Ann Rule when she wrote under the pen name of Andy Stack: Lust Killer and the Want-Ad Killer. This book, The I-5 Killer, I think, is the worst in the Andy Stack Trilogy. The crimes of Randall Woodfield are so horrific and sickening that I felt my stomach churn with disbelief and anger. His crimes were not just relegated to women, but to children as well... Any woman or women who looked as though they would be free targets for his sexually warped, frenzied, psychotic mind would be the target of Randall Brent Woodfield -- the I-5 Killer. My summation does not do the horror in this book justice -- as it gets extremely worse and bizarre.... Ann Rule is a tremendously talented writer and deserves every honor and Edgar Allan Poe Award for this difficult genre.

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