



The Piano Teacher: The True Story of a Psychotic Killer

Robert K. Tanenbaum

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Everybody has a dream. For aspiring actress Suzanne Reynolds, her dream ended in a gruesome encounter with eccentric New York artist Charles Yukl. Fooled by his choirboy looks, Reynolds had no idea the man who taught her the piano was a woman-hating recluse who spent his days lost in fantasies of perversion. As a result of the plea bargain for Suzanne's brutal murder, Yukl soon gained his freedom due to a shocking series of legal errors -- and killed again. A riveting dramatization of two horrific crimes and their aftermath, "The Piano Teacher" brilliantly portrays a madman set on fulfilling his own sadistic and homicidal dreams...and the flawed justice system that gave him the opportunities to do so.

The Piano Teacher: The True Story of a Psychotic Killer Details

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From Reader Review The Piano Teacher: The True Story of a Psychotic Killer for online ebook

Dennis says

Kept Attention: 5
Must Read: 3
Well-written: 5
Meaningful: 3
Accessible: 5

Ronnie Cramer says

A tough one to rate because one of the chapters was tremendously gripping and incredibly suspenseful while much of the book was just okay. So, on average I'd have to give it three stars and say I liked it.

Lynda Kelly says

Amazing to get this so long after the fact and not have heard of this particular murderer !!

Sae-chan says

I think there were too many cases like this. A criminal got free because of some missing notes, some misunderstanding among law enforcement officers, or was it actually because nobody really cared unless the victim was a loved one?

Valerie says

This was just okay for me. I would have liked more psychological insights...this was more of a dry re-telling of the events as they happened. 2.5 stars

Bettina says

I bought this book for my son, the musician in our lives. Because I am also a musician and a book lover, and I find interest in psychological issues I was hoping to like this book. I did! Keep me wanting to read with no sleep in between!

Nancy Ellis says

As a fan of the author's Butch Karp series, I was interested in reading this factual account of his experiences as a young prosecutor in this case involving two brutal murders in New York City, one in 1966, the other in 1974, committed by a twisted psychotic young man who presented himself as a mild-mannered pianist and teacher. Allowed to take a plea bargain for the first murder in an incredible series of legal errors, he was released from prison eight years later and proceeded to murder another young woman. The author presents the case in a fascinating manner, giving us insights into the victims and their friends and families, the police and attorneys working the case, as well as the horrific details of the murderer and the crimes. An excellent book for fans of true crime!

Vicki says

A very interesting (but dated) true crime story by one of my favorite authors.

Fishface says

This was an excellent read about a very interesting case, told by one of the prosecutors. There was a very nice emphasis on the victims in this case, with a few excellent bombshells thrown at the reader. Well-written, well-edited, and well-thought-out. Highly recommended. I have no idea why someone decided to subtitle this book "The True Story Of A Psychotic Killer;" didn't the people designing the jacket know what the book was about?

Jane Thompson says

True Crime

Another great book by Robert Tannenbaum, the New York assistant district attorney. This is the story of a convicted killer who was paroled and went on to commit a second murder, almost the same as the first. The investigation and trial are explained well, and the story is riveting.

Mary says

Charles William Yukl was the eldest of two sons born to Czech parents - pianist and conductor Dorothea Freitag Yukl, and trumpeter Charles W. Yukl. Charles Yukl claimed that his parents were often abusive to him as a child, attributing severe beatings and other random cruelty to his "perfectionist, demanding" parents. As a young child, Charles was fascinated by fire and was accused of setting several fires by the age of nine.

He held a variety of jobs as an adult, and was soon urged by his mother to become a professional ragtime pianist. He was rather successful and played in Manhattan, Union City, New Jersey and in the Catskills, often using the stage name Yogi Freitag. He married a German photography student named Enken in 1961

and subsequently became a voice and piano teacher.

The real Charles Yukl was nothing at all like the facade he portrayed to the world. Behind the well-mannered musical prodigy with the choirboy looks dwelt a twisted psychotic misogynist. A reclusive, eccentric man whose dreams of perverse sexual fulfillment lived - and died - only in his fertile imagination.

Then on Monday, October 24, 1966, Charles Yukl brought his perverted fantasies to vivid life when he brutally murdered twenty-five year old Suzanne Reynolds. Suzanne was an aspiring actress who had been taking voice lessons for three months from the thirty-one year old ragtime pianist, and she had absolutely no idea of his true nature. Then, eight years later - on Tuesday, August 20, 1974 - due to a shocking series of legal errors that granted him the freedom to kill again, he lured a twenty-three year old aspiring model named Karin Schlegel to a Greenwich Village rooftop and savagely strangled her to death.

I really enjoyed reading this book. I had never heard of Charles Yukl or of the murders he committed. I found this story incredibly sad, and the fact that due to a bureaucratic oversight, he was allowed to kill again really made me angry. I will say that I found this book to be rather slow in places, and I really would have appreciated a deeper investigation of the wife's personality; other than mentioning that she was disturbing, very little else was explained about her, or their strange relationship. I would give *The Piano Teacher: The True Story of a Psychotic Killer* by Robert K. Tanenbaum and Peter S. Greenberg a B+!
