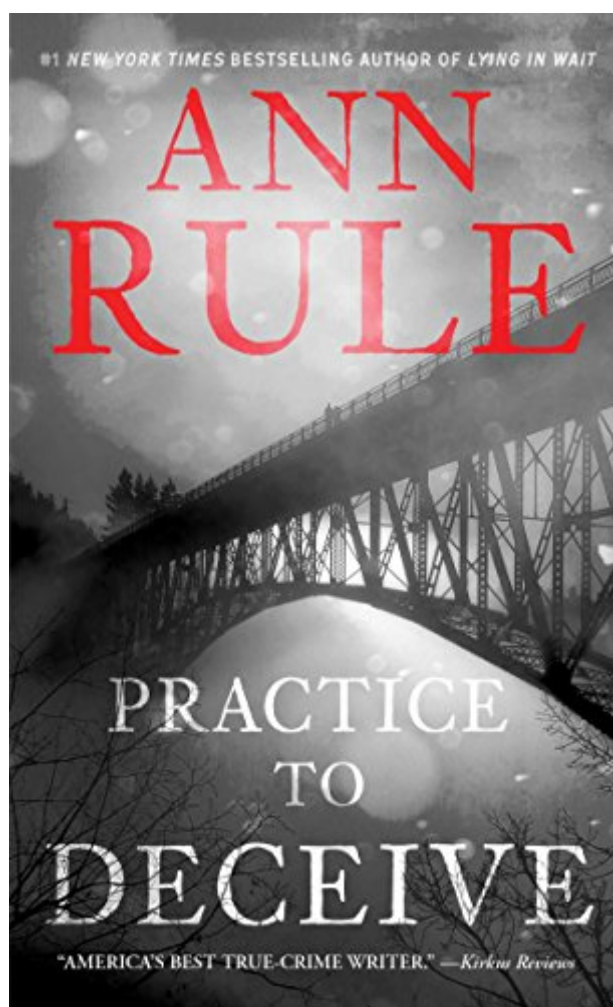


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# Practice To Deceive



## Synopsis

From *“America’s best true-crime writer”* (Kirkus Reviews) Ann Rule comes the New York Times bestselling mystery novel of drama, greed, sex, scandal, and murder on an eerie island in the Pacific Northwest. Nestled in Puget Sound and accessible only by ferry, Whidbey Island is a gem off the coast of Washington State where life is insular and the island’s year-round residents tend to know one another’s business. But when the blood-drenched body of Russel Douglas is discovered the day after Christmas in his SUV, the whole island is shocked. No one can imagine who among them could plot such a cold-blooded crime. And like a cast of characters from a mystery novel, a host of Whidbey residents fall under suspicion. Brenna Douglas was Russel’s estranged and soon-to-be-ex wife, who allowed him to come home for a Christmas visit with their children. Brenna often complained to her good friend Peggy Sue that Russel was physically and emotionally abusive. Married three times, Peggy Sue’s own life has been one of extremes: hers is a rags-to-riches-and-back-again tale. But in 2003, her love affair with married guitarist Jim Huden led the two Whidbey Island natives to pursue their ultimate dreams of wealth and privilege—even at the expense of human life. Unravel the tangled web woven by Russel Douglas’s murder in *Practice to Deceive*, the newest heart pounding true-crime tour de force from Ann Rule.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I love Ann Rule's books but this one was very hard forme to get through. It seemed as though the same informationwas repeated page after page after page. I was verydisappointed. Usually, Ann Rule's books keep me up at night.Not this one. I had a hard time picking it up once I put it down.I will return it for a refund \$10.00 is too much to pay for a bookthat is so boring. I skipped several chapters and didn't miss a thing.

Ann Rule is an amazing author and I've loved most of her books. This one, however, was the story of a too complicated crime and investigation. To give her credit, she does warn readers several times that the investigation was very complicated, over many years, and covered many different states. The warning was not enough...she should have passed on this one for a book!Because you have had to slog through so many pages and so many different suspects (and too much detail on non-suspects), it's tiresome and you start to not really care who did it.If you are looking for a good true-crime book, pick one of her other ones.

I waited so long for this book to come out as I am a major Ann Rule fan. What an absolute mess of a book it is . So much detail about all of these peripheral characters that leads the reader to no where but boredom. I hate to say it, but Ann has list her touch. One gets the impression that she had planned to write about this murder case and despite the fact that it turned out to be an unworthy case to warrant 400 pages, she wrote it anyway and just threw it out there. it has no resolution, it delves I to the minutiae of people's lives for no reason, and at the end the reader is left baffled as to why she would even consider this a good read.

I am a huge Ann Rule fan, but I'm starting to waiver. Her last 2 books have been sorely disappointing. I just finished this book and I still have no idea why it was written. There is no resolution, no motive, no plot. I am very confused why this story was ever written. It has no "hook." And it certainly has no "The Stranger Beside Me" or "Small Sacrifices" grab. Very disappointing.

Ann's last two books have been difficult to get through. This was marginally better than the last. This crime was rather convoluted and the characters were not easy to identify with at any level. None of the players had a good side and that is always a problem. Even the victim was made out to be a

rather weird, sexually ambiguous, maybe abusive guy with little or no thoughts from the victim's family or friends to draw a true picture. Who do you care about? Nobody. It was just a sad case and there was nothing that made the ending satisfying or worth caring about. The entire backstory of Peggy's stepfamily had nothing really to do with anything and the Dateline episode on the story doesn't even mention them! The Dateline story was actually better than the book. You get to see the real emotions and thoughts of the victim's family and a side to him you did not see in the book. Jean is also better fleshed out. I am very disappointed with the way Ann's writing has gone downhill and the cases she chooses are just not interesting enough to want to slog through so many pages or in my case, hours of listening. It didn't help that the narrator was a breathy lackluster reader who sounded like she was trying to audition for a sex chat phone line.

I eagerly awaited Ann Rule's latest book but was greatly disappointed with it. Wondered if Rule couldn't have found a better, more interesting story to write about. Her last few books are not nearly as good as earlier works in my opinion. I would advise readers (and especially Ann Rule fans) to skip this one and hope her next effort will be better.

I usually fly through Ann Rule's books. I have read *The Stranger Beside Me* three times. But, I had to struggle to get through this one. I don't understand why she picked this case. The story is boring, with no hook whatsoever. Rule does warn the reader that it can get quite confusing, as there are many different characters involved in this story. However, it seems like there are 2 or 3 completely different books in here. With Ann's books, she usually has a way of giving all her stories and characters depth and intrigue. This is a story that is lacking. There is no apparent motive. Ann usually has the keen ability to get into the heads of the victims and killers she is writing about. The victim here is pretty much forgotten after the 2nd or 3rd chapter. I also remember when Ann's full length books (not the case file ones) were 500-600 pages. This one is a little over 300, with the bulk of the story having nothing whatsoever to do with the killing. Also, the pictures are a little....odd. I looked and looked at one of the images just to be sure, but it really looks like Ann photo-shopped herself in a picture between the prosecutor of Whidbley Island and, what is captioned as the main detective on the case. I'm not a person who knows much about how to photoshop or what it looks like, but it very obviously looks like her picture is cut and pasted here. Also, the picture under it is captioned as Ann and the main detective, the same detective from the photo-shop picture. Yet it is clearly 2 completely different people in both pictures. So, one of them is the detective and one of them is someone else. It's just very strange. I don't know if Ann has lost her touch, because her last

full length book about the Rhonda Reynolds case was very lackluster as well. Maybe Ann should just write the short story case file books from now on. I will continue, however, to reread old greats such as *The Stranger Beside Me* and *Small Sacrifices* and *And Never Let Her Go*.

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