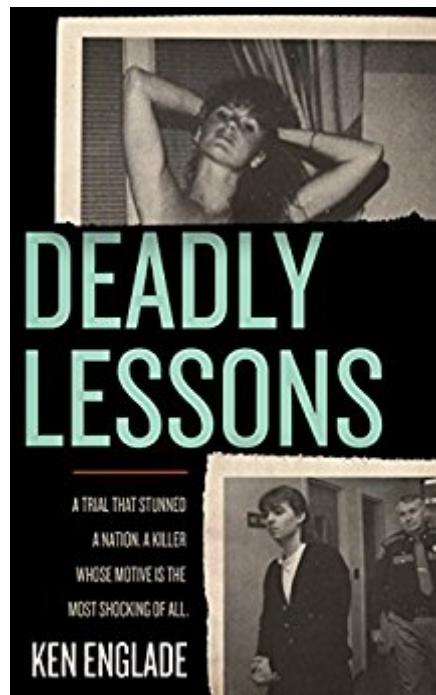


The book was found

Deadly Lessons: A Trial That Stunned A Nation. A Killer Whose Motive Is The Most Shocking Of All.



Synopsis

A husband's murder leads to a trial that stunned a nation, and a killer whose motive is the most shocking of all. Pam and Gregg Smart lived a seemingly storybook existence, the newlyweds very much in love. All of this was shattered when Gregg was senselessly shot to death in 1990. In the trial that followed, staggering revelations came out as to the motive behind the killing: Pam Smart had seduced a fifteen-year-old boy into murdering her husband. Master of true crime Ken Engle paints a portrait of a trial that gripped the nation in its scintillating tale of sex and murder. At its center is a woman who never quite grew up, and the reason why she had her husband murdered is the most stunning twist.

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Customer Reviews

The book begins with an account of Gregg Smart's murder and its immediate aftermath. Smart's behavior after the murder is touched on briefly, with mentions that she did not act quite right, seemed to want to erase all traces of Gregg from her home and life and never dreamed she would be part of a murder story. The beginning sets the stage nicely for going into the background of the principal players beginning in Chapter 4, as the suspicions of family members and others involved

drew me into the story and left me wanting to read on. The histories of the Smarts and Gregg's killers are covered enough to suffice but not in such detail that I became bored. Englade also makes use of foreshadowing by mentioning that Patrick "Pete" Randall is said to have joked to a friend about becoming a professional hit man one day. It could seem hokey in other context, but in this case, it provided a nice contrast between Randall's character and that of the other teens involved. Flynn and Vance "J.R." Lattime, Jr. were described by a local teacher as "impressive" young men. Englade does a good job of presenting and explaining the taped conversations between Smart and Cecilia Pierce, the 15-year-old star witness for the prosecution. As the author states, the transcripts could be hard to follow, especially Smart's portion peppered with cursing and frequent use of phrases such as "like," "you know" and "you know what I mean." A portion of Chapter 15 that connects the Smart case to other American cases with female killers is nicely done but could have been omitted from the book in order to keep it evergreen. The six cases mentioned were all ongoing at the time the book was written, so no real resolution could be given.

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