



Until the Twelfth of Never: The Deadly Divorce of Dan & Betty Broderick

Bella Stumbo

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An in-depth account of Betty Broderick's killing of her ex-husband and his new wife describes the crime and the resulting trial, painting a disturbing portrait of divorce in America and its victims. 100,000 first printing. \$50,000 ad/promo. Tour.

Until the Twelfth of Never: The Deadly Divorce of Dan & Betty Broderick Details

Date : Published July 1st 1993 by Simon & Schuster - Pocket Books (first published 1993)

ISBN : 9780671726669

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Format : Hardcover 546 pages

Genre : Crime, True Crime, Nonfiction, Mystery, Biography

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From Reader Review Until the Twelfth of Never: The Deadly Divorce of Dan & Betty Broderick for online ebook

Lennie says

Dan Broderick is a successful lawyer who has an affair with his assistant and then leaves his wife, Betty, for this much younger woman. Betty kills them both which shocks the upscale community in which they live in. I was completely engrossed in this true crime novel and I thought it was well written because the book covers the span of their marriage, beginning with the early years as they struggled financially when Dan was in law school to the present when he became successful and they lived an upper class lifestyle. After Dan left her, Betty comes across as a scorned and bitter woman and it is easy to see how she reached the point to where she "lost it". If I had to figure out her motive, I would say that she felt betrayed because she helped her husband get to where he was at in his career. If you enjoy reading true crime books, I highly recommend you read this one!

Peggy says

This seems to be a fairer account of the breakdown of a marriage than the movies were but Betty Broderick had more choices than most women and she refused to help herself or her children...if she couldn't have it her way she wouldn't accept anything else...

Dana says

Betty Broderick came to fame in late 1989 when she shot her ex-husband Dan Broderick and his new wife, Linda Kolkena to death in their bed. What viewers got to see was a long, drawn out custody battle over their four children, and of course, money. What viewers of the two murder trials didn't get to see was the manipulations, abuse, and gaslighting that Dan did to Betty.

In 1983, Dan began an affair with his legal secretary, Linda. When Betty asked if he was cheating on her, Dan said no. Dan said he wasn't cheating on his wife of 20 years for the first three years of his affair. When he finally admitted his affair, Betty burned his clothes. When Dan walked out on her, and into the arms of his lover, Betty drove their four children, one at a time, to Dan's new house and dropped them off outside.

Betty's thought was, I raised them, now it's Dan's turn. She expected Dan to give up immediately, and return the children to their mother. When he didn't, he turned his newfound custody into a legal battle.

Dan, who had gotten a medical degree and a law degree while Betty raised their two oldest and worked odd jobs to support them, was now President of the San Francisco Bar Association, and because of his status and clout, was able to drag Betty through the court system, and have her lose at every turn. Betty, arguing that she wasn't getting a fair trial, had several judges tell her that she was getting her fair trial. Anyone with half a brain knew that Betty was getting the short end of every deal, including being thrown in jail for cursing her ex-husband out on his answering machine.

Many people wondered what took Betty so long to finally shoot her ex and his new wife. Especially after telling anyone who would listen for years that she was going to kill them. What smart people can also see is that when Dan walked out, he took with him, what was left of Betty's mind. Betty went crazy, and was not treated as such. For both of her murder trials, her attorney was put on a short leash in what he could and could not present to the jury. The prosecution got no such restraints. Betty was also not allowed to plead insanity as a defense, tho anyone could see that she was insane.

This is a story about the injustices of justice, and how one woman got her revenge on a man who used his position in society to bury his wife.

As for the book itself, the first half was incredibly slow moving and very dull. Though this book came highly recommended, the minutiae that was included was a bit much, and much was repetitive. The second half moved along at a slightly faster pace, but was still slow. I became interested in the Betty Broderick case when I saw the two movies on Lifetime depicting her story and then her trials. Both movies were told from the prosecution side, and were factually incorrect.

I would only recommend this book to true die hard true crime fans, but with heavy reservations.

Lori Willett says

After seeing the moving at least a dozen times, I heard about this book and tracked down a copy. It's designed to show both sides as fairly as possible, and I think it did just that. There was so much about Dan and Linda that I never knew, and it made me re-think my opinion about Betty. While murder should never be an option, it's clear to me that Dan and Linda had no concern for her whatsoever, knew they were making her crazy, and they chose to continue that path. They shouldn't have died for it, but they should have had some sort of compassion and humanity for her and the children.

Marsmannix says

Best book ever on the Betty broderick case. the gold standard.

CrabbyPatty says

An amazing, gut-wrenching book about Betty Broderick, the La Jolla woman who killed her ex-husband Dan and his new wife Linda in 1989 after a 6-year divorce and property settlement battle.

There's plenty of blame for everyone in this tawdry case - attorney Dan Broderick who used the courts to punish Betty, Linda who carried on an affair with Dan for years, and Betty who had no identity other than "wife of Dan, mother of their 4 children." And the ultimate victims were those poor children who were nothing more than pawns in this insane fight - tossed between Betty and Dan for years, uncared for, and traumatized beyond imagination.

Bella Stumbo does an admirable job but, oh lord, I just wish that it had been edited by Ann Rule. Rule has the gift of succinctly relating information while Stumbo rambled over and over about much the same stories for the entire book. At over 600 pages, this book was massively overstuffed!

Stumbo presents a lot of information that shows Betty was perhaps a battered and abused woman, or maybe she was honestly driven insane by Dan and his lies. Betty also has a histrionic personality and even at the end of the book, it's debatable what caused her to totally snap. Stumbo had almost daily access to Betty in prison and had access to her diaries.

But Stumbo also does an admirable job of showing what Dan was like based on his actions in and out of the

courts. With Dan, it's hard to figure out if he was actually trying to drive Betty crazy or was he just that unthinkingly cruel?

The book's title comes from Dan and Betty's favorite song - one played at their wedding - that takes about a love enduring until "the twelfth of never." Instead Dan and Betty made it through sixteen years of marriage.

Ariel says

This book may be out of print now and hard to find but it is worth it to find a copy. I had to get mine from a private seller at Amazon. I read a lot of true crime but this book is so much more than that. It is about family dynamics, marriage, home maker vs career mom, cheating, divorce, and so much more.

The gist of the story is that Betty made her family her whole life. She put her husband through school and went about being the best mother she could be. Betty can be kind of a shrew but she goes through the years assuming all is well in her blessed life in La Jolla. One day her husband gets a new office assistant and decides that he doesn't want to be married anymore. Betty loses her mind and does a lot of unseemly things as does her husband and the new woman who has replaced her as Mrs. Broderick. Eventually things boil over and the result is Betty shoots the newly married couple as they sleep. The story of the psychological unraveling of the main characters is fascinating.

There are no sympathetic innocent people in the story except for maybe the kids. As the divorce dragged on, they became manipulators themselves. Bella Stumbo does an excellent job of being even handed in her storytelling. Her writing elevates this to a work of literature rather than another run of the mill true crime story. I would put this book up there with *In Cold Blood*. This book should serve as a cautionary tale for women who expect their husband and children to be their whole lives. Anyone who is dissatisfied with their mate and contemplating divorce should read this book to see just how bad things could get.

Sally says

It is a fascinating look into the mind of a woman who was left for a younger woman. The outcome of course, was tragic. However, the journey to the outcome is mind-boggling. Kudos to Bella for a well-written, gripping read! I read this in 2007. I loaned it out after, and it was gone for about a year or so; then returned to me by my good friend with a note written in. I had also written a note. I plan to read it again in the near future.

2012--Yes, I will be reading it again; it still sticks with me.

I took my time with it for the second reading. It was still a very captivating read. Bella wrote incredibly for her first book. I was still absorbed throughout both trials. With the passage of time, and through internet research, I learned about Betty Broderick's parole hearing in 2010. And, I was very much interested in all family members involved. I wanted to know how each of their lives progressed with the tragedy that occurred. Fascinating!

Lori says

"Until the Twelfth of Never" is an excellent debut by writer Bella Stumbo, of an ugly and acrimonious

divorce that turned deadly.

Stumbo goes deep into the backgrounds of both Dan and Betty Broderick and their eventually troubled marriage. She exposes the flaws from both of them. She does not portray Dan to be a saint, nor Betty to be a devil in sheep's clothing. Rather than feeling anger or outrage toward Dan or Betty, it's easy for the reader to feel a deep unsettling, knowing the outcome . . .and knowing that so many signs were there that this battle of wills would eventually erupt into a bloody mess.

Unlike other versions, which are quick to take Dan's side or Betty's side, Dan's second wife Linda is not portrayed as an innocent victim either. The tv miniseries was sufficiently "cleaned up" to make it appear as though Dan and Linda were nothing more than co-workers and good friends until after the Broderick divorce. As "Twelfth" reveals, nothing could have been further from the truth. Murder is never justified, but the cracks in Betty's emotional and mental state were in evidence long before she ever pulled the trigger. As another reviewer stated the only victims truly apparent in this story are the Broderick children. They were used in a vicious tug of war between their parents and in the end, lost both their father and their mother. "Twelfth" should be viewed as a cautionary tale - - of two people that were ill-suited for each other from the beginning, that suffered through an unhappy marriage for years, shared that suffering with their children and could not let it go until one, or the both of them, were dead. Sad, depressing tale excellently written.

Jolynn says

Our library has this book, and I check it out periodically because it is such a compelling read. The book is completely unbiased, using facts to tell the ultimate tale of a woman who felt scorned when her husband left her for a younger woman. Nobody played fair on either side. Betty was portrayed in the miniseries and in "American Justice" as a jealous, slightly psychotic ex-wife. You really need to read the book to get the full scope of everything that happened--on both sides.

Tim Roux says

This is one of the most extraordinary true crime books of all time, a massive best seller in the 1990s, an Edgar Award winner, but the author Bella Stumbo died in 2002 and it disappeared from print.

It has now just been released on Kindle and is coming back to paperback and hardback print in April / May.

It is a book that divided readers at the time as to whether Betty Broderick was a justified avenging angel in murdering her ex-husband and his new wife, or an out-and-out wacko.

As you read it, it is still very hard to say. Betty Broderick is a fascinating character who seems to inhabit this world but in a slightly different dimension where only her 'facts' are true and only her beliefs are right.

She tells lie after lie after lie about her husband and his new wife, and yet appears to believe exactly what she is saying despite all evidence, and after the divorce she was still living in a \$1m+ home and getting the equivalent of \$25,000 a month.

Eventually she went down to two consecutive terms for second degree murder.

Read this book. It is breathtaking.

Laura Beth says

Such a painful story, told well and with judgment being meted out to all parties involved, including the murder victims. This book and this case have both brought me considerable attention as a writer due to a long op-ed piece I wrote about the case and two shorter flanking articles; this is something that I do not enjoy and did not seek, but so it goes with anything Broderick. It is a case that continues to anger and outrage.

I do not believe Betty Broderick belongs in prison.

Alicia says

This is one of the saddest true crime books I've ever read.

I first heard of Betty Broderick when I caught the Lifetime movie about her on TV a few weeks ago (I was a very young child in the early 90's so I hadn't heard anything about her back then). After watching the movie and learning it was heavily bias, I started searching for a more accurate telling of her story and came across this book. I was very lucky to get the Kindle version for free a few days ago and I just couldn't put it down.

The sheer torment that Betty was put through by Dan and Linda is disgusting. Now, I'm not saying Betty is totally innocent (obviously), but as you continue reading this book, it's easy to sympathize with her. Betty was a woman who was literally driven to do what she did. After sacrificing so much, after working her butt off to raise four children and support her husband both emotionally and financially through medical and law school, after all that...her husband kicks her to the curb for a younger woman, just as Betty was about to be able to enjoy the rewards of all her sacrifice and hard work. Then to be constantly tormented and dragged through years of legal BS. I do not condone what she did, but I truly feel for Betty Broderick.

Christine (KizzieReads) says

This is definitely a book about what not to do in a divorce. I knew about this case before reading this book, but there were a few things I did learn from it. I think that these two people were slated for a disaster straight from the beginning. It is sad to see that people will do these things to each other, just for the sake of being the winner. I think each person was 50% responsible for what happened, although I think Betty really needed to realize some things, as she was so set in what she believed to be the truth, that her mind steered her wrong on so many occasions and it kept her acting out in the worst ways. Especially towards her children. Nobody should use their kids to get their way in a divorce or talk to them in this way. Ever!

As for the writing, I found it quite cut and dried, but a little bit biased as well. As for the editing, I think that it should have been better. I found several spelling mistakes, as well as other mistakes, like the name of cities.

Carole says

This is a much more balanced account of the marriage and divorce of Dan and Betty Broderick. This was a marriage that ultimately ended in Betty shooting and killing Dan and his new, younger wife. Other versions, including the television movie, paint Dan and Linda as innocent victims. This book illustrates the malice on both sides. None of the adults involved were innocent.

Dan and Linda were clearly involved in an ongoing affair long before the divorce, although Dan continued to deny it, even in the face of evidence. His knowledge of the legal system allowed him to take control of the ensuing divorce. Betty was furious at being left for a younger woman after spending years of her life supporting her husband and raising their children. She was vindictive and completely unable to accept the end of her marriage. Reading the book became uncomfortable, knowing the ultimate result and feeling Betty become increasingly unstable until she "lost it".

There are no winners here.
