



Bitter Harvest

By Ann Rule

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GIFTED WITH A BRILLIANT MIND, BLESSED WITH A BEAUTIFUL FAMILY -- AND CURSED WITH A DESTRUCTIVE MADNESS

In this harrowing *New York Times* bestseller, Ann Rule is at her masterful best as she winnows horrific truths from the ashes of what seemed like paradise in Prairie Village, Kansas. Rule probes the case of Debora Green, a doctor and a loving mother who seemed to epitomize the dreams of the American heartland. A small-town girl with a genius IQ, she achieved an enviable life: her own medical practice, a handsome physician husband, three perfect children, and an opulent home in an exclusive Kansas City suburb. But when a raging fire destroyed that home and took two lives, the trail of clues led investigators to a stunning conclusion. Piece by piece, Ann Rule digs beneath this placid Midwestern facade to unveil a disturbing portrait of strangely troubled marriages, infidelity, desperation, suicide, and escalating acts of revenge that forever changed dozens of lives.

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Bitter Harvest By Ann Rule Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #183104 in Books
- Brand: Pocket Books
- Published on: 1999-02-01
- Released on: 1999-02-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.75" h x .60" w x 4.13" l, .54 pounds
- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
- 496 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Fans of Ann Rule will find much to relish in *Bitter Harvest*, the tale of a brilliant Kansas physician who holds herself together well enough to put on a decent show for the outside world, but in the heart of her horror-struck family is a violent and baffling monster. She drinks, abuses drugs, spews invective, and even lights fires. At one point she learns from an Agatha Christie novel about a potent toxin contained in castor beans, and she starts poisoning her long-suffering husband. Yet until the final fire that consumes two of her children, they continue to love her and defend her to attackers. Rule tells the story with flair, conveying all of the heady feelings involved, but still the book has a flaw: Rule fails to understand the main character. When a psychiatrist testifies that the doctor is at a younger age than a toddler in her ability to process or sustain emotions, Rule writes, "That was a shocker. Could a woman with an IQ of 165 and a biting, facetious wit, a woman who had zipped through college and medical school, be a child emotionally?" Yes, she could. *Bitter Harvest* would've been a stronger book if Rule had shown us how.

From Library Journal

Dr. Deborah Green was a brilliant, wealthy, married mother of three who was convicted of repeatedly trying to poison her husband and of killing two of her children in a fire she methodically set in the family home. Rule (*A Fever in the Heart*, LJ 11/1/96) proves once again that she is a master of the true-crime genre?she builds the narrative from Green's days as a student of superior intelligence through her years in an increasingly unhappy marriage to her physician husband. Rule carefully chronicles Green's bizarre behavior and takes the reader through the arson investigation as well as Green's husband's illnesses, surgeries, and attempt to rebuild his life with his remaining child, who escaped the fire. Peppered throughout the narrative are quotes from Green herself, which expose her twisted thinking and her attempts to rationalize her behavior. An outstanding chronicle of a crime investigation as well as a riveting profile of a brilliant mind and empty soul.

-?Christine A. Moesch, *Buffalo & Erie County P.L., N.Y.*

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From Kirkus Reviews

A tour de force from America's best true-crime writer (*Dead by Sunset*, 1985, etc). Rule's fans will recognize shades of the pretty poisoner Pat Allanson in Dr. Debora Green, a Kansas woman with a lot of anger. She envies her husband, Mike Farrar, his youthfulness, his successful medical career, and his easy manner with women. Though the two have been married for 18 years and have three children, their relationship has always been rocky. Debora is cruel, vindictive, and has at various times been dependent on pills and alcohol. In 1995, with the family in quiet disorder, Mike and Debora plan to go to Peru. The trip is, in Mike's mind, their final act as a couple. While there Mike meets Celeste Walker, the beautiful wife of an unhappy doctor and an old friend of Debora's. After the trip, they begin an affair; Debora finds out, and Mike suddenly begins to suffer debilitating stomach problems, causing him to be frequently hospitalized. Mike eventually discovers several packets of castor beans in Debora's handbag. The bean is the source of ricin, a deadly poison that is later discovered in Mike's bloodstream. As he begins to recover, he moves out of the house and announces plans to divorce Debora. Only weeks later, a suspicious house fire occurs, the second to strike the family. This time it's fatal: The couple's son and younger daughter die; Debora and the middle daughter survive. An investigation leads back to the furious, defiant Debora, who confesses to both the poisoning and the arson after a carefully rendered and gripping preliminary hearing. She is now in a Kansas prison doing ``a hard forty." Impossible to put down (though a little skimpy on psychiatric details), this is, thanks to the vivid, fascinating portrait of Debora and of the slow unraveling of her homicidal schemes, one of Rule's best.

(24 pages b&w photos, not seen) (Author tour) -- *Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Walter Reeves:

As people who live in often the modest era should be up-date about what going on or details even knowledge to make them keep up with the era and that is always change and advance. Some of you maybe will update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know what one you should start with. This Bitter Harvest is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Stephen Thrush:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book specifically book entitled Bitter Harvest your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a reserve then become one form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get ahead of. The Bitter Harvest giving you one more experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful data for your better life within this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

Beth French:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or perhaps 15 minute in your day time to upgrading your mind ability or thinking skill actually analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book as compared to can satisfy your short period of time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find reserve that need more time to be learn. Bitter Harvest can be your answer mainly because it can be read by an individual who have those short extra time problems.

Robert Fox:

That book can make you to feel relax. This book Bitter Harvest was multi-colored and of course has pictures around. As we know that book Bitter Harvest has many kinds or category. Start from kids until teens. For example Naruto or Detective Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. Therefore not at all of book tend to be make you bored, any it offers up you feel happy, fun and loosen up. Try to choose the best book for you and try to like reading that.

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