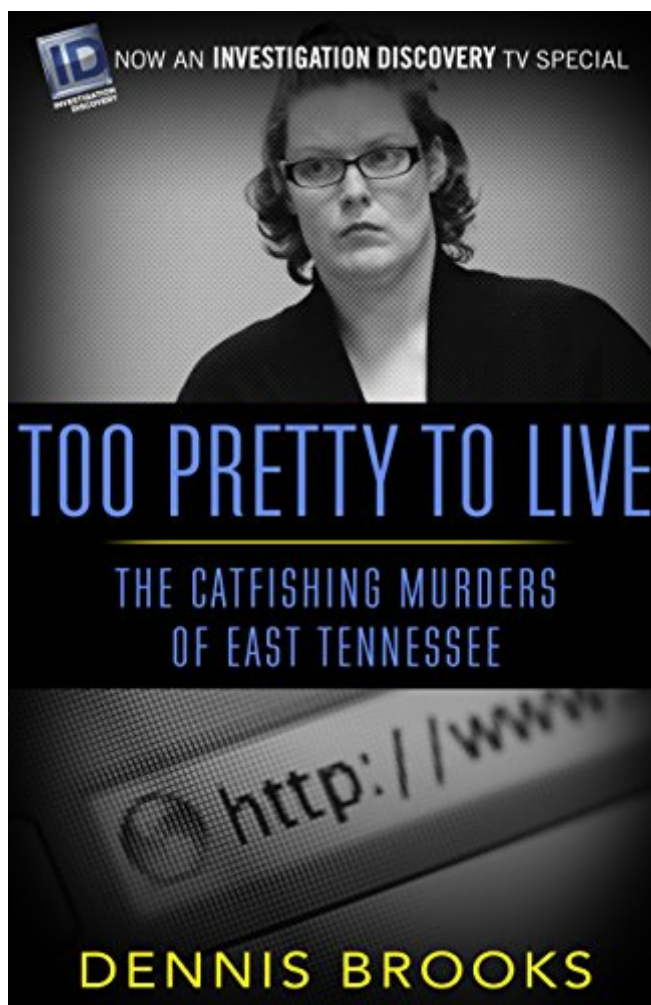


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Too Pretty To Live: The Catfishing Murders Of East Tennessee



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 the strange and disturbing case.

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Customer Reviews

I saw the interview with the Potter women on 20/20 with Matt Gutman and knew I wanted to read more about this crime and trial. From this interview alone, I immediately sensed they were liars, full of false ego and Jenelle is pretty skilled at turning on the water works when confronted with something she cannot lie her way out. This book proves that. She might be able to manipulate her delusional, slow parents, but most could see through her and it isn't ironic that anyone who didn't fall for her lies succumbed to her attempts to bring them down. This was truly a pointless, tragic murder and the manipulation behind it is shocking. I recommend the book; I think Dennis Brooks did a good job taking convoluted evidence and streamlining it into a coherent line of thought for the reader. 21st century social networking made up the backbone of the evidence in trial and book; no one is untouchable online, what you do is just as damning as if you do it in public.

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?? Either way, I am hoping a pro True Crime genre writer will pick up this story as well and put their spin on it; I've seen this happen before (where the prosecutor on the case will write a book about it, then other authors follow suit and provide better coverage). I am dying to read more of the most vital evidence in this case- the emails proving that not only was this family enraged at their victims, but that Jenelle was a liar and an absolute sociopath. In retrospect, she shows no remorse for causing the murder of these innocent parents to a newborn baby, nor for the life of that baby that will be laden with sorrow and hardship because of what she and her parents have done. In addition, she threw her parents under the bus in a recent interview on 20/20 and did not show a lick of sympathy or empathy for either of them. She is where she deserves to be- rotting in prison, and I couldn't be happier that judge saw fit to make sure she that she take her last breath there.

Very much written out of sequence, I wish it read more like a story, starting with the e-mails and then the trial. It really bounced all over and any suspense was lost in the process.

A really great read, one of the best true crimes ever. And the fun didn't end with the book, I got to play detective reading Jenelle and Barbara's posts on Mountain City Topix. The author nails their tells (odd capitalizations etc) in the posts and one can spot these two evil women as they attempt to mislead topix readers. A great read, highest recommendation.

I know most of these individuals personally. Once you get past the first person perspective of the writer, it is a great book that explains a lot about the Facebook murders.

I read this only because I wanted to better understand what happened to my two friends' sister and brother. I knew both families and I'm just speaking of the Hayworth and Payne families. Jenelle put these two families through hell after the murders. She had my friend in court for things that Jenelle had done herself. And believe me my friend had amazing will power not to beat this girl to a pulp, but she has more class than that. Mr. Brooks did a fantastic job of getting the truth out there

This is a captivating true story about a heinous murder in a small town in the mountains of Northeast TN. Dennis Brooks, one of the prosecutors of this case, skillfully describes the bizarre events leading to the murders, including the crazy e-mails and media posts triggering the crime. This story of "catfishing" within a family and the final result, is insanely terrifying.

One of the worse books I have ever read. Had to FORCE myself to get through it. Characters are confusing, and poorly written. I would not recommend reading it.

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