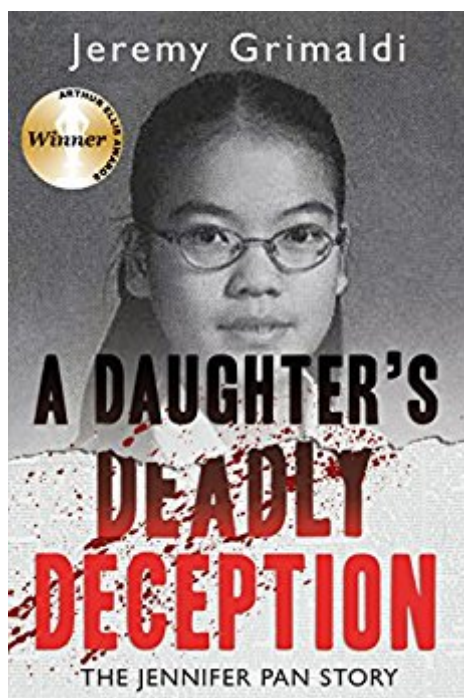


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A Daughter's Deadly Deception: The Jennifer Pan Story



Synopsis

2017 Arthur Ellis Award, Best Nonfiction Book • Winner A sinister plot by a young woman left her mother dead and her father riddled with bullets. From the outside looking in, Jennifer Pan seemed like a model daughter living a perfect life. The ideal child, the one her immigrant parents saw, was studying to become a pharmacist at the University of Toronto. But there was a dark, deceptive side to the angelic young woman. In reality, Jennifer spent her days in the arms of her high school sweetheart, Daniel. In an attempt to lead the life she dreamed of, she would do almost anything: lie about her whereabouts, forge school documents, and invent fake jobs and a fictitious apartment. For many years she led this double life. But when her father discovered her web of lies, his ultimatum was severe. And so, too, was her revenge: a plan that culminated in cold-blooded murder. And it almost worked, except for one bad shot. The story of Jennifer Pan is one of all-consuming love and devious betrayal that led to a cold-hearted plan hatched by a group of youths who thought they could pull off the perfect crime.

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Customer Reviews

Heartbreaking story of betrayal. Although the author's emphasis was on the exceptionally high cultural expectations of her Chinese immigrant parents, this young lady is not the only child in our society that has been involved in the killing of one or both parents. In this instance the cultural chasm certainly played a major role but there were other factors at play, The daughter exhibited very immature, selfish behavior as well as an ability to lie and fantasize far beyond anything that could be attributed purely to cultural circumstances. The author's narrative is well done but in my opinion there is too much blame placed on the culturally high expectations of the parents and not enough exploration of the daughter's own shortcomings.

The author takes a nicely balanced view of Jennifer. You pity and dislike her at the same time. The mystery is how some people thrive under tiger parenting and some rare few are poisoned. This oddity is not addressed by the author or by the outside commentators. Another mystery is why Daniel would pull away from an ideal girl friend. Had he stuck with her, would she have healed or eventually hated and killed him? It is a shame the author could not interview Hann. One wonders how he is weathering the years alone. The reader ends by caring about the Tans and wishing them the best. And I for one ended the book by wanting to meet Jennifer Tan and just hold her for a long time.

The extent to which this young woman went to deceive her parents is amazing. If only she had put that much energy in actually going to school and college. Much of the story is difficult to comprehend and may be attributed to cultural differences. For example, why wouldn't her parents have been expecting to attend her high school graduation? Such a shame that this intelligent young woman chose a deadly path.

As an avid crime reader I found this story rather choppy and did not like the way the author laid it out. Instead of leading with the crime it would have been better for some build up of the main character. Read in two nights only to get through it. I admit. Skimmed a lot as it got boring in several spots.

The book doesn't reveal much about Jennifer Pan's family, their values and everyday activities. The book has no life beyond what can be gleaned from court records and police reports, as opposed to other true crime books that have multiple perspectives and insights from friends and family members.

I found this book well written and very organised in telling the story. The examination of the cultural influences were fairly presented and thoroughly explained. A tragic story, thought provoking

Good story and sad story a lot of repeated information made it drag on

Enjoyed reading the book

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