



Murder by Family: The Incredible True Story of a Son's Treachery and a Father's Forgiveness

Kent Whitaker

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Kent Whitaker's story of how an unknown assailant opened fire on his entire family, killing his wife and teenaged son, and how his heart-wrenching decision to forgive begins a journey toward redemption and faith when he discovers that the one responsible for the attack is his other son.

Murder by Family: The Incredible True Story of a Son's Treachery and a Father's Forgiveness Details

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Author : Kent Whitaker

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From Reader Review Murder by Family: The Incredible True Story of a Son's Treachery and a Father's Forgiveness for online ebook

Rachel Laskowski says

This was the first book that hooked me from the beginning. I read about 100 pages in 1 day. It was so interesting and had a few unexpected moments. Towards the part with the trial, I wasn't so hooked because I knew what the result of the trial already was. This book is about a tragic story that was able to be turned around into a father's forgiveness, God's help in healing and how a troubled son started to believe in God. I would definitely recommend this book to others.

Doreen says

I picked up the book after seeing the '48 Hours' episode on television. While the story is heartbreaking, the book is hopeful. Kent Whitaker manages to relate the murder of his wife and younger son while leaning heavily upon his faith in God. His older son choreographed these murders, hoping to include his father as one of the dead. Instead, his father survives to tell an amazing tale of forgiveness.

His writing is exceptional. I was certain that there must be a ghostwriter who would be acknowledged at the end of the book, but there wasn't.

The beauty of this book is that anyone can appreciate the shock and despair felt by Whitaker. Here is a man with a strong faith. He goes a step further and actually practices what he professes to believe. Even without faith in God, any reader would benefit from reading Kent's rendering of his older son's problems, the murders, and the trial that followed. Whitaker epitomizes what it means to truly forgive someone.

Sue says

This is a true story about a young man who struggled with who he was for many years, hiding behind a false bravado and envy, no self-esteem and decided to do away with his family because of this and his father's forgiveness.

Maya says

This book was not what I had expected. A memoir of a man's very moving and sad story of his son's plot to kill his family which ended in success. What was so moving was how his faith in God allowed him to forgive his son for taking away the people he loved the most. The only criticism I have is I wish he had talked more about the power of forgiveness. Also, the counselor in me would have liked to know more about the son's upbringing that would have led him to this disastrous ending.

Mollyegraham says

I really liked this book, because it is a real life story set in my hometown in sugar land. What is amazing about the book is Kent Whitaker's forgiveness of his son, and what he shares about his faith and how it brought him through this terrible ordeal.

Kirsti says

An interesting story, because for once I dealt with the religious aspects quite well. I admire how Kent's faith helped him, without understanding or relating to it. I honestly might have preferred reading about this story secondhand, because this isn't a case I'd heard of previously. I find I can read true crime, but prefer a more gentle memoir or biography. Reading crime reminds me of my father, who seemed to only read Australian history, crime and Native American books. These he devoured, and it was his love of books that first inspired mine. It was interesting as well that this book was about a father and child too.

An odd book, but I was satisfied with it. Three stars.

Amy says

I applaud Kent Whitaker for undertaking this book, and recognize and respect the difficulty that he had in its writing, and toeing that line between support of his son, forgiveness, and navigating a path through healing.

HOWEVER, I struggled with whether I could give this book 2 stars. I read it in less than 24 hours as it was written as a very low reading level. Normally a book (whether fiction or memoir) is written with some semblance of chronology (even if the book jumps around a lot, you can tell what happened when), but this book missed this mark completely. The crimes themselves were not even discussed until the last couple of chapters, and by then it was simply cursory.

What was so interesting about this story is the forgiveness that this father has for his son who orchestrated the murders of his entire family. We know going into this book that there will be an element of religiosity, however there is religiosity that is presented in a matter of fact way (it is what it is, and we are all the better because of faith), and that which is in-your-face preachy. Whitaker falls in the latter category... and it was a turn off from page 1. It is clear that Whitaker's goal in this book is minister to those who he believes need to be brought to God/Christ, but as a non-Christian I felt that this was nothing more than a turn-off. I would have perhaps been more receptive to the story and the idea of God's/Christ's teachings of forgiveness had it not been so preachy.

Yet I kept reading. Why? because I hoped that Whitaker might talk about some of the things that may have led his child to orchestrate multiple attempts on he, his wife, and his brother. And with each page turn, I realized that these answers weren't going to come out. I found myself wondering in the end, perhaps was he too quick to offer forgiveness?

forgiveness comes without conditions, and it is something that many of us can benefit from both giving and receiving. But does forgiveness mean that we have to overlook or protect those whom we have extended forgiveness to? As I read, I was certainly convinced that Whitaker had forgiven his son, and he believed that this was a good opportunity to proselytize, however had he ever really accepted and acknowledged how sick his son was or how much help he needed? he references it in passing that his son wasnt allowed mental

health assistance in prison, but how about some insight.

feeling like an imposter does not lead a child to do something like this. feeling frustrated that your school friends are saying they are "christian" yet watching them binge drink and have promiscuous relationships does not lead a person to want to kill his entire family. something doesnt add up. and in the end, while i am convinced that Whitaker has forgiven his son, I am left wondering if Whitaker will ever forgive himself for failing his family in such a grievous way, and then failing to help others understand what went so wrong in that home.

Barbara says

This was a true story of two sons in a family. One son was leading a double life and was extremely mixed up.

I read the book in one day. To me it was unbelieveable or incredible how no one in the family knew how he felt all those years. It held my interest. I was very impressed with the attitude of the Father.

Howard Books says

A story of a man that chose to forgive the one that murdered his wife and youngest son, only to find out later it was his oldest son Bart, that organized the whole thing. Kent writes about his story and his sons trial in this true story. Bart is now serving time on Texas death row.

Nancy says

I picked up this book because of its forgiveness theme. Although I do not totally agree with this man's theology, I found his journey toward forgiveness and the rotton core of his son fascinating. The son was said to always wear a "mask." I wonder if he got that from the father. It felt as if the author was not totally honest with the reader or himself--but who could be in his situation? He also seemed very careful to put himself in the best light. I also felt that they were both trapped in a very narrow religeous view; the continued emphasis on evangelism in the face of the obvious dysfunction of this family felt a little creepy to me. But maybe that's because my religeous views tend to be more introspective rather than evangelical. Nevertheless, this would make an interesting basis for a study on forgiveness.

SouthWestZippy says

I had several issues with this book. Kent Whitaker is in denial, was before the killing and still is after the killing. His son was forced to live a double life because if you were not perfect and were living the idea life style then you were an outcast. You can feel it throughout the whole book. This is a horrific act and his sugar coating the whole thing disgusted me. I felt an unfeeling Kent but forgiving man. I keep trying to figure out, just who is he trying to look good for?

Stacey Baughman says

This was great book about forgiveness. If you are having trouble with that aspect of your life, read this!!

David says

remarkable story of a guy whose wife and son were murdered [and the author was shot and nonfatally wounded] in a contract hit arranged by his other son. The son who hired his friends to kill the family is now on death row. The book mostly concerns the father's Christian faith and his decision to forgive the murderer son.

The story itself is gripping. The writing is just ok. One limitation is that the author was unaware how resentful his son had become [and unaware that the son wasn't enrolled in college, for that matter]. Although they talked a lot later, it seems that he still doesn't really understand why the son was so enraged. Would have been interesting, if feasible, to get cooperation from the murderer son in telling the story.

The other limitation, from my point of view, is the omnipresence of the religious perspective. Obviously that has a lot to do with the author's thoughts on forgiveness, and the story would make no sense without including it, but at times it reads like an infomercial --- God arranged for me to catch the first bass on that fishing trip, and then God intervened to prevent us from finding a parking space so I could learn that.....and so on.

Nene Davies says

This true story is chilling. I read the book in a single gulp because quite frankly I couldn't stop. I don't feel that I could fully comprehend what the author was saying underneath the words on the page and I didn't understand why the horrific events at the core of the book had to happen at all. Maybe nobody knows. To me, it seemed like an incredibly sad waste of life, but the author is a man of immense faith and forgiveness and the lessons he teaches are powerful and rare. I'm glad I read this book. This father is a truly remarkable man.

♥ Marlene♥ says

What a terrible self centered guy this author is! I knew of this story because I had read Savage Son by Corey Mitchell and I had decided to give this guy a fair chance because Corey Mithcellwas not a fan.

Well I am not a fan either. At first while reading the first thing that I thought was remarkable and weird was that the author hardly mentioned his wife's death. **He was so busy showing how good he is,look at me! I**

am such a real believer,I can even forgive my son for killing my youngest son and my wife.

It is all about him.How he is so good.This book he is constantly preaching his religion but he did not practice it I don't think. He was so nasty about the police,about lawyers about his wife's family who obviously got angry about him supporting his killer son and himself.

Nothing about how his son became a killer.No of course not because then he would have to take a look at himself and that's something this man does not want to do. It is easier to say it is all God's doing.

His son was going to be married.The police want to talk with her.What does he tell her,You should not talk to them and if you have to bring a lawyer. He did not want to see that his son was guilty but when he couldn't deny it any longer he worked against the police.

O and his family was killed because God wanted Bart to be saved.Yeah right.He wants to see things that way and makes them in his head like that.

People like him are in my opinion some of the most dangerous. Zealots is the name I think they're called . I am not against religion but this is a perfect example of a man so rigid in his beliefs that in his mind he makes everything about him or how he wants to see it..

(view spoiler)
