

SECRETS CAN BE MURDER



**What America's Most Sensational
Crimes Tell Us About Ourselves**

Jane Velez-Mitchell
FOREWORD BY NANCY GRACE

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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.

Advance Praise for
SECRETS CAN BE MURDER
What America's Most Sensational Crimes Tell Us About Ourselves
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"Americans are addicted to high profile crime and anyone who wants to know the secrets behind the criminal mind will not be able to put this book down. Veteran TV news reporter, Jane Velez-Mitchell, has managed to reveal things about our culture that connect each of us to sensational crimes."

– Aphrodite Jones, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Cruel Sacrifice*

"Criminals like Scott Peterson think they're smart, but hardworking crime reporter Jane Velez-Mitchell is smarter. She's exposed the double lives of rapists and killers who have nothing in common with us...or do they?"

– Lisa Bloom, Court TV news anchor

"A fascinating look into recent high profile cases and the secrets behind them."

– Dr. Henry C. Lee, distinguished professor of forensic science, University of New Haven

"Jane's keen eye on the nature of the human condition cuts through the criminal veneer like a hot knife through butter."

– Wendy J. Murphy, former prosecutor and author of *And Justice for Some*

"There are important lessons to be learned in the pages of this book...a captivating must-read."

– Diane Dimond, journalist and author of *Be Careful Who You Love: Inside the Michael Jackson Case*

"Most authors who write about murder begin and end with the carnage. Jane begins with the carnage and ends with the psychology behind it all. Utterly fascinating."

– Harvey Levin, Managing Editor of TMZ.com and host of *The People's Court*

"A provocative look at crime that reveals the inherent toxicity of secrets we hold and the power available if we choose to free ourselves from their bondage."

– Cynthia Kersey, author of *Unstoppable Women*

"Bone chilling, challenging us to face the dark recesses of our own mind."

– Judy Kuriansky, clinical psychologist

"This is a book that reveals our most intimate fears and secrets. You will not be able to put it down once you have begun to read it."

– Lawrence Kobilinsky, Ph.D., and chairman, Department of Forensic Sciences, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

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For more information on **SECRETS CAN BE MURDER**, please visit:
www.simonsays.com, or www.secretscanbemurder.com.



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.

**SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR
JANE VELEZ-MITCHELL,
AUTHOR OF
“SECRETS CAN BE MURDER: WHAT AMERICA’S
MOST SENSATIONAL CRIMES TELL US ABOUT
OURSELVES.”**

1. What kind of secrets wind up being the most dangerous?
2. Why are secrets so toxic?
3. Isn't a secret the same as wanting privacy?
4. What secrets have you uncovered in these big cases, like the murder trial of music legend Phil Spector and the Scott Peterson murder case?
5. What can law abiding citizens learn from these cases so they don't end up in the same tragic circumstances?

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