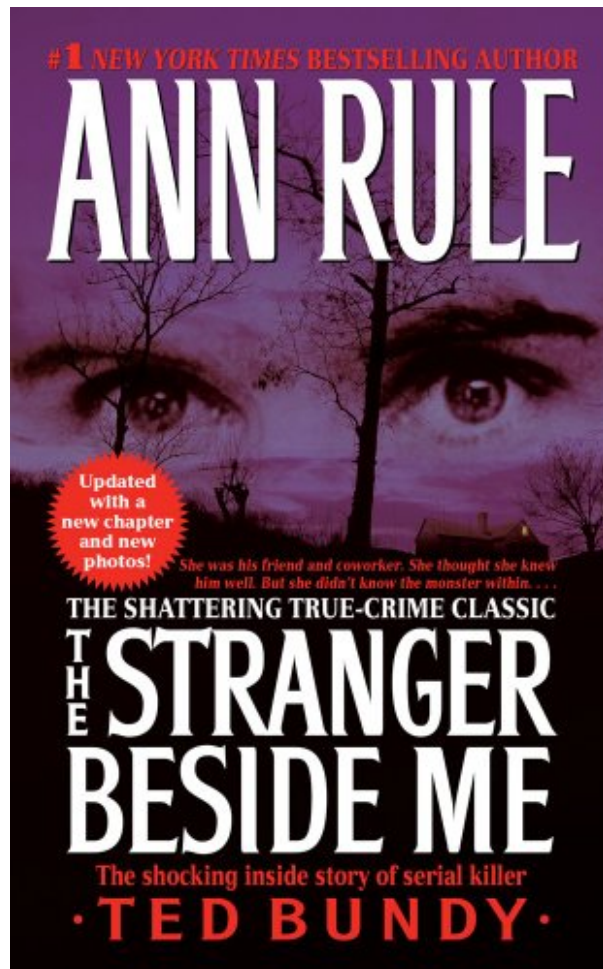


THE STRANGER BESIDE ME BY ANN RULE



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She was his friend and coworker. She thought she knew him well. But she didn't know the monster within. . . .

THE SHATTERING TRUE-CRIME CLASSIC

THE STRANGER BESIDE ME

The shocking inside story of serial killer

• **TED BUNDY** •

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Amazon.com Review

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"As dramatic and chilling as a bedroom window shattering at midnight." -- The New York Times

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THE STRANGER BESIDE ME BY ANN RULE PDF

THE DEFINITIVE WORK OF AMERICAN TRUE CRIME FROM "AMERICA'S BEST TRUE-CRIME WRITER" (Kirkus Reviews)

Utterly unique in its astonishing intimacy, as jarringly frightening as when it first appeared, Ann Rule's *The Stranger Beside Me* defies our expectation that we would surely know if a monster lived among us, worked alongside of us, appeared as one of us. With a slow chill that intensifies with each heart-pounding page, Rule describes her dawning awareness that Ted Bundy, her sensitive coworker on a crisis hotline, was one of the most prolific serial killers in America. He would confess to killing at least thirty-six young women from coast to coast, and was eventually executed for three of those cases. Drawing from their correspondence that endured until shortly before Bundy's death, and striking a seamless balance between her deeply personal perspective and her role as a crime reporter on the hunt for a savage serial killer -- the brilliant and charismatic Bundy, the man she thought she knew -- Rule changed the course of true-crime literature with this unforgettable chronicle.

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Amazon.com Review

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THIS KILLER BESIDE ME...

By lawyeraau

This is an excellent true crime book. It has an unusual twist in that the author and the subject of the book, serial killer Ted Bundy, had a platonic relationship that arose from the time they were co-workers for a Seattle, Washington crisis center. Quite frankly, the author initially had no idea that Ted Bundy was anything other than what he appeared to be: a handsome, intelligent, charismatic, and articulate young man, who was, at the time, involved in local politics and later became a law student.

When he became the suspect in the disappearance and murders of a number of very young, pretty women, the author was in total disbelief. As the evidence mounted against her friend, the author, who is a former police officer, could not shut her eyes to the reality that Ted Bundy was actually a very disturbed individual who was guilty of all of which he was accused and probably guilty of other such crimes for which he was not accused for evidentiary reasons. Consequently, the author would suffer some angst for many years, as she struggled to reconcile the Ted Bundy that she thought she knew with the fiend who was compelled to commit so many vicious abductions, assaults, and murders. It is believed that at least thirty-five young women, and probably a good number more, died at the hands of Ted Bundy.

The author details the abductions, assaults, and murders of his victims from coast to coast, which crimes were ultimately to make Ted Bundy a nationwide household name, and an entity to be feared. The investigative efforts of law enforcement officers in the states of Washington, Utah, Colorado, and Florida are revealed, as are Ted Bundy's arrests and his trials. She also details his two escapes from custody in Colorado, the last of which would find him heading to the sunshine state of Florida.

Florida was an interesting choice of state for Ted Bundy, as it is a death penalty state in which convicted felons, who have been given the death penalty, are actually executed. Notwithstanding Florida's stance on capital crime, Ted Bundy went on to commit a slew of shocking assaults and murders in Florida for which he was ultimately arrested, tried, and convicted. Considering the fact that Ted Bundy could have chosen to relocate to a state other than Florida after his last escape from custody in Colorado, it almost appears as if he had a death wish by going to Florida and continuing to give in to his sick compulsion. Unfortunately for him, Florida was quite happy to make his wish come true, and on January 24, 1989, Ted Bundy was executed, and his reign of terror was finally over.

Those who like the true crime genre will enjoy this well-written and well-researched book. It is highly detailed and contains a great deal of information, some of it quite personal due to the author's relationship with Ted Bundy. She paints a very intriguing, intimate portrait of him, one that is three dimensional and complex. He was definitely a man whose benign and compelling external visage was at odds with his many internal demons, as he was a prolific serial killer. Externally, Ted Bundy was the sort of man towards whom women gravitated, and there was no dearth of Ted Bundy groupies once he made headlines.

In the updates at the end of the book, the author theorizes as to why Ted Bundy, a young man of so much promise, would end up the way that he did, and she provides some interesting and personal familial information from which the reader may draw his or her own conclusion. All in all, aficionados of the true crime genre will find much of interest in this book.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Ann Rule RULES!!!

By Presela Anne

Ann Rule was an exceptional writer who I just know was born to write this book, and others like it. She gives a chilling account of what it was like to have actually known Ted Bundy, to have worked alongside him, and then to have gone through the absolutely harrowing ordeal of discovering he was one of the most prolific serial killers of all time. I felt like I was living right alongside her. A very compelling book, with fascinating details and great honesty. A must read for crime buffs and students of human nature. EXCELLENT!!!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Incredibly Sloppy Editing

By Amazon Customer

This book is really, really poorly edited. I'm not sure if something went wrong with the Kindle version - but there were things like paragraphs ending with a comma; a missing digit with a big "CHECK" in parentheses, etc. I have honestly never seen those kinds of errors in a published book before. Beyond that kind of copyediting sloppiness, this book is really long and there are tons of sections that don't add to the overall narrative at all. Every conversation she had with Ted Bundy, with topics like him not liking jello as his jail dinner, are drawn out vs. sticking to the pieces that are really insightful about his personality/behavior. It's really too bad because a book about this horrible serial killer, written by someone who knew him, should be really fascinating. I finally quit the book 3/4 of the way through. I'm giving two stars vs. one mainly because this does share a lot of details about Bundy and his crimes that I didn't know.

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