



Small Sacrifices: A True Story of Passion and Murder (Signet)

By Ann Rule

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Ann Rule's shocking and powerful account of the destructive forces that drove **Diane Downs**, a beautiful young mother, to shoot her three young children in cold blood.

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Small Sacrifices: A True Story of Passion and Murder (Signet) By Ann Rule Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This searching analysis of the shooting of three children in Oregon by their mother devolves into a study of personality. In May of 1983, Diane Downs drove to a Willamette Valley hospital emergency room with her children, all gravely wounded; one did not survive the first hour, and the other two were disabled for life. Downs initially told of a "bushy-haired stranger" who had committed the crime, but frequently changed her story. Under police questioning she recalled her childhood with a cold, domineering father who abused her sexually, her weak mother, a rape by one of her bosses, her failed marriage and many men with whom she had sex. One of these men, whom she claimed to love, did not want children, and that may have prompted the crime, speculates the author. The greatest strength of this book is the exploration by ex-policewoman Rule (The Stranger Beside Me of the aberrant personality of Downs, who is now imprisoned and not eligible for parole until 2009.

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Review

Superb... the most riveting true-crime account since IN COLD BLOOD KIRKUS REVIEWS Vivid... extraordinary... a page turner New York TIMES BOOK REVIEW

About the Author

Ann Rule has drawn on her experience as a former policewoman to become one of America's top true-crime writers. The author of over 1,000 articles and numerous books, she has lectured widely to law-enforcement schools and agencies. She has also serves as a consultant to the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VI-CAP), which is used to track and apprehend violent criminals. Her bestselling books, **Lust Killer**, **The Want-Ad Killer**, **The I-5 Killer**, and **Small Sacrifices**, are available in Signet editions.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ryan Mendoza:

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