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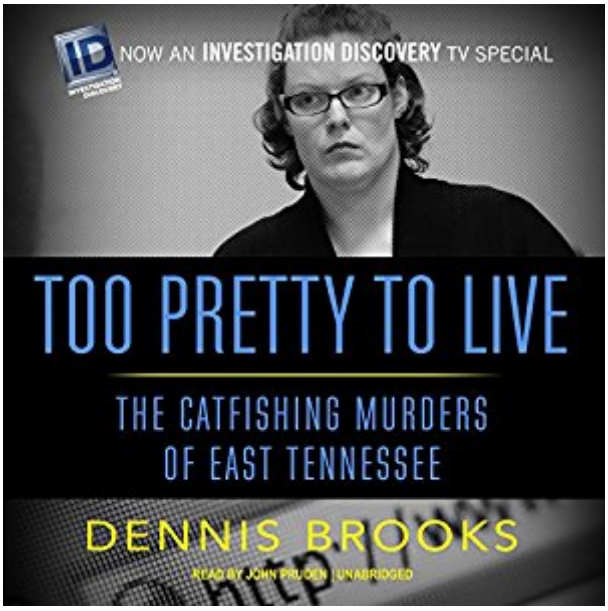
Too Pretty To Live: The Catfishing Murders Of East Tennessee



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Synopsis

In this stunning true-crime thriller of Facebook, catfishing, and jealousy, a double murder begins with the click of a button. When Bill Payne and Billie Jean Hayworth began their romance, they unknowingly set in motion a diabolical plot that would end with them murdered in their own home, Hayworth holding their mercifully unharmed infant. Chris was a CIA agent who was concerned about Jenelle. Seeing the cyberbullying she had endured, and worried for her safety, Chris got in touch with Jenelle's protective parents and her devoted boyfriend, warning them that Payne and Hayworth were a danger to Jenelle. He got especially close with Jenelle's mother, Barbara, who thought of Chris like a son, though she had never met him. Chris claimed that surveillance of Payne and Hayworth revealed that the two of them were planning on harming Jenelle, that it was imminent, and that something needed to be done immediately. Chris promised that he would have their back if they were to act to protect Jenelle. And so they did. Jenelle's father, Buddy, and her boyfriend, Jamie, broke into the home of Payne and Hayworth and murdered them in their own home. What the police investigation turned up, though, made this crime all the more terrifying. Jenelle had been Chris the entire time, catfishing her family and her boyfriend to act in vengeance on her behalf. Using forensic linguistics and diving through the brambles that Jenelle laid to cover her tracks, police were able to put together a chilling portrait of a sociopath made all the more ruthless by the anonymity of her online life. Bizarre and unforgettable, Dennis Brooks examines the crime and trial from all angles, bringing his expertise as the lead prosecutor in this strange and disturbing case.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a complicated case concerning the prosecution of four individuals for murdering a young couple. Two perpetrators did the shooting, and two perpetrators worked behind the scenes.The author makes a comparison with the Charles Manson case, and I can see the similarities, although it seems laughable to compare Manson, a charismatic cult leader, with Jenelle Potter, a mentally unbalanced woman with an IQ of 72. However, both were excellent manipulators. The motive in both cases was simple envy, although both Manson and Potter created a lot of smoke and mirrors to make it seem like something else. Manson wanted to start a "race war," and Jenelle Potter tried to convince her parents that people were plotting against her and that her own life was in danger. The real bottom line was that Manson wanted to be a rock star. He believed that music producer Terry Melcher would make him a star. However, Melcher was uninterested in signing Manson to a contract. Therefore, Manson sent his followers to Melcher's former house, knowing that Melcher had moved out, to slaughter the current occupants and put a scare into Melcher. Manson wanted to be something he could not be.Jenelle Potter was a low-functioning person who envied higher-functioning people. She apparently had a crush on Bill Payne, one of the victims, and became enraged when he got involved with a woman named Billie Jean and they had a baby. Jenelle most probably wanted a husband and baby of her own, which is very understandable. However, her anger caused her to express her envy in a terrible way, by creating the illusion that these two individuals were threatening her life, and then manipulating her mother and father to murder them.

This case is one that I was immediately captivated by, simply due to its twists and turns and outright lunacy. I was blown away that Jenelle's parents would fall for the CIA claim, seeing that the emails from "Chris" were written using terrible grammar (that, oddly enough, matched their daughters'), let alone the claims from Jenelle that the whole town hated her because she was too pretty and sweet.This girl clearly wanted everyone to be jealous of her, forgetting that they had nothing to be jealous of. I would feel sorry for her if she wasn't such a manipulative, heartless and self-involved POS. Too bad she is all of those things.The book, unfortunately, is not everything it could be. The writing itself was a little hard to swallow, but I forgave that aspect due to the fact that the author was not a professional writer. I don't claim to be a master of English and a professional writer myself by any means, but there were passages that were very disjointed and the timeline was a bit hard to follow as a result.The most disappointing aspect was the lack of "meat"- the story wasn't fleshed out with as much detail as I felt it should have been- for instance, the "Chris" emails that were at the

heart of this stories were scattered throughout, but there was little content shown, and the time at which they were written was unknown. Totally confusing and a total letdown- I wanted to read so much more of what inspired these people to commit this crime, but it was almost skipped over and cast aside as a non-essential piece of evidence. It was everything in this case- how could this be so dismissed??

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