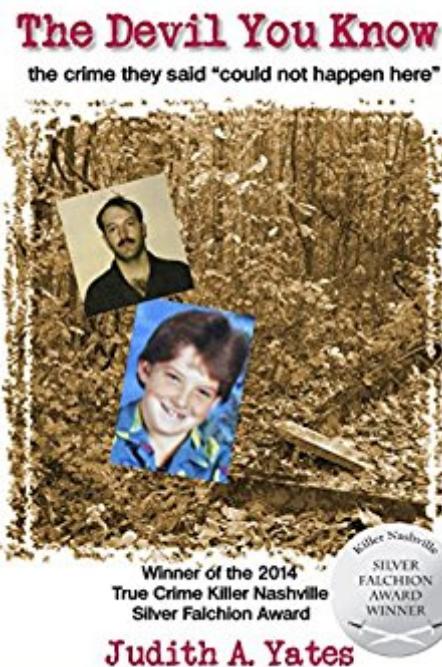


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# The Devil You Know: The Crime They Said "could Not Happen Here"



## **Synopsis**

On a foggy night on March 10, 1990, in Westport, Indiana, twelve-year-old Brad Maddux strolled over to a pickup truck to chat with his twenty-nine-year-old cousin, Douglas Sims. Brad was never seen again. It was not until the following night that Brad's family and friends noted his disappearance. As the small community searched frantically for Brad, officers questioned Douglas Sims several times. It was not until Sims was interviewed, using tactics by a seasoned investigator, did they learn the horrific truth: Sims had murdered Brad in a horrifying way, and buried his body in a place of symbolism and fear. Worse, Douglas Sims spoke of his crime as if it were of no concern. It changed the way an entire community began to feel: people began to lock their doors and guard their children, even when the monster was locked away in jail. It was called "the worse crime Decatur County had ever seen" • but this was not the end of the horror. Douglas Sims received a sentence the community felt was "a joke," • as one investigator believed. As the truth came out, mild-mannered and friendly neighbor Douglas Sims, who never even raised his voice, was exposed as a predator, a pedophile that preyed on the community children right before their parents' eyes. Years later, he derided the dead boy in a shocking display before the parole board that left hardened officers stunned. This is the brutal, heartbreaking true story of the crime and punishment of a monster that preyed on the most vulnerable victims of all, a little boy who trusted, a community that refused to believe evil lurked among them, and of the law enforcement officers who brought a child killer to justice. A portion of proceeds of this book will be donated to a nonprofit organization in the victim's name.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book appears very amateurish. Disjointed sentences due to bad formatting, endless repetition. Pages and pages of what a happy boy the victim was. We got it the first time, he smiled a lot, seemed happy. Would his death have been less of a tragedy had he been sulky? Completely irrelevant information, explaining at length everything and anything from autopsies, the society for the prevention of cruelty to children, vin numbers...., all awkwardly forced into the story. The author turns every minutia into a teaching moment for her apparently very naive readers. Not to mention the pseudo-psychological dissertations a propos of nothing at all, lecturing for example on the nature of paedophiles and the like, as if this information has only now come to light. And: Let the reader make up his mind as to whether the children were well supervised or not, just tell the story! I actually feel cheated by 's automated system for having suggested this book to me and was certainly fooled by the 5 star rating. I have read many excellent TC books, this is not one of them.

I chose this book because of some similarities to what our family has been through. It is a very touching portrayal of what the senseless murder of a sweet, charming, promising child does to his family, the murderer's family, their small town, and the many people who worked on the case. It really brings home the fact that evil ALWAYS disguises itself, and is stalking the young and weaker of us everywhere -- even in small, wholesome, mid-west towns. It provides a very clear description of how sex offenders choose and then groom their prey. It describes how intelligent, competent people (especially children) can fall into their carefully laid traps. It then goes the extra mile at the end of the book to do something no other true crime books I have read have done: it outlines what YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT! It doesn't just leave you there deplored the tragedy of it all, but describes what can be done to stop or at least slow down these predators, and how you can keep you or your family from being their victims. My hesitation on giving it five stars is that it really needed more proof reading, the writing was a bit sophomoric in places, there was some repetition (possibly needed and intentional - not sure) here and there, and I think additional, important information could have been

provided on prevention at the end. Nevertheless, it is definitely worth reading!

I only give this book one star because I don't think I can give it none! I should have read the two star reviews fully before paying \$9.99 for this complete drivel. There IS something wrong with the formatting, or the book was not checked for errors. A few typos are 'acceptable', but this book has sentences cut in half and arbitrary other sentences tacked on, every second or third page. From now on I will always request a sample read first, and not depend on reviews entirely. This book had a few good reviews, but I question which planet those readers were on, or I wonder whether the author may have paid them to give the book four or five stars! Besides the terrible errors, the writing is so bad, it is indescribable. The 'writer' has no business being called an author! I only read 'true crime', and from the description the book sounded really good, a tragic case that I would have liked to have learned about, but I think I managed to get to about Chapter 4 before giving up and requesting a refund, something I have never done before in over 100 books. This should not even be for sale on !However, a valuable lesson learned! I will always request a sample from now on, and will read ALL reviews of a book before purchasing it!

This was a very good book, brought back so many childhood memories. While reading the book I felt like I was back in that day of terror. I can remember that day very well as if it were yesterday. Something I never want to live through again. I am very protective of my children today as I remember what happened that very day on March 10, 1990. Ms Yates done a very good job on investigating and gathering the details she needed to write this book.

Living near the small town myself, the book is not written well, but seems to be very accurate on the details! Rip Brad

Ms Yates has done so much research on this case, and it shows as she weaves the true story of how this little boy was killed along with priceless information about child molesters. All parents need to read this book so they will be better prepared to keep their child safe. I was surprised to learn "that the average molester has over 100 victims." Yates puts to rest many misconceptions, for instance, "Sexual orientation has nothing to do with sexual molestation of a child - no more than rape has to do with making love." The author brings to life the pleasant little town of Westport, Indiana - a town, like many others, where we would never dream such a crime would occur. However, we learn that such a crime could happen anywhere and by someone we might least

suspect. We all need to be more alert and informed. Judith Yates has had a lot of experience in this arena, and she shares invaluable information with us.

It was a book that once you started it, you couldn't put it down. The author kept your attention from beginning to end.

The subject matter was interesting, but the entire book needed a lot more proof reading. Very disjointed in places. I think the author has a genuine concern for children's safety.

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