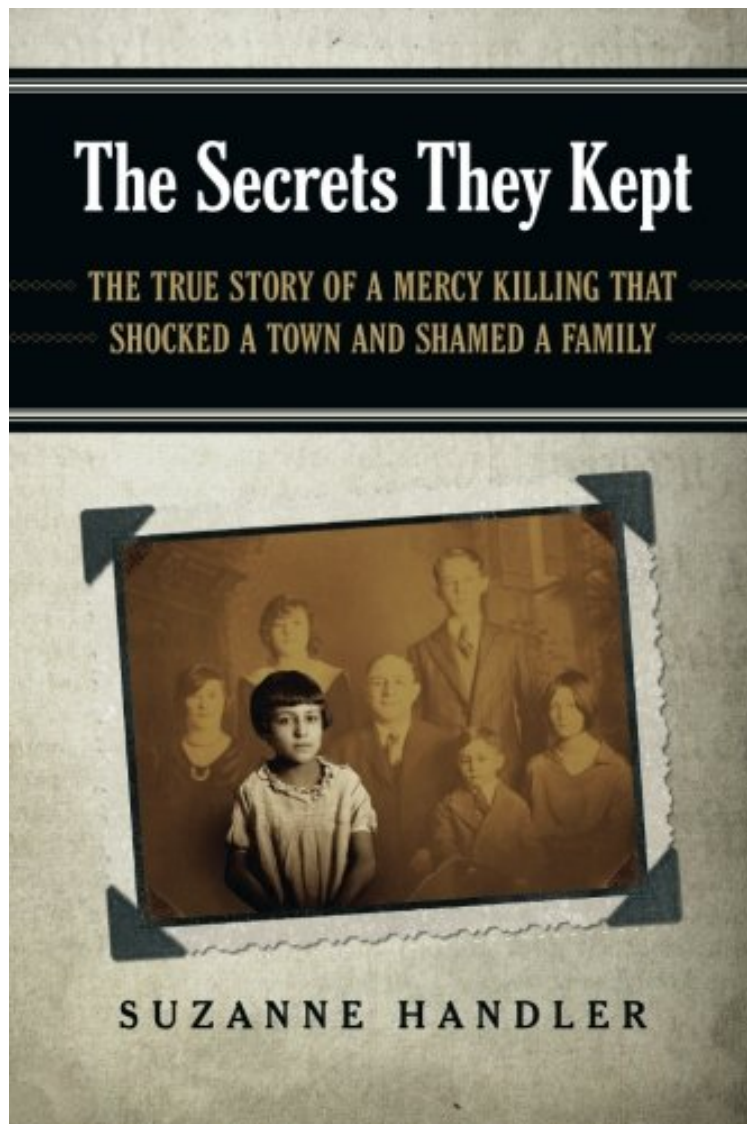


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The Secrets They Kept: The True Story of a Mercy Killing that Shocked a Town and Shamed a Family

Suzanne Handler

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Suzanne Handler : The Secrets They Kept: The True Story of a Mercy Killing that Shocked a Town and Shamed a Family before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Secrets They Kept: The True Story of a Mercy Killing that Shocked a Town and Shamed a Family:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Not for meBy pen2bI'll be honest, I only got 25% of the way through

the book. I had to give up. Written with too much lean toward the melodramatic for me. Can't even say that I'll give it another try later on because I know I won't. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Secrets kept By Michael A. Martin The story is as somewhat thin. Understandably in some respects. Did no-one outside her family know Sally? Interviews from school contacts might inform about how well she functioned in school. The author stated that her grandfather claimed to have the same ailment as Sally, at the time of the incident and then never mentions this again. Whatever is made of this claim is not shared. The author makes much of Sally 's skin tone but does not seem to know anything about the genetics of skin tone transmission in a family. In short, it is not uncommon for parents to have a child that has a skin tone much darker than either parent and this has to do with the particulars of the genetic transmission of skin pigment. In short, somewhere among those ancestors left in Russia, are one or more family members with a darker skin tone. Disappointing that something relatively simple is not addressed. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A fair documentary-BUT not meant for a KINDLE By A Good Reader The book was fair in its research of what the author was trying to portray. However this book seems to be not meant for a Kindle. There were many pages of "copies" of the authors "original" documents. These documents were very old to begin with and probably did not COPY well. Needless to say when attempting to "enlarge" them on my Kindle Paperwhite it still proved futile in ever being able to read any of the "original document copies". I gave up after several attempts to enlarge...NOT meant for Kindle. Perhaps this would have been more appreciated in paperback form.

Every family has its secrets. In 1937, in Cheyenne, Wyoming, an anguished father made the momentous decision to end his mentally ill daughter's life rather than commit her to an insane asylum. After signing a joint suicide pact to die together, the father first killed the girl and then attempted to take his own life. Forever known as Cheyenne's mercy slayer, the man survived to face the consequences of his unimaginable crime. Yet the question remains: What power on earth would compel a father to murder his own child? Now, after more than seven decades of silence, events surrounding this long-ago tragedy are at last being told. Author Suzanne Handler shares with readers the secrets of her family's dark past. You will be moved by this extraordinary story of murder, mental illness, and the impact of secrets on families.

I was riveted by this story in the same way that I couldn't put down Rebecca Skloot's *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. In one slim book readers experience the convergence of history, culture, religion, illness, and family. Suzanne Handler proves that everyone has the right to claim his or her story. She's brave in reporting her aunt's mercy killing, raising questions and reflections about love and familial allegiance that stay with readers long after they have completed the book.