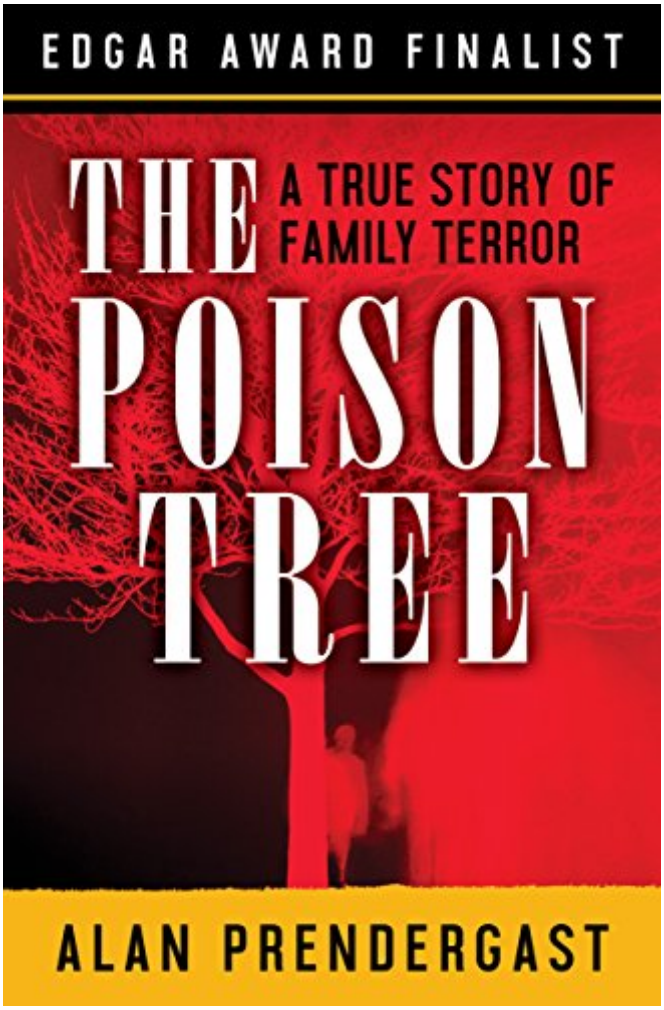
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# The Poison Tree: A True Story Of Family Terror




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## Synopsis

Edgar Award Finalist: The shocking account of a Wyoming father who terrorized his family for yearsÃ¢â ¬â •until his children plotted a deadly solution. One cold November night, in Cheyenne, Wyoming, fifteen-year-old Richard Jahnke Jr., ROTC leader and former Boy Scout, waited for his parents to return from celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the night they met. When his father got out of the car, the boy blasted him through the heart with a twelve-gauge pump-action shotgun. RichardÃ¢â ¬â„¢s seventeen-year-old sister, Deborah, was sitting on the living room couch with a high-powered rifleÃ¢â ¬â •just in case her brother missed. Ã Â  Hours later the Jahnke kids were behind bars. Days later they made headlines. So did the truth about the house of horrors on Cowpoke Road. Ã Â  Was it cold-blooded murder? Or self-defense? Ã Â  Richard Jahnke Sr., special agent for the IRS, gun collector, and avid reader of Soldier of Fortune, had been subjecting his wife, Maria, and both children to harrowing abuseÃ¢â ¬â •physical, psychological, and sexualÃ¢â ¬â •for years. Deborah and her brother conspired to finally put a stop to it themselves. But their fate was in the hands of a prejudiced and inept judicial system, and only public outcry could save them. Ã Â  Written with the full and revealing cooperation of the Jahnkes, this finalist for the Edgar Award for Best Fact Crime is Ã¢â ¬Å“the ultimate family nightmare, played out in the heartland of America.Ã Â .Ã Â .Ã Â .Ã Â From the night of the murder through both trials, convictions and both youngstersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ eventual releaseÃ Â .Ã Â .Ã Â .Ã Â itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s gripping readingÃ¢â ¬Â• (Chicago Tribune). Ã Â

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Interesting subject, thought provoking. Kept my interest right up until final chapters, then it just kinda of petered out. Pretty good info on how the justice system works, although it jumped around a bit in explanations of why something occurred, which made it confusing at times. Even as a Law Enforcement member, some things had me scratching my head as to why something happened. It was tough to determine if it was described out of order, or were police agencies really messed up or was this, 'writer's license'. Otherwise, pretty good book.

this book down...read straight through. I'd never heard of this case, the made for TV movie, etc., however, it read as though it had just happened, and did not seem like it was a 30 plus years old account. Great writing and allowed the reader to draw their own conclusions as to right, wrong and everything in between.

Richard Chester Jahnke abused his family. He abused his children to the point that they were not normal. Finally the children decide it must stop. The prosecutor seems to disregard the human factor and thinks the kids are evil and deserve punishment. This true case helped change child abuse cases in Wyoming and U.S. Hard to read, but important to realize that just because there are laws, it doesn't mean they may be applied in all cases.

Excellent coverage of this tragic story written to not only cover the events but to do so in a way that is captivating. Hated to put it down for more pressing needs and looked forward to getting back to the narrative asap.

This is really good true crime book. It's very tragic and well told and it was difficult to put down. I'm a little bit torn as to the result from the criminal case as I can see both sides to the issue. Recommended.

Very Well written. The narrative shone a light on the extreme family dysfunction that impacted the lives of all of them. I moved with pity for all of them.

Very well written! You won't be disappointed.

Well written. I enjoyed reading it. At times it seemed to drag. I honestly think that was my issue, not the authors. Or the book. It picked right back up. I kept being drawn back to it. If you are the least bit interested in child abuse or you work in the field. You will love this book. It was well executed. If it is a sensitive are for you. I think you will find this book was written , with taste.

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