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SECRETS CAN BE MURDER

What America's Most Sensational Crimes Tell Us About Ourselves

By Jane Velez-Mitchell

Occasionally, a crime occurs that catches the attention of the entire nation. Whether it's a young woman murdered after a night out, a teenager who goes on a killing spree, or a newlywed who disappears while on his honeymoon, Americans find themselves glued to their TV screens and newspapers waiting for a suspect to be named, a witness to come forward, or any new developments. Conclusions are made at the water cooler, guilty parties assumed on blogs, then time passes and they're forgotten until the next grotesque crime occurs.

In **SECRETS CAN BE MURDER: *What America's Most Sensational Crimes Tell Us About Ourselves*** (Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, Inc.; June 5, 2007; 0-7432-9936-1; \$26/cloth), veteran news journalist Jane Velez-Mitchell investigates some of the nation's most sensational trials to uncover the secrets of the criminals that led to them to commit these vicious acts and America's fascination with them.

From the murder of Imette St. Guillen to the disappearance of Natalee Holloway, Velez-Mitchell digs deep into each case giving details obtained through search warrants, court documents, and transcripts, all while examining the cultural significance of each crime. She examines many of the factors that converge to explode in violence, including family secrets, personal demons and societal pressures. Beyond these gruesome acts, it is America's emphasis on "family values" that has created a society where deception is common practice because the standards are impossible to achieve. Scott Peterson's double life, Neil Entwistle's deceit, Andrea Yates' explosive meltdown are all examples of trying to live up to the social ideal. And our fascination with their coverage is not due to a like of violence or gore, but rather because their secrets often mirror some of our own.

Featuring a foreword from Nancy Grace as well as a photo insert – some of which have never been seen before – **SECRETS CAN BE MURDER** is an intriguing look into the people that created headlines and the lessons we can all learn to stop creating a fertile ground of deceit, tragedy, and violence.

About the author:

Jane Velez-Mitchell is a frequent guest host for Nancy Grace on *CNN Headline News* and a former reporter/anchor for WCBS-TV in New York City and KCAL-TV in Los Angeles. She can be seen commenting on high-profile cases for CNN, MSNBC, Court TV, Fox News and other national cable TV stations. Velez-Mitchell has received numerous awards, including two Emmys. She lives in Los Angeles.

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www.simonsays.com, or www.secretscanbemurder.com.