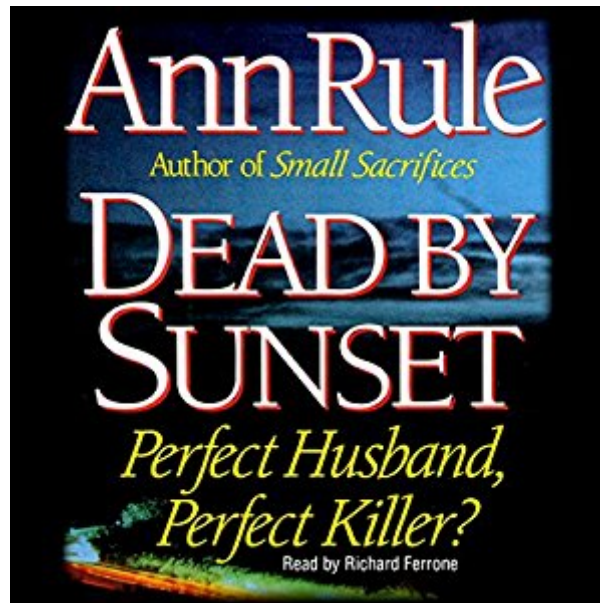




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# Dead By Sunset: Perfect Husband, Perfect Killer?



## Synopsis

The shocking tale from true crime queen Ann Rule. Who is Brad Cunningham? How could five beautiful, intelligent, and successful women believe he was their dream come true? Ask any women who ever longed for "the perfect man". Loni Ann, Cynthia, Lauren, Cheryl, and Sara seemed to have it all - beauty, wealth, children, and a husband who they believed to be this perfect man - Brad Cunningham. He was handsome, charismatic, and mysterious. They adored him and tried to give him all he wanted. But he wanted everything: sex, money, and it seemed, their very lives. How long would it take before he finally got what he deserved? This question haunts *Dead by Sunset*, Ann Rule's riveting and impeccably researched study of the destructive relationships, multiple marriages, financial manipulations, and monstrous acts of harassment and revenge that surrounded Brad Cunningham and his wives. It is also a penetrating - and ultimately shocking - recreation of Cheryl's murder and the eight years it took to bring her killer to justice. *Dead by Sunset* is a chilling look at the evil that lurks behind the most charming of facades and a fascinating homage to the kind of courage and brilliance it takes to combat it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It's difficult to pick out any winners in this story because the "winners" had to do a lot of suffering physically, emotionally, and financially to achieve a so-called win. Brad Cunningham proved himself to be a "loser" in so many ways by blaming whoever had the misfortune to come into his life for his troubles. He possessed the suavity and looks to fool several women into coming into his life much to

their later regret, one of whom paid with her life. Wife Cheryl Cunningham bore Brad three boys and ultimately was the victim of murder by her husband. If there is an angel in this story I would say it would be Sara Gordon who adopted the three boys, suffered years of separation from them, paid countless bills that her shiftless husband rang up, and reunited with her adopted sons in addition to an earlier son of Brad's. Brad Cunningham would project his own insecurities onto others to excuse his own failures throughout life. Clearly this is a man who never, but never, should ever have married anyone. Whatever women suffered the misfortune to come into his life paid a dear price with one, Cheryl Cunningham, paying with her life. This is a depressing book to say the least but, in the end, Brad finally got his just desserts by being sent to prison where he can't hurt anyone else.

This is facts presented in the format of a novel, based on a true story. The characters were very believable, and I found myself to be very sympathetic to their situation. Brad was handsome, and charming but had an underlining mean streak. He was abusive to every one of his wives ( he had 5) all were intelligent good looking and petite, but their husband turned out to be a control freak that could release a lot of rage. He was incapable of really loving or relating to women, and for the most part even his children, they were possessions or bargaining chips to maintain control. I found it frustrating to see these women who were afraid of their husband, yet could not bring themselves to leave him, until they feared for their own safety. For Cheryl ( 4th wife) it was too late, even though she had expressed her fears to others that she felt sure he was going to kill her. It took years for her family to get justice, and during the long struggle I found myself as frustrated as her family. I wanted justice as much as they did. If you like true stories, this is a good read.

This is the spine-chilling true story of sociopath Brad Cunningham, a man who hated women and viewed his children, especially his sons, as possessions. When his fourth wife, accomplished attorney Cheryl Keeton, fought him bitterly for custody of their three young sons, Brad won--by bludgeoning Cheryl to death and sending her car out onto a heavily-travelled highway to make it look like she was killed in an auto accident. Interesting to read this book with the passage of time since the crime occurred (1986) and the years leading up to the crime. Thankfully we as a society are far more aware of the issue of spousal abuse and the warning signs, as Brad was a classic abusive spouse long before he committed murder, not just to Cheryl but to all the other women who had the misfortune to fall in love with the handsome charmer, especially his first wife Loni Ann. There were no battered women's shelters for Loni Ann to run to when Brad beat her or left her, drunk, in the pitch black inches from a cliff hoping she'd fall to her death. Today, although domestic

violence is still far too common, we know the warning signs of an abusive personality and how to get help. The reason Ann Rule is the best living true-crime writer is how she draws you into the tangled web of the lives of the very real people whose lives were touched by murder, not just the police and courtroom drama. Dead By Sunset is one of her true masterpieces. I read this book when it was first published and lost it in a basement flood, so I purchased the kindle version to re-read. Very disappointing that the kindle version does not have the photographs that were in the paperback.

This is my favorite book by Ann Rule. It is wonderfully written & the story .... tragic, but you won't be able to turn away. I read it a dozen years ago but wanted a hard cover of it. Brad Cunningham is a person that you can barely wrap your mind around. Sadly he left a path that changed lives forever.

Very good read!!!! I enjoyed this book as much as "The Stranger Beside Me". I have the hardest time fathoming narcissists like Brad Cunningham, yet I am always fascinated by them.

Another great book written by Ann. Brad is awful and terrible. I had to grit my teeth through some of the children parts. So terrible. I live in the area this took place so it's crazy to read it and be able to imagine. Ann describes it well however Hillsboro is now a huge city! Shows how old it is :)

Not like the movie. The fifth wife did know about the previous marriages and kids in the book.

Well laid out. A tragic event. Pray family, friends and children involved are doing well. PS - The street in Houston is spelled Bellaire. :-)

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