



To Have and To Kill

John Glatt

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One by one, three waterlogged suitcases were pulled from the Chesapeake Bay. In each were body parts of a man. In a forensics room, the truth was discovered: William McGuire had been horribly murdered and dismembered.

William and his loving wife, a registered nurse named Melanie, had just closed on their New Jersey dream home. Little did William know about the nightmare that was in store... For Melanie had been involved in a long-term affair with a married doctor at the fertility clinic where she worked--and she had plans for the future that didn't include William.

Investigators believe that on April 29, 2004, Melanie first drugged her husband, then murdered him in cold blood. Three years after America witnessed the details of the suitcase incident unfold--on "48 Hours, Dateline NBC, "and" ABC Primetime," and in "People "magazine, among other news outlets--Melanie was convicted of first-degree murder and desecrating human remains. This is the true story of a marriage that turned deadly...

To Have and To Kill Details

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RNOCEAN says

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****Rate 4/5 Since I followed the trial of Melanie McGuire on Court TV, I wanted to read the author's version of the crime. I found it unbelievable, being a nurse myself, that such a well-respected nurse who worked with mothers and babies could commit such a gruesome murder. I am convinced after the trial and the reading of this book that she did indeed present a positive and caring persona to the public but underneath was a soulless cold-blooded killer. The degree of planning and caring out of the murder were just unbelievable. I am glad I read about Melanie, I only feel sorry for her family and children. No one deserves to die like her husband did, divorce would have been a much better option.

Sarah says

28/05 - For a murder that I've never heard of this was a relatively interesting story, but I did not enjoy Glatt's writing. There was a lot of describing of the female officials involved as 'attractive', 'beautiful', or 'pretty' and that immediately put me off. Why do we need to hear whether the forensic scientist who investigated the suitcases was "attractive"? Her appearance doesn't make her more or less of an expert in her field and I just felt like the comment on the way she looked devalued her investigative findings. I also felt like he made a lot of leaps of conclusion that weren't necessarily believable or in the least bit provable, especially at the beginning regarding Melanie's immediate family and their relationships with her. Melanie and her parents refused to be interviewed, so there's no way he could know what went on between those people or make credible conclusions based on those connections. Considering this is his best-rated true crime book (at 3.96) and how far off 3.96 stars my own rating was I really don't foresee myself reading any more of his books. My edition is an ex-library copy and is falling to pieces, so I'll definitely be getting rid of it but I haven't decided if I'll be donating it or binning it as it's a bit of a lemon and I wouldn't want another reader picking it up, unaware of how bad the damage is, and paying money for a book whose pages are falling out.

After finishing I Wikipediaed her and found myself interested and happy to read that her conviction was confirmed by an appeals court in March 2011. Then in September of the same year the New Jersey Supreme Court refused to hear her further appeal. In April 2014 she filed a motion for post-conviction relief, alleging

that her lawyer was incompetent and that there was newly discovered evidence. She appeared in court again in later 2014 with her new attorney Lois DeJulio, a public defender, to try to get a hearing that could overturn her 2007 murder conviction, on the grounds that her previous legal representation (by Joe Tacopina) was inadequate or ineffective. The request was turned down. I think that was her last appeal unless there is a serious discovery of new evidence, so from 2018 she must serve a minimum of 56 more years before she can be eligible for parole, which will put her at the ripe old age of 100 years before she can ever expect to go free.

♥ Marlene♥ says

Finished this 2 days ago and I really liked it. Must add that I had not heard anything about this case so it was all new to me. I liked the way the book was written. He managed to pull me in to the story and I was glad how it ended.

Checked the Internet and discovered there are many stories and pictures about her. Going to read the news articles.

Lisa Edgett thomas says

This was a childhood friend (Bill). Very sad as he was a good person and he nor his family deserved to go through this!

Kelly says

This was a very good book. The author does a very thorough job going through the background of this couple without being too boringly detailed. He covers the trial, and does a good job keeping the reader interested.

This is an interesting story. John Glatt is a good author.

Judi says

Glatt delivers another well researched true crime book, guiding the reader through the story of yet another spouse accused in the killing of their partner. Particularly grisly, the victim was drugged, shot, and then dismembered, his severed body parts stuffed in individual suitcases and tossed in the waters off Virginia Beach. Although the evidence in the trial was mostly circumstantial, it was overwhelming. McGuire, a noted nurse and a woman of accomplishment in her profession, was another murderer who thought she was smarter than everyone else, planning and executing a crime that could have gone unsolved if not for the dogged determination of the victim's family to seek justice, and the modern forensics that brought the case together. The question remains as to whether she acted alone. McGuire was a small woman, and detectives and prosecutors doubted she would have been able to physically carry out butchering her husband and tossing the heavy suitcases over a bridge and into the water. There is some innuendo that the killer's stepfather and

mother may have been involved, although no one else was ever indicted in the murder.

Stephanie says

true crime...the suitcase murder...this is one cold bitch...I am guessing the stepfather was the accomplice...weird ghat I looked her up and can't quite see the amazingly gorgeous woman the author described...sigh eye of the beholder snx all that

Brandon says

What an evil person this Jersey girl is. An enthralling true crime read.

Kelly Ann says

Great book. I like Glatt's style of writing.

Kristy Hare says

As much as I believe the wife committed this murder, there was a lot less evidence then expected. I agree with another reviewer that the Stepfather was probably the accomplice. Her Appeal was denied, so we will probably never learn the whole story.

Jade Elzien says

I can't fathom when people believe they have committed the perfect crime. I was so relieved that the jury found her guilty with only circumstantial evidence. I definitely believe that her step-father was her partner in crime: he was a creep from the beginning.

Jazmine says

Wow, what a case! Melanie is the definition of evil bitch. I had never heard anything about this case so I came out of this pretty well informed I think. Excellent TC book.

Julie says

I do not think that the entire story hasn't come out yet. There was no way that Melanie was physically able to

carried it out by herself.

Tari says

This was well written and all sides of this case were well represented. Such a sad, sad event. It amazes me how human beings can be so cruel to one another. This is one person who deserves to remain bars for life.

Rita says

True crime story which held special interest for me since I had met two of the characters and who directly/indirectly affected my life. These being Brad Miller and Richard Scott of RMA who took over our division at WBH in Oct. 2006. We all passed it around the office to read with much discussion and disgust.
