



The Confessions of an American Black Widow: A True Story of Greed, Lust and a Murderous Wife

Written by Gregg Olsen

Published by mckeeandassociates

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n American Black Widow: A True Story of Greed, Lust and a

By Gregg Olsen

The Confessions Of Max Tivoli

When the body of 45-year-old Glen Harrelson was found in his Denver home, police tried to contact his wife, but soon they made a startling realization. She had played the part of grieving widow once before: her previous husband also had died a mysterious accidental death...

The Confessions of an American Black Widow: A True Story of Greed, Lust and a Murderous Wife

The Confessions Of St Augustine

In a true story as shocking as any fiction, *The Confessions of an American Black Widow* is the amazing account of Sharon Lynn Nelson, a wild, beautiful preacher's wife who couldn't get enough-enough sex, enough money, or enough of her rugged "Mountain Man" lover, Gary Adams. Nelson was so consumed by greed that she convinced Adams to kill two of her three husbands in order to cash in on their insurance policies.

The Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind

Here is a compelling portrait of a woman driven by the darkest forces to mate, then kill--an American black widow who ultimately got snared in her own twisted web...

I enjoyed reading this true crime by Gregg Olsen again under its new title as my memory has taken a turn for the worse because of health problems since this book was first published as "Confessions of an American Black Widow" back in 1998. So it's been almost like reading a brand new story about Sharon Nelson and the double murder case. There did seem to be a bit of a blur between the cases in the early part of the book that didn't make sense. The rest was great, other than the picture section at the end is a disappointment, too small and no captions. This was an amazing story otherwise, one that's hard to believe that is real as it goes on. With a seemingly heartless nympho woman who keeps using her looks and wiles to play men for fools and destroying families along the way. She just brazenly gets away with things and just keeps doing it over and over with no end in sight. A compelling read to see how it turns out. ...more

The Confessions Of Thomas Quick

I enjoy Gregg Olsen immensely. His writing is superb. But there is something in this story that's just missing. I can't really put my finger on it. Other than that, another great true crime read. 'Bitch on Wheels' is so very fitting for Sharon Nelson.

Update March 6 2017: The book I just finished is called Bitch on Wheels. So pissed off that this book is sold under a new name. It feels to me that readers are being duped when authors or their publishers change the name. So yes they managed to dupe me into buying this book twice.

Then reviewing this book I hated the jumping in time. I always try not to read the prologue because I like not to know (and yes I had forgotten this story totally. had no idea I had already read it which is not a comp Update March 6 2017: The book I just finished is called Bitch on Wheels. So pissed off that this book is sold under a new name. It feels to me that readers are being duped when authors or their publishers change the name. So yes they managed to dupe me into buying this book twice.

Then reviewing this book I hated the jumping in time. I always try not to read the prologue because I like not to know (and yes I had forgotten this story totally. had no idea I had already read it which is not a compliment to the book I'd say)

With this book I could not read it in chronological order how hard I tried.

(view spoiler)[

There is not much info about this woman online but I did find an interesting article where she appealed saying her confessions were made under distress and was unable and incapable of making a wilful, knowing and voluntary plea." After an evidentiary hearing in the Jefferson County District Court, the state district judge denied her motion by written order. Ms. Nelson exhausted her state remedies to no avail. Yay for that district judge. I am disgusted that an appeal like this is being allowed. It cost the taxpayers lots of money.

I also have a suspicion she has managed to remove a lot of info by using the law about data protection law in Europe. Or perhaps it is because there was not a trial but i find it weird because most of the time women that kill or order to kill is a subject the news loves.

The author is going on about how beautiful she is and looking on the pictures on the ebook version she is okay looking. she is pretty but not beautiful. Very sexy I assume.

Talking about the photos in this kindle version they are few plus there is no description so you have no clue which man is which. Would have been so easy to add the names and dates.

Because of this my 4 star rating is too high. Rating it 3 stars.

(hide spoiler)]

On Thursday, December 27, 2007 I wrote about this book.

8 out of 10

The Confessions of an American Black Widow: A True Story of Greed, Lust and a Murderous Wife

Interesting book but this one might be my least favorite of all the greg Olsen books I have read.

Not because of the way he writes but more of how the story was told.

I prefer to read a book in the way it happened. Not as Mr Olsen did in this book, you get information that she has remarried while you are still reading about her first marriage. ...more

The Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind Tour

The writing was great, the story was fascinating but I did not like the arrangement of the story line. I like the beginning, middle and end to be just that.

This book was originally published in 1998 under the title "Confessions of an American Black Widow", it was re-released in 2013 as an e-book with the title "Bitch on Wheels". I have the 1998 version in paperback, the 2013 version as an ebook, mainly because I didn't realize they were the same book. M. William Phelps wrote a foreword for the ebook version, a fact I find appropriate since I was reading his book at the same time I was reading this.

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We come into the story at the death of Sharon Nelson's third husband, we then go back in time to her first husband, who Sharon didn't kill, apparently she decided it was better if her exes were dead. She had her lover kill husband number 2 and 3, while at the same time keeping his as her lover. He didn't seem to want to marry Sharon, of course that would have meant leaving his wife.

Gregg Olsen does his usual stellar job. His in dept recounting of the lives of the people involved makes one feel like they know them, yet his detailed reported doesn't drag and is his style of writing is very readable. Gregg Olsen could re-write the phone book and I would read it. Well maybe not. My only complaint was the order the account was told was rather confusing, we kept going back and forth in time. Still a worthwhile read. ...more

The Confessions Of Nat Turner By William Styron

Very crude language

RTC

True Crime Commemoration # 9

Setting: 1960s-1980s Colorado

See "Bitch On Wheels"

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The Confessions Of Nat Turner Pdf

I read this book on my Kindle Fire and it had a completely different title: "Bitch on Wheels - the Sharon Nelson Double Murder Case." The story was often repugnant in its details, but I am convinced that this woman was not born a sociopath, but made one when her father forced her to marry a minister at age 19 when she was interested in expanding her learning, etc. It did not help that she had a cold and distant mother who obviously made all the decisions, leaving her husband to carry them out. S I read this book on my Kindle Fire and it had a completely different title: "Bitch on Wheels - the Sharon Nelson Double Murder Case." The story was often repugnant in its details, but I am convinced that this woman was not born a sociopath, but made one when her father forced her to marry a minister at age 19 when she was interested in expanding her learning, etc. It did not help that she had a cold and distant mother who obviously made all the decisions, leaving her husband to carry them out. Sharon was the second oldest child in the family. The story take place in a small town in Colorado for the most part. Married to a Seventh Day Adventisit minister, she had forced them to be transferred from North Carolina because of the scandal involving her committing adultery with other men. This continued when the family moved to Colorado. She also became pregnant several times, not only by the men she was married to, but by casual lovers. It seems that she used abortion as a method of birth control. Most females felt put off by this woman, and several men, but the more naive ones were taken in by her physical assets. Apparently, she was very voluptuous and beautiful. She used these things to her advantage to get what she wanted from men, who she so obviously hated, demonstrated by the way she basically treated them as objects. She divorced her first husband to marry an optometrist who was married and when she had basically bankrupted his business, she took out three life insurance policies on him and had another lover (a construction worker at her home) murder him. After this, she had this same man murder another of her husband's, a firefighter, in 1988 - the first murder was committed in. 1983. She cared little for any of the children born to her, and she epitomizes what people call "white trash" in the way she dressed, acted and lived overall. The most amazing thing to me is that in a Pizza Hut restaurant, she confessed, almost bragging, about the murders she and her boyfriend were involved in. I found this book to be extremely interesting; however since the title was changed and the Kindle edition was published, there were several editorial errors in the pages of the book although I didn't have too much trouble following the story. Personally, as with all books published, I think proofreading nowadays leaves much to be desired. I try to overlook these kinds of errors when I see them, but I have to admit I am bothered somewhat by them. It can't be that difficult to check the spelling of "cavass" when police go interview neighbors, versus "canvas", which is fabric used to paint on. That is just one example. But as a society, I do believe we can do better in cleaning up the details like this. Maybe I am a bit picky, but I believe that if one doesn't have the time to do a task correctly the first time, where is one going to find the time to do it over again? If it were not for so many of these editing errors, I would have rated the book as five stars because Mr. Olsen is a good writer. ...more

"She had money and, at least she hoped, all that comes with that. She had everything but what many women hold the most dear. Sharon no longer had her children." â€”Bitch on Wheels: The Sharon Nelson Double Murder Case

The Confessions of an American Black Widow: A True Story of Greed, Lust and a Murderous Wife

Gregg Olsen does an exceptional job of drawing the reader in. He even had me at times feeling sorry for the woman described as "sweet as honey pie dipped in sugar and rolled in razor blades." Though these sympathies were fleeting, it made her more real, more human.

This was my first Gregg Olsen true crime, but it certainly won't be my last. ...more
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The Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen

I liked the story but am a little skeptical on the author.

I get the subject was a woman of VERY questionable character but his constant pointing out she was a "slut", "whore" and more got to be a bit much. I kind of was to read another of his books to see if this was just this book or he really is a sexist.

The title for Bitch on Wheels by Gregg Olsen comes from a description by one of Sharon's colleagues. Sharon probably never had true friends. Sharon only had feelings for people who could provide benefits to her, either monetarily or connections with those who demonstrated the potential for future exploitation. Those feelings changed from moment to moment. People who initially had feelings of friendship for her would change their perceptions over time as Sharon's true nature would inevitably emerge. The title for Bitch on Wheels by Gregg Olsen comes from a description by one of Sharon's colleagues. Sharon probably never had true friends. Sharon only had feelings for people who could provide benefits to her, either monetarily or connections with those who demonstrated the potential for future exploitation. Those feelings changed from moment to moment. People who initially had feelings of friendship for her would change their perceptions over time as Sharon's true nature would inevitably emerge. Throughout the story, I wondered if author Olsen was giving an accurate portrayal of Sharon. Her documented actions were deplorable on their face; it was Olsen's description of Sharon's acceptance of her own actions that caused me to speculate. If Olsen's description of Sharon's self-perceptions is accurate, Sharon is a monster.

This novel is the story of a female "black widow" serial killer, Sharon Nelson. The novel is disturbing from its first section, "Foreword". The author is fascinated by female serial killers and spends several paragraphs telling us why "we" are fascinated more by female serial killers than their male counterparts. First, I don't like being included as part of the "we" defined by a person I don't know and who doesn't know me, namely Gregg Olsen. Second, I found this sentence offensive. "We like her because she fantasizes and thinks about the kill quite a bit more passionately than her male counterpart." (Kindle location 59). Other than the offensive "We," the description of the stereotypical female nature bothered me. Can we not have sensitive male serial killers? I find this story fascinating for many reasons. Of course, the character of Sharon Nelson is a reference point, but I had more interest in the characters she interacted with. What was in their character that allowed Sharon to go undetected, although suspected, for twenty years? To give him credit, after expressing extensively his adoration of the character that is Sharon, Olson makes this point in his last sentence of his "Foreword".

As a mostly non-fiction book, there is no danger of accidentally posting a spoiler. The pleasure in reading is following the process that led to eventual "justice". Characters are everything in this novel. There is a type of criminal known as a grifter or con artist, a person skilled in deception, whose abilities are demonstrated in the trust they demand from their victims. Sharon Nelson is that kind of

The Confessions of an American Black Widow: A True Story of Greed, Lust and a Murderous Wife

person with an exception. Most con artists don't kill their targets. Sharon did that, it is not a surprise or spoiler; she is guilty and spending time in prison. Not only did her victims love her, not only did she cause her their deaths, but her story is also remarkable because she did not personally kill her victims. She recruited another person to do the killing for her. The hired assassin killed not for financial gain, although there were insurance money payouts, but because the killer was in love with Sharon. Everyone was in love with Sharon until, especially in the case of other women, they weren't.

Other than her casual acceptance that the death of others was preferable to her leading a life without money and every desired material good, Sharon's use of and desire for sex always and in all settings is difficult for me to believe. Sex addiction comes to mind. Although Sharon had children, it seems she cared for none of them. In pursuit of an adventure du jour, Sharon neglected the daily needs of children such as food and basic safety. When asked where one of her young children was, her response was one of "Wait, he will turn up. He always does." Maybe I have led a sheltered life; I have met exactly one such mother in my life. At least in my case, it did not end up in anyone's death, but the children led difficult lives. Despite all the recounting of prolific sexual activity, this novel does not have offensive sexual scenes or vocabulary.

Her name was Sharon Lynn Douglas Fuller Nelson Harrelson. Her parents supplied the Douglas, a minister gave her Fuller, an optometrist gave her Nelson, and a firefighter gave her Harrelson. The firefighter and the optometrist died. Sharon didn't pull the trigger, heave the boulder, or pour the gas from the can and light the match. Gary Adams, one of her lovers, did those things at her order or suggestion. Readers might be amazed at the power of suggestion. Buried in this story is another explicitly stated opinion of the origin of the power that motivated Gary. Discovering these interesting nuggets of information is the fun of reading the novel.

Despite my reservations about the tone expressed in some parts of the novel, this is a well-written interesting novel which I give four Amazon stars. I like crime novels, not all of which involve serial killers, and I am sure I will read more by this author.

...more

The Confessions of an American Black Widow: A True Story of Greed, Lust and a Murderous Wife

The Confessions Of An Economic Hitman

Great read

- well reported journalism! Intriguing story that just makes you so mad. Recommend for any true crime fans. Have fun

Pain of Loss caused by A black widow

This book is sad, devastating, traumatic to a lot of people. In the end justice prevails! My heart goes to the victims and survivors.

The Confessions Of Aleister Crowley

This was an interesting true tale but I had a totally ruined reading experience due to so many editing errors, sadly.

There were a lot of instances where gaps were suddenly inserted into words and also missing words here and there. The most annoying thing was a lack of paragraph breaks which made for tricky reading since from one line to the next it skipped ahead to a totally different location or segment of the story !! Some daft mistakes too like Tm instead of I'm and name changes from Perry to This was an interesting true tale but I had a totally ruined reading experience due to so many editing errors, sadly.

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Sharon, the Black Widow or Bitch on Wheels in the story was a strange lady. She seemed to have no filters whatsoever ingrained into her psyche. It amazed me that those around her seemed to take her whole stinking attitude as just Sharon being Sharon pretty much and they overlooked a heck of a lot of appalling behaviour !

I have another of this author's books downloaded and I'm hoping it has a different editor !! ...more

So bad. Slut shaming galore. Far too much concentration on Sharon's looks, clothes, and sexuality.

Spelling errors everywhere, including the name of one of the victims - every single time. Terrible formatting. No cohesiveness to the main parts of the story. It hopped all over the place.

There are some really, really weird metaphors. Super weird.

Be warned... There are a fair amount of awful, transphobic jokes.