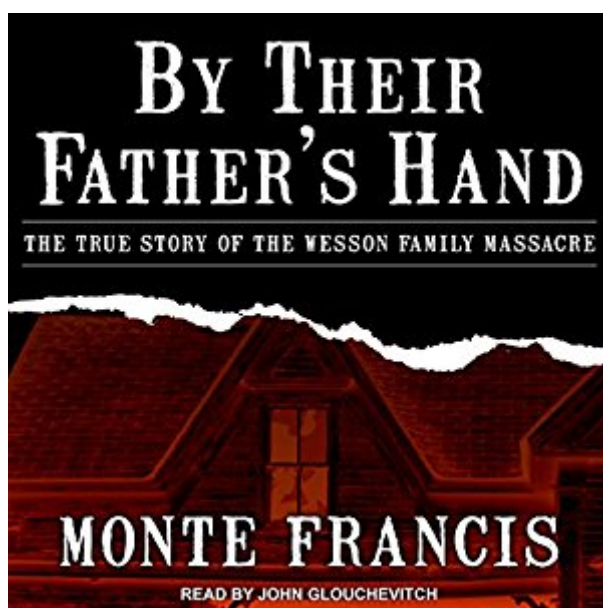


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By Their Father's Hand: The True Story Of The Wesson Family Massacre



Synopsis

Neighbors were unaware of what went on behind the tightly closed doors of a house in Fresno, California - the home of an imposing, 300-pound Marcus Wesson, his wife, children, nieces, and grandchildren. But on March 12, 2004, gunshots were heard inside the Wesson home, and police officers responding to what they believed was a routine domestic disturbance were horrified by the senseless carnage they discovered when they entered. *By Their Father's Hand* is a chilling true story of incest, abuse, madness, and murder, and one family's terrible and ultimately fatal ordeal at the hands of a powerful, manipulative man - a cultist who envisioned vengeful gods and vampires, and totally controlled those closest to him before their world came to a brutal and bloody halt.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have to separate the book's subject matter (which of course, was very sad) from the writing of it, which was very good. It's difficult enough to absorb accounts of murders, violence, child sex abuse, and brainwashing that happen in real time and we experience as a distant observer, but to chronicle the events from beginning to end in a true account takes determination and a belief that society will be better prepared to avoid tragedy by understanding what happened. I couldn't stop thinking about how many warning signs went ignored by both trained professionals (like child welfare agency staff) and people who interacted with the family. Of course, minimizing domestic violence in all of its faces was atrocious on the part of the dispatchers and responding law enforcement officers on the day of the shootings. I have worked for a domestic violence/sexual assault victim advocacy agency since 1993, and still I have learned from this book how people manipulate and how people are

manipulated.

Marcus Wesson is pure evil. He ruled his house with an iron fist, sexually abusing his daughters and nieces which produced many children. This went on for 20 years and no one knew. No CPS involvement, no schooling, he really knew how to fly under the radar while scamming the system so he didn't have to work. Great reporting and I particularly liked that the trial was not just a copied transcript (which can get very boring) but summaries unless it was an important witness. As one juror put it, these children never had a chance. And most love and defend him, to this day. They remain faithful to their "husband" and do not see anything wrong with what he did, and blame others for the 9 dead children shot in their right eye.

4 stars = I like it. 5 stars = I love it. I will reserve 5 stars for books for only great literature. 4 stars for really good writing. That's what this is, just a well-written account of what happened. The other book, "Deadly Devotion" re-titled "Where Hope Begins" (I think she titled it "Deadly Devotion" when she was still in a journalistic mindset, to sensationalize it. But because she personally knows the Wesson family, I think she decided to change it to something more "human" later on.) Is NOT about the events as much as it is about Alysia Sofios relationship with the family, her personal life and connection to this case, and their growth. If you want to know more about the crimes, this book has more information. However, it's not focused on that from start to finish either. There is no book that tells you all about the horrors that occurred, if that's what you're looking for, this book actually might not be for you. You're better off seeking something else entirely if you're looking for that sort of thing. Not about the Wesson case (because there's nothing like that about this case), but in general. The case isn't that interesting, to be honest. And this book is about the TRIAL, mostly. Like guilt, "Why didn't you do anything to stop him?" "She broke down and cried", etc."

was horrific. I've read so many true crime novels, I've lost count and yet had never heard of this account. It's a difficult read, in the sense of what this man did. Hard to believe in this day and age this kind of isolation and brain washing is possible and yet here it is, in all its gory truth. As to the writing, I think it would have read easier had it been in beginning to end format, chronological, but kind of jumped around. With all the facts available, it would have been more riveting had it been in a novel format. It doesn't take away from the story that it wasn't, just my opinion due to my preference for story telling.

CREEPY EERIE CONTENT BUT WELL WRITTEN! THIS POOR ABUSED FAMILY! At first I was not just appalled by the sexual deviant WESSON father but was repulsed by the lack of protection of all the children by Elizabeth the wife. Of course she was married at 14, brainwashed herself, and certainly appears to be a victim as well. Unfortunately, this is another tragedy that appears too often as we stare at our televisions in disgust at what is happening in this world!

It's always hard for me to rate true crime books because the content is always disturbing. I have to detach myself from the events and concentrate on the quality of the writing and research. In this case, the story was deeply disturbing. Probably the most disturbing book I've ever read. Even so, it was written well and the author did a great job with research so I have to give it high marks. Monte Francis got interviews with some of the victims and corresponded with the perpetrator after many failed interview attempts with his lawyer. What was said by those involved gives added insight to this seriously twisted case. Oddly enough, there was an audio recording of the entire final crime scene. The author transcribes it for the readers verbatim which is truly interesting. Readers were not subjected to verbatim of the court hearing, which was also very nice. Only important parts were quoted. There is nothing worse than a true crime novel that reads like a court transcript. I always felt that was a cop out - a lazy way of writing - and it's a relief that this author doesn't go there. We were also spared the blood, gore, shock writing. This author wrote very objectively and didn't make an already disturbing story worse. I would recommend this book, but would also recommend reading the synopsis carefully as this unfortunately true story may haunt some.

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