



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

Monte Francis

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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.

By Their Father's Hand: The True Story of the Wesson Family Massacre Details

Date : Published June 1st 2007 by HarperCollins Canada / Mm, Us Adult (first published January 1st 2007)

ISBN : 9780060878245

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Format : Paperback 287 pages

Genre : Crime, True Crime, Nonfiction, Mystery

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From Reader Review By Their Father's Hand: The True Story of the Wesson Family Massacre for online ebook

Jenny Hilborne says

A very disturbing true crime book with the events well documented. I didn't find it as interesting to read as I hoped I would and found myself skimming in a number of places. I'm sure the author wrote much of the dialogue verbatim, and I didn't enjoy reading it. I couldn't identify with any of the real-life people in this book, except the innocent children who were slaughtered. The author injected no emotion into his account of the Wesson Family Massacre, therefore, it evoked little reaction in me as the reader.

♥ Marlene♥ says

January 24 2012: Hmm I see I gave it 4 stars but I wonder if that is correct. I remember that I thought the story was interesting but that the book was not that good. Must go check . see if I wrote a review somewhere else.

Aha I found it on bookcrossing.

Wrote this on Saturday, April 26, 2008:

I had never heard of these killings. Good book but you end up with more questions. I think Marcus Wesson got what he deserved but I do believe he did not do all the killing himself.

I am so disgusted with his wife Elizabeth. It is terrible that she is walking free. Of course she knew what was happening in that house. Plus I feel the same of some of the daughters who played a key role in the murder but still lived and blamed Ruby and Sofara.

Going to see if I can find more info online. (I gave it 8 out of 10)

change it to 3.5 cause 4 stars still feels wrong.

Doneka says

It was an amazing book. I encourage EVERYONE to read it. If you know me, you can ask me to borrow it, just take good care of it.

This is a book about the true story of the Wesson family massacre, and it is incredible. Intence. Page turning, jaw dropping, eye popping, crazy. its amazing

Terri says

Marcus Wesson ruled his family as a cult leader, espousing odd religious beliefs including polygamy, incest, and belief in vampirism. He had children by several of his children and nieces. And then one day things at the home came to a blow-up leaving 9 dead. A very sad story of a very evil man.

Cherrybomb says

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.

Brandi Blunt says

Very interesting book. Makes me wonder what happens next door as it seems to be "normal". Well written.

DAISY DISNEY says

This man is a straight manipulating human being. I was disgusted with his acts.....I think His wife Elizabeth should have been held accountable for her part in these monstrous acts. I do not believe her blindness to the molestation that went on. She is just as disgusting as him! Shame on her and him.....so gross!!!

Matthew says

[Throughout the book they make passing references to a murder-suicide attempt on the boat the family lived on, but th

Hana Candelaria says

The Trued Story of the Wesson Family Massacre

This is a tough read...possibly one of the strangest families ever conjured up...including physical abuse, mind control, and just plain disgusting stuff. The documentation is well written but the story is so horrible I threw the book out immediately after reading it.

If this weren't a true story, it would be a great Halloween horror tale.

Jeannie says

This was difficult to read yet a fascinating true crime, cult type story. It was almost unbelievable that someone could do this to their own family.

BAM The Bibliomaniac says

I don't even have the WORDS!!! The level of brainwashing and manipulation is sky high, the abuse is inexcusable

That so many died is tragic. That it could have been halted by a shake of the head, a raised hand is both shocking and sad.

2017 Lenten Buddy Reading Challenge book #28

Ashley says

Wow, what a sickening, disturbing, sad, and shocking story. I first heard about this on a radio show where they were talking about a man who subjected his family to a cultish "vampire-like" lifestyle that ultimately led to death. I was intrigued and wanted to know more, especially from this authors point of view, since he had spent so much time researching. The book itself was set up in a way that made it quite confusing to follow the events and there was a lot of unnecessary repetition. It's a horrific and unbelievable story, but there's no need to rehash all the details again and again. As far as the events themselves? I'm glad that sick SOB got what he deserved, I just wish it had happened sooner. Soooooo many people involved and this disgusting piece of sh** got away with it for so long? Then he STILL has the love and adoration of his family? Now, THAT'S real brainwashing...

Ricky Martinez says

The book, By Their Fathers Hands by Monte Francis, is by far one of the books I've read. Marcus Wesson has just murdered most of his children. Throughout the book you find out more about the families bad pass. You read about his trials and the questioning. Throughout the book and find horrible secrets about Marcus

Wesson and his family.

By Their Fathers Hands is an outstanding book. Every detail about the murders and the families is exactly what you need in a book like this. Detail was very important in this book and Monte Francis did it very well. Things that I didn't like was how the Francis brought up the past or took you back in time just like that and suddenly be in the present. That was confusing to read throughout the story. Also if the Monte should've used the point of view of his daughters or wives during the harsh situations in which Marcus made them go through and live with.

"Marcus Wesson, my father, I will always love you with in my heart and be a soldier of God." Pg.225

Marcus Wesson had brain washed his family. He made them believe he was a god and was the ultimate leader. He made his family believe things that aren't true and shouldn't things. To some family members the murders he did were okay and didn't hate him for them. These things all of the things weren't right and you obviously see how in control he was in of his family. I'm glad Marcus Wesson is locked away and away from hurting any one else. its going to be difficult for his family to over come this tragedy

Vicki Willis says

Pure evil.

What a horrible man to have treated his family who loved him this way. Years of abuse culminated in a family massacre unlike anything I have read about. The book moved quickly putting the history of the family in center stage, showing how years of abuse can not be undone. The trial and legal system was well written too. I wonder how the survivors are surviving now, if they have been able to grow and live now that they are away from him. Or will his hold over them continue for their lifetime?

Michael says

Wow. This is quite possibly the most bizarre and disgusting group of human beings I have ever heard about. I have read a few true crime books and have learned about some demented people.... but "demented" doesn't even describe these people. Despite the fact that this is a difficult story to stomach, it is a very gripping story. How the things that happened carried on for so long. How the other members of the family didn't get involved. How the women under this mans control didn't realize this guy was a wacko. None of it makes any sense. You will be blown away. It's almost to strange to believe. Your typical "disfunctional family" will seem like the Waltons compared to this family. Utterly indescribable. When you read the book... you will understand.
