

The Stranger Beside Me Study Guide

The Stranger Beside Me by Ann Rule

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Plot Summary

The Stranger Beside Me by Ann Rule is a nonfiction book about the author's long time friendship with convicted serial killer, Ted Bundy. Having first met as workers in a Crisis Clinic in Seattle, Washington, in 1971, Ann and Ted's association continues until his execution in January of 1989. As might be expected, Ann's emotions wax and wane through their seventeen-year friendship as Ann rejects and finally accepts the fact that Ted Bundy her friend is also Ted Bundy the serial killer.

Ann Rule was trained in police work, a background which lends itself well to her career as a crime writer for the Seattle police department. Ann's job is to document all the homicide cases for the department, a relatively low paying career but the recently divorced mother of four needs the income that the writing brings in to her family. As a means to extend her training and also to get her out of the house occasionally, Ann volunteers to work on the suicide hotline at a local Crisis Clinic.

While there, Ann meets a charming colleague named Ted Bundy, eleven years her junior, and the two become friends. Ted Bundy is a charming, intelligent college student bound for law school and probably a brilliant career in politics. Ann is touched by Ted's sensitivity and ability to intervene in personal crises for the callers on the hotline. As Ann and Ted have little in common other than their crisis center work, it is doubtful that the two would have ever met otherwise but they do strike up a friendship based on consideration for the other's personal challenges.

In the few years that follow, a rash of abductions and murders of young women terrorizes Seattle and the Pacific Northwest area and Ann's job is to document the police cases. Little does Ann realize at the time that the man committing these heinous crimes is her friend Ted Bundy. Torn between her friendship with Ted and her responsibility to the law enforcement authorities, Ann provides information to her police colleagues about the possibility that Ted is the perpetrator of the crimes against the young women.

Ann loses frequent contact with Ted and eventually the Pacific Northwest crimes subside only to be on the upswing in Utah and Colorado. Unbeknownst to Ann, Ted has moved to Utah and is ultimately accused of the heinous crimes occurring there and in Colorado. Arrested in Colorado for theft, Ted manages to escape Colorado jails twice and flees to Tallahassee, Florida, where he commits more crimes including murder and attempted murder of four young women at the University of Florida.

Ted also abducts, rapes and murders a twelve-year-old girl from a nearby area and is apprehended while trying to leave Florida with a stolen license plate on a stolen car. Ted is ultimately tried for murder, convicted and executed in Florida in January, 1989. This book tells of the ebbs and flows of Ann's friendship with Ted during this turbulent time.

Chapters 1, 2 and 3

Chapters 1, 2 and 3 Summary and Analysis

The Stranger Beside Me by Ann Rule is a nonfiction book about the author's long time friendship with convicted serial killer, Ted Bundy. Having first met as workers in a Crisis Clinic in Seattle, Washington, in 1971, Ann and Ted's friendship continues until his execution in January of 1989. As might be expected, Ann's emotions wax and wane through their seventeen-year friendship as Ann rejects and finally accepts the fact that Ted Bundy her friend is also Ted Bundy the serial killer.

As the novel begins, a young man arrives on a Trailways bus in Tallahassee, Florida, on January 8, 1978. As is his intention, the young man blends in easily into the college town determined to start a new life. A sense of freedom and happiness washes over the man who could not walk down a street without being recognized in his home state of Washington. The young man's name is Theodore "Ted" Robert Bundy and he has recently escaped from jail in Colorado.

Running low on money, Ted Bundy changes his name to Chris Hagen and ingratiates himself with an apartment building manager who leases "Chris" an apartment for only the cost of the deposit and the promise of payment of two months' rent soon. "Chris" is happy for two reasons: he has a place to hide for awhile and he is close to the Florida State University campus. Ted falls asleep on his first night in Florida content that his new identity will keep him out of the spotlight and happy that he will not be in attendance at his murder trial, due to begin the next day in Colorado.

Ted Bundy was born to a Philadelphia woman named Eleanor Louise Cowell on November 24, 1946. Because Eleanor is abandoned by the baby's father, she suffers the stigma of bearing an illegitimate child alone and is sent to a home for unwed mothers in Vermont to have the baby whom she names Theodore Robert Cowell. Ted is raised to believe that Eleanor is his sister and that his grandparents are his parents. Ted feels a special bond with his "father" and is devastated when Eleanor and Ted move to Tacoma, Washington in 1950 in an attempt to spare Ted the humiliation of being a bastard in a town where the secret could easily be revealed.

Eleanor has Ted's name legally changed to Theodore Robert Nelson and insists that she be called Louise, forsaking forever the name of Eleanor. In 1951, Louise marries an army cook, Johnnie Culpepper Bundy and Ted's name is changed to Theodore Robert Bundy. The Bundy marriage produces four more children and Ted is devoted to them and cares for them whenever possible, sometimes foregoing plans with friends to babysit his half siblings.

Ted's school years find him a better than average student and well liked, although he is slightly built and not suitable for varsity athletics. Ted graduates high school in 1965 and attends the University of Puget Sound for his freshman year of college. Ted transfers to

the University of Washington in Seattle for his sophomore year when he meets the first real love of his life, Stephanie Brooks, a beautiful girl a year older than Ted. Although Ted and Stephanie come from vastly different socio-economic groups, they form an unlikely attachment that would last off and on for six years.

Upon graduation from college, Stephanie's thoughts turn to finding a man with more marriage potential and she returns home to California thinking that the distance between Ted and her will cool Ted's intensity. Ted is devastated by Stephanie's rejection and plunges into political work.

In early 1969 Ted travels to Vermont to find the identity of his real father and also learns the truth that Eleanor is indeed his mother and not his sister. Fueled by this deception, Ted travels to San Francisco and surprises Stephanie who works at a brokerage firm. Ted's hopes at a reunion with Stephanie are dashed when Stephanie sends him away once more. Ted returns to Seattle and finds lodging at the home of Ernst and Freda Rogers. Ted ingratiates himself with the Rogers' who come to view Ted as more like a son than a boarder for the five years he stays at their home.

Ted resumes his studies at the University of Washington in the fall of 1969 where he earns excellent grades in his psychology classes. One evening in September of that year Ted meets a woman named Meg Anders, a young divorcee a few years older than Ted. Ted and Meg fall in love and Ted cares for Meg's three year old daughter, Liane, as if Liane were Ted's own daughter.

Meg, like Stephanie, comes from a wealthy family and Meg helps Ted financially many times during the course of their relationship. Meg knows that Ted shows interest in other women but hopes that Ted will determine to be faithful to her alone one day. Meg is completely unaware that Ted still harbors ardent interest in Stephanie who lives in California.

During 1970 Ted is a model citizen, running down a purse snatcher on the streets of Seattle and even rescuing a drowning child. Ted renews his interest in politics and works with the local Republican committee.

In this opening section the author lays the groundwork for some of the severe emotional instability which will evidence itself later in Ted's life. Ted's identity is questioned almost from the moment of conception and his life is uprooted several times. The personal deception of his mother and grandparents not only makes Ted struggle with his true identity but sets the standard for Ted that deceptive behavior is not only acceptable, it is encouraged. During his youth and college years, people instinctively know that Ted deceives them, steals occasionally and lies when it suits his purpose, all psychopathic tendencies which will build to his ultimate evil persona.

The author uses the technique of flashback for the first time in this section when she begins the novel in present time and reverts back in time quickly to provide Ted's personal history and situation.

The author also establishes that the novel is nonfiction by providing specific dates, places and times for a real person, not a fictionalized character.

Chapters 4, 5 and 6

Chapters 4, 5 and 6 Summary and Analysis

The author, Ann Rule, is a former policewoman who now makes a living recording and writing crime stories for the Seattle police department. Ann meets Ted Bundy in 1971 when they work at a Crisis Clinic Hotline in Seattle. Ann is a young woman, separated from her husband and struggling to provide for four children but volunteers at the clinic to add another dimension to her life. Ann and Ted work the late night shift and become friends, revealing personal intimacies during the times when the hotline is quiet. Ann finds Ted extremely intelligent, polite and sensitive, almost the perfect man.

Ann tires of the Crisis Hotline work and quits in the spring of 1972, not seeing Ted Bundy again until December of that year when they attend a Christmas party together. Ann discovers that Ted is active in local politics and working on the committee to reelect Washington's governor, heady work for the ego-driven young man. Ted is employed by the City of Seattle's Crime Prevention Advisory Commission currently studying Washington's newly legalized hitchhiking law.

Ted does not attain the full-time position he desires, resigns from the commission in 1973 and applies for law school at the University of Utah. Ted's glowing application is accepted but mysteriously Ted declines admission just a week prior to the start of classes. Instead, Ted abruptly changes plans and enrolls at law school at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma. Ted's acceptance of another political job, this time as assistant to the chairman of the Washington State Republican Party, earns Ted a nice income and more prestige.

Ann does not see Ted until the Crisis Clinic Christmas party in 1973 where Ted introduces Meg as his girlfriend. Ann learns later that Ted is secretly engaged to Stephanie at the same time, unbeknownst to Meg. Ann will not see Ted again for nearly two years after this night.

Earlier in 1973, Ted travels to San Francisco to see Stephanie who is delighted in the drastic changes Ted has made during their four years apart. Ted is now a polished professional with a future and more acceptable to Stephanie's view of what a husband should be. Ted intently romances Stephanie and the couple discusses marriage. During a visit to Seattle in December, 1973, Ted surprisingly tells Stephanie that he does not think he and Stephanie have a future because he has been involved with another woman. Stephanie, devastated by the news, returns to California and marries another man after no response from Ted for a year.

This section initiates the author's personal friendship with Ted Bundy. When Ann and Ted meet at the Crisis Clinic, Ann finds Ted to be a perfect gentleman and sensitive to the needs of other people, evidenced by his participation in this type of work. Ted reveals his personal vulnerabilities to Ann and shows extremely gallant behavior to Ann

and other women. This behavior will prove to be in stark contrast with Ted's imminent behavior and lays the groundwork for the reader questioning Ann's naiveté or Ted's manipulation.

There is also irony in the fact that Ted champions a new, lenient hitchhiking law in Washington in light of his imminent serial prowling and attacks on women.

Ted's relationship with women is also exposed further in this section. It is clear that Ted wants a friendship with Ann although there is no romantic attraction between the two. Ted ingratiates himself further with Ann in order to draw Stephanie closer only to brutally and abruptly reject her as payment for Stephanie's rejection of him years earlier.

Chapters 7 and 8

Chapters 7 and 8 Summary and Analysis

In December of 1973, Ann is asked to participate in the murder case of a fifteen-year-old Seattle girl named Katherine Merry Devine. Katherine, who had last been seen alive while hitchhiking to Oregon, is found dead in a park in Olympia, Washington. Ann processes the notes from the case and launches an even busier schedule with the Seattle Police Department and the King County Sheriff's Department. Ann also begins a publishing career based on cases she has been privy to and the local authorities include Ann in further law enforcement training and seminars, all in an effort to help her writing career.

Ann's next case early in 1974 is the brutal attack of Joni Lenz, a college student at the University of Washington. Joni was brutally attacked in her room with a metal rod from her bed which was found shoved inside the unconscious girl's vagina. Joni survives but remembers nothing of her attacker.

On January 31, 1974, University of Washington student, Linda Ann Healy does not show up for her part-time weather broadcasting job. When Linda's employer phones the house Linda shares with roommates, it is discovered that Linda is gone, had never slept in her bed the night before and her bike is still parked in the basement. Upon notification, police detectives discover a blood-soaked pillow, sheets, and mattress on Linda's bed. Linda's bloody nightgown suggests to authorities that Linda was attacked while she slept and then dressed in street clothes before being abducted.

Authorities attempt to find similarities in the Joni Lenz beating and the Linda Ann Healy abduction and murder but cannot find anything that links the girls or their friends or family.

On March 12, 1974, near Olympia, Evergreen State College student Donna Gail Manson disappears while walking to a campus venue to attend a jazz concert. Because of Donna's penchant for unconventional behavior, friends do not report her missing until six days after her disappearance and authorities are unable to find any clues related to the case.

On April 17, 1974, Susan Elaine Rancourt, a freshman at Central Washington State College in Ellensburg, Washington, vanishes from campus. Authorities are notified when Susan does not keep a date to meet a girlfriend to see a film. Susan does not return to her dorm and her clothes are found in a campus laundry room where she had taken them earlier in the evening. As law officers retrace Susan's steps on that fateful night, they also interview students who may be able to serve as witnesses. Two girls state that they had been approached on campus lately by an attractive man with his arm in a sling. The man asked for help in carrying books and packages to his car, a Volkswagen

bug parked nearby, but both girls demurred because the situation seemed eerily dangerous.

Captain Herb Swindler assumes the duties of commanding the Crimes Against Persons Unit of the Seattle Police Department in the Spring of 1974. Herb has known Ann for many years and Ann becomes a confidante while Herb struggles with the cases of the missing college students in the Seattle area.

On May 6, 1974, Oregon State University student, Kathleen Parks vanishes in Corvallis, Oregon, 250 miles south of Seattle. Kathleen never arrives to meet friends at an exercise group on campus and, like all the other missing girls, Kathleen's clothes and personal belongings are still in her dorm room and there are no witnesses to any abduction.

On May 31, 1974, in Burien, Washington, Highline Community College student, Brenda Carol Ball, tells friends that she plans to go to a local bar, The Flame, with potential plans to find a ride and join them later in a state park in eastern Washington. Brenda never arrives at the state park and friends do not notify the authorities until 19 days later due to Brenda's unpredictable lifestyle. Later, witnesses recall seeing Brenda at the Flame talking with a handsome young man whose arm was in a cast.

On June 10, 1974, University of Washington student, Georgann Hawkins, disappears behind a row of fraternity houses after leaving a study date with her boyfriend. Criminal authorities investigate the 40 feet of alley between the fraternity house where her boyfriend lives and Georgann's residence and find not one clue or shred of evidence which will help them in solving the disappearance of yet another college coed. Two students recall seeing a handsome young man with his leg in a cast walking near the fraternity houses that night but no one knows the man's identity and cannot link him to Georgann's disappearance.

During this time Ann continues to write about the crimes and joins organizations to support families of brutal crime victims. Sometimes Ann is plagued with guilt by profiting from the grief of others but continues her work, urged on by parents of the victims who believe that education may help solve or stop some of the brutality against others.

In this section the author begins to identify the girls who are the victims of the brutal crimes committed in Washington and Oregon in 1974. Almost with precision, a pattern begins to emerge exemplifying the characteristics of the girls. All the girls are young, most of them, with the exception of Katherine Devine, are college students. All the girls wear their hair long and parted in the middle. There are no visible clues for the detectives at this point but in hindsight the author can see that the girls all resemble each other in intelligence and physical characteristics; but most importantly the girls resemble Stephanie Brooks, the girl who rejected Ted Bundy as someone unsuitable for marriage.

Chapters 9, 10 and 11

Chapters 9, 10 and 11 Summary and Analysis

One day in June of 1974, Ann is in Herb Swindler's office when Joni Lenz and her father arrive in the hopes that Joni may be able to identify some of the recently abducted girls by looking at some photographs. Unfortunately Joni is not able to identify any of the girls and apologizes because much of her memory has disappeared due to her vicious attack.

It is at this point that stories of the abductions have been released in the media and terror overtakes the Northwest U.S., especially among young college women who now take extra safety precautions especially at night. Ann is invited to attend a law enforcement task force so that relevant authorities can pool resources in order to find the attacker who is still at large.

On June 17, 1974, the badly decomposed body of a young girl named Brenda Baker is found in a Washington state park. Authorities discover that Brenda had run away from home on May 25 with plans to hitchhike. Even though a pattern of similarities among the girls has emerged, the locations of the crimes is becoming widespread and authorities entertain the idea of multiple killers or possibly a cult or other organized group utilizing ritualized killing.

Less than a month later, on July 14, 1974, two young women disappear from Lake Sammamish State Park near Bellevue, Washington. Janice Ott is a 23-year-old woman visiting the park with some friends because her husband is out of town on business. Witnesses recall that a handsome young man with his arm in a sling approached Janice asking for help to load his boat onto his car. Some even remember hearing the man give his name as "Ted." Janice walks away with "Ted" and is never seen alive again.

Later that same afternoon at Lake Sammamish, eighteen-year-old Denise Naslund leaves her friends to go to a nearby park restroom and never returns. By the time the park closes that evening, Denise's car is the only one left in the parking lot and Denise's friends, as well as the authorities, are baffled by this behavior, so out of character for the normally responsible Denise.

By the middle of 1974, the public grows restless for some resolution in the disappearances of all the young women but the authorities are at a loss to produce any credible suspects. The only thing they know beyond some similarities in physical characteristics is that the man in the cast had given his name but it is not clear at all if it is real or fictitious.

In the days following the disappearance of Janice and Denise, massive search efforts are launched to no avail. In an effort to profile the killer, a noted Seattle psychiatrist suggests that the man is probably a sexual psychopath with tendencies to attack

women but with no impairment of intelligence or the ability to distinguish between right and wrong. The only person fitting that description and known to Seattle authorities is in prison so he is ruled out, leaving the investigation completely open ended.

On August 10, a report comes into the Sheriff's Department that a young woman at the university was approached by a handsome young man on crutches. The woman was inclined to help the man until an evil look on his face scared her away.

During the summer of 1974, Ann begins to think that the physical descriptions and demeanor of the man known to authorities as "Ted" could very well be her friend, Ted Bundy. Although Ann has not seen Ted for eight months, she knows that his last known address is only a few blocks from where many of the recently abducted girls had lived. Ann tries to put this thought out of her mind because the Ted Bundy she knows is a kind, considerate man who would never be capable of such horrific behavior.

Ann asks a detective friend to run a motor vehicles check on Ted Bundy and the resulting report confirms that Ted owns a Volkswagen bug similar in description to the testimony of some witnesses. Ann is still not convinced that Ted could be a viable suspect because many people own this type of car.

The book is written in the first person narrative perspective which means that the author tells the story from her own experiences. However, there are places where she breaks from this perspective and provides dialogue between people to which she has not been privy. For example, in this section, the author interjects some brief conversation between Ted and Janice Ott at Lake Sammamish State Park even though the author was not present at the park that day and did not hear any dialogue between the two people. This technique of inserting conversation breaks up the monotony of a long narrative and gives dimension to the story based on what is possible and probable in hindsight. At the other extreme, the author provides veracity to her story by providing content of letters and documents written by Ted Bundy and available to her through her association with the police and sheriff departments or her personal friendship with Ted.

Chapters 12, 13 and 14

Chapters 12, 13 and 14 Summary and Analysis

Ann is no longer the only woman in Ted Bundy's life who entertains the possibility that Ted could be the serial killer sought by the authorities. Ted's girlfriend, Meg Anders, has growing suspicions that Ted, the man she loves, could very well be a murderer. Prior to Ted's leaving for Salt Lake City, Utah, to attend law school, the relationship between Ted and Meg cools and Meg makes plans to break off the relationship.

In August of 1974, a transportation department worker stumbles onto a group of decaying bodies and authorities identify the remains of Janice Ott and Denise Naslund as well as a leg bone of an unidentified person. By the fall of that year, the incidences of murders and disappearances have stopped, leaving authorities to believe that the perpetrator has either died or moved away from the Seattle area.

On October 18, 1974, seventeen-year-old Melissa Smith disappears after leaving a friend at a pizza parlor in Midvale, Utah. It will be nine days before her body is discovered in the Wasatch Mountains east of Salt Lake City. An autopsy shows that Melissa was bludgeoned with a crowbar, beaten, strangled, raped and sodomized.

With Melissa's killer on the loose, seventeen-year-old Laura Aime, disappears on Halloween night in 1974 in Lehi, Utah. It is assumed that Laura, who was looking for some excitement, decided to hitchhike out of town and met her fate. A week later, on November 8, 1974, Carol DaRonch is approached by a handsome, well-dressed man in a store in the Fashion Place Shopping Mall in Murray, Utah. This man lures Carol into the parking lot by posing as a detective investigating the possible robbery of items from Carol's car. Carol accompanies the "detective" in his car, a light colored Volkswagen bug supposedly on the way to the police station. When Carol realizes that the man has lied to her, she screams and the man threatens her with a gun. Carol manages to jump from the car and runs toward an approaching vehicle whose occupants drive Carol to the police station to report the attack.

Later that night, in nearby Bountiful, Utah, seventeen-year-old Debby Kent is reported missing when she does not arrive to pick up her brother at a skating rink at an appointed time. Debby was to have made the connection upon leaving a school play but no one saw her leave and she was never seen alive again. Witnesses later recall seeing a light colored Volkswagen bug speeding from the school parking lot that night but no other clues ever surface.

Laura Aime's body is discovered on Thanksgiving Day of 1974 in the Wasatch Mountains, just like Melissa Smith's a few weeks before. Laura had also suffered the same type of injuries that Melissa had sustained.



Meg Anders reads of the attacks and abductions in Utah and contacts the authorities with the possibility that the perpetrator could be Ted because he is now living in Salt Lake City. The authorities pass off the lead as one of thousands they have received.

Ann enters the hospital on November 18, 1974, for a surgical procedure and is mildly alarmed when her mother, who is staying with Ann's children, reports that Ann received a long distance phone call at home from an unidentified man in a very agitated state. Ann passes off the call as a wrong number and never thinks about it being Ted Bundy.

Ted returns to Seattle for the Christmas season of 1974 and mends his relationship with Meg. Meg never reveals that she has called the authorities about her suspicions about Ted's involvement in the abductions and murders in Washington and Utah.

On January 12, 1975, twenty-three year-old Caryn Campbell disappears from the Wildwood Inn while on vacation with her fiancé, a Michigan cardiologist, and his two children in Aspen, Colorado. Caryn left the hotel's lounge area to go to her room to retrieve a magazine. When she did not reappear after a short while, Caryn's fiancé goes to the hotel room and finds that the room is untouched and the magazine still sitting on the bedside table. Authorities conduct a thorough investigation but not one clue is found so Caryn's fiancé and his children, devastated by the abduction, fly home to Michigan. On February 18, Caryn's nude, decomposing body is found in a ditch area a few miles from the Wildwood Inn.

The beginning of spring brings the melting of snow in Washington and on March 1, 1975, on Taylor Mountain some forestry students from Green River Community College discover a skull later to be identified as that of Brenda Ball. The skull has been recovered thirty miles from The Flame tavern from where Brenda disappeared in May of 1974. No other bones or articles of identification for Brenda Ball are ever uncovered. Eerily, on March 3, Bob Keppel, King County homicide detective, stumbles on another skull during the search for remains of Brenda Ball. The second skull proves to be that of Susan Rancourt, missing since April of 1974 from Ellensburg, Washington, eighty-seven miles away. The underbrush on Taylor Mountain gives up yet one more skull, that of Roberta Kathleen Parks, missing from Corvallis, Oregon since May of 1974.

For now, the killing spree in Utah seems to have ended just like it did in Washington and Caryn Campbell's murder in Colorado appears to be unrelated to the others.

On March 15, 1975, twenty-six-year-old Julie Cunningham disappears in Vail, Colorado, while on her way to a tavern to join her roommate for a drink. On April 6, 1975, twenty-five-year-old Denise Oliverson of Grand Junction, Colorado, disappears during a short bicycle trip to visit her parents. Julie and Denise have not been seen since.

On April 15, 1975, eighteen-year-old Melanie Cooley disappears from Nederland, Colorado, while walking home from school. Melanie's body is found bludgeoned and strangled on a Colorado canyon road.

On July 1, 1975, Shelley Robertson never arrives for work in Golden, Colorado. Shelley's body is found six weeks later in an abandoned mine close to Vail.

Suddenly, the abductions and murders stop and police still have no strong clues about the perpetrator.

The author breaks the unrelenting listing of abductions and murders and provides some relief for the reader by attempting to answer why or how someone could commit such heinous crimes. "Psychiatrists were more inclined to believe that the killer was a man obsessed by a terrible compulsion, a compulsion that forced him to hunt down and kill the same type of woman, over, and over, and over again, that he could never be able to murder her enough to find surcease," Chapter 12, p. 139.

The author also provides some insight of her own in profiling the girls who became Ted Bundy's victims. All of the young women had very similar physical characteristics of being tall, slim and with long, dark hair parted in the middle but beyond that, each of the girls was suffering some emotional vulnerability on the day she encountered Ted Bundy. Whether it was a break-up with a boyfriend, stress from college exams, family illness or some other stress, each girl seemed to be especially vulnerable at the time of her abduction and murder. The author suggests that somehow Ted could sense the fragility in the women he targeted with the realization that his methods would both appeal and ultimately terrorize them.

Chapters 15, 16 and 17

Chapters 15, 16 and 17 Summary and Analysis

In May or 1975, Ted invites some friends to visit him in Salt Lake City but Meg is not among them. However, Ted does return to Seattle in 1975 and spends time with Meg to further strengthen their romantic relationship. Meg still cannot bring herself to tell Ted that she has contacted the legal authorities about her suspicions about Ted's involvement in the abductions and murders which have occurred in Washington and Utah. Meg and Ted decide to marry in December of that year.

Ted returns to Salt Lake City to continue his law school studies although his grades are lower than they have ever been. In the early hours of August 16, Ted is pulled over in his Volkswagen bug by a highway patrolman when Ted is seen slowly cruising the patrolman's residential neighborhood. The patrolman searches Ted's car and discovers what he believes to be burglary tools: a crowbar, an ice pick, a ski mask, a rope and some wire. Ted is arrested and even more suspicious items are found in the Volkswagen: handcuffs, a pantyhose mask and large garbage bags.

Salt Lake City authorities suspect Ted is responsible for the abduction and murder of the Utah victims but cannot find anything that directly links Ted to the crimes during a search of Ted's apartment. The only living victim, Carol DaRonch, is able to identify Ted from a police lineup. Ted is released but the Utah authorities begin to gather Ted's records, put him under constant surveillance and contact Meg Anders, Ted's fiancé.

Ann has not talked with Ted Bundy since Christmas of 1973 but receives a call from him out of the blue in September of 1975. Ted asks Ann to use her influence with the Seattle police department to discover why the authorities are subpoenaing Ted's records. After contacting the police department, Ann is able to call Ted to report that Ted is one of 1,200 people being investigated for the crimes. Ted's relief is audible and Ann mentally notes Ted's old confident nature returning.

Ted admits to Ann that he had been picked up and charged with burglary tools in his car but Ann finds it hard to believe that Ted is capable of burglary. Ted also shares with Ann that he is being questioned about some cases involving missing girls in Washington. Ann knows that she had shared Ted's name with the authorities in regard to those missing girls and nothing had come from it. Now, the authorities must have more probable cause in order to question Ted and put him in an upcoming lineup.

Ann learns on October 2, 1976, that Ted has been arrested in Salt Lake City on aggravated kidnapping and attempted criminal assault charges. Ann receives a phone call from the Associated Press with a message from Ted telling Ann that Ted is all right and things will work out fine. Ann is inundated with phone calls from various media sources wanting to know the details of Ted's arrest but Ann demurs. Ann writes to Ted

on October 6 confirming support from Ann and Ted's Seattle friends and former colleagues.

Ted communicates with Ann by letters filled with his distaste for prison life and his personal anguish at being caged like an animal. Ted swears his innocence and rages against the violation of his rights. In her continuing correspondence with Ted, Ann provides emotional support and what little money she can so that Ted can buy stamps and cigarettes.

Ann is conflicted because she has contracted to write about the Washington cases before knowing that the suspect is her friend, Ted Bundy. Now, with the authorities aware that Ann receives regular correspondence with Ted, Ann consults with a therapist who counsels her to maintain her contact with Ted as a friend helping another friend in trouble. The fact that Ted knows about Ann's book contract eases Ann's conscience and she vows to maintain the friendship with Ted.

Ann's guilty conscience is eclipsed only by Meg's guilt over releasing Ted's name to the authorities for both the Washington and the Utah crimes. Now the detectives question Meg unceasingly for clues to Ted's actions, possible motives and hidden personality. Meg's heart is broken when she has to reveal that Ted did go out alone frequently at night and that she found items such as crutches, knives and Plaster of Paris that she could not account for. The detectives vow to keep the discovery secret from Ted and Meg secretly hopes that a different man will be arrested for the crimes and her personal nightmare will be over with Ted released.

In this section the author points out the first of many times that Ted will suffer a personal affront by being arrested for things that are beneath his dignity. This is the alternate side of Ted's personality; the intelligent, charming man with so much potential who cannot understand why anyone would think him capable of burglary much less violent crimes against any person.

Despite Ann's suspicions about Ted, she still supports him and even tells him, "There is nothing in this life that is a complete tragedy—nothing—try to remember that," Chapter 16, p. 157. Ann is still struggling with her personal loyalty versus what reality is telling her and at this point she is a believable storyteller. As the section proceeds, Ann realizes that the book she has agreed to write about the Washington murders will now focus on her friend, Ted Bundy, and she is conflicted about her sense of loyalty to a friend vs. her duty to fulfill the work commitment. Ann's consultation with a therapist validates her need and desire to complete the book by which she will ultimately profit from her friendship with Ted. The reader has to wonder about the strength of the friendship connection which would allow this type of behavior in spite of what will ultimately be revealed about the true Ted Bundy.

Chapters 18, 19 and 20

Chapters 18, 19 and 20 Summary and Analysis

Despite the many crimes in Washington, Utah and Colorado, "Ted" is seen only once and that is in July, 1974, at Lake Sammamish when Linda Ott and Denise Naslund disappear. Detectives from all the affected states work furiously to try to determine Ted Bundy's whereabouts at the time of the separate crimes. The research into Ted's phone records reveal that it had, indeed, been Ted who had phoned Ann's home a year ago in an agitated state when Ann had been in the hospital. Ann is startled by this discovery and realizes that although her contact with Ted is minimal, Ann is always on Ted's mind.

In addition to the conflicted Meg, Ted has several staunch supporters including his parents and cousins who attempt the best they can to provide alibis for Ted when approached by authorities. In November of 1975, Ted is released on bail and returns to Seattle where he ingratiates himself with Meg once again and moves back into her home.

A few weeks later, Ann receives a call from Ted and agrees to meet him for lunch. Ann alerts the Seattle detectives who will be watching the encounter to ensure Ann's safety. At a lunch that lasts all afternoon, Ann feels that the past two years have never happened and she and Ted enjoy each other's company. Ann gently prods Ted about the charges against him but Ted maintains his innocence and is outraged by the accusations against his character.

Ann meets Ted once more for lunch on January 17, 1976, before he returns to Salt Lake City to stand trial. Once more Ann tries to get Ted to reveal his crimes but Ted is quietly outraged at the affront to his dignity and tells Ann nothing that could incriminate him further. Ted does tell Ann that he knows that it had been Meg who had turned Ted in to the authorities, but amazingly, Ted feels no anger, only tenderness, toward Meg. Ted also shows no violence toward Ann when she tells him that she can no longer be convinced of Ted's innocence.

The author offers up the theory that there are three personalities existing in Ted Bundy: first, the model son and academic achiever, second, the man who could charm any woman regardless of age, and third, a hostile man who reacts with extreme violence at the slightest provocation from women. It is interesting to note how Ted categorizes women in his mind. Even when Ted learns that Meg and Ann have given Ted up to the authorities, he remains calm and devoted to them, almost as if they are mother substitutes for Ted who worships his own mother and would never do anything to harm her or displease her. Perhaps Ted looks to Meg, especially, as the mother figure who, by delivering him to the authorities, could also deliver Ted to the punishment he knows he deserves.

Chapters 21, 22 and 23

Chapters 21, 22 and 23 Summary and Analysis

Ted's aggravated kidnapping trial involving Carol DaRonch begins on January 23, 1976. Ted's extreme confidence in the courtroom unnerves Carol DaRonch who appears a hesitant witness at best. Ted is ultimately convicted for the charge and is remanded to jail in Salt Lake City to await sentencing in March. Ann receives many letters from Ted bemoaning the austere conditions in which he finds himself. As the March sentencing date approaches, the judge delays the proceedings for three months to allow for psychiatric testing of Ted to be held at Utah State Prison at Point-of-the-Mountain in Draper.

Ann is granted permission to visit Ted and Ted tells Ann about the psychiatric tests, many of which Ted administered to others as a psychology student in Washington. After the visit, Ann is firmly convinced that the authorities have locked up the wrong man in connection with the case. That night, though, Ann dreams that her attempts to get help for an injured baby are met with scorn and refusal. The baby in the dream reveals itself as a demon which bites Ann with ferocity.

Ann continues to teeter on the border between Ted's innocence and guilt and maintains communication with Ted primarily through letters. Ted asks Ann to stay in contact with Meg who is lonely and frightened with Ted in prison. Ann agrees to meet Meg for dinner, yet Meg will not reveal any secrets—fully aware that Ann is writing a book about the Washington crimes and Ted's possible involvement.

Ted is ultimately sentenced one to fifteen years for the aggravated kidnapping of Carol DaRonch. Meanwhile, detectives in Colorado have determined that they may have enough physical evidence from Ted's Volkswagen to try him for the murder of Caryn Campbell.

The author points out the irony of Ted's situation in prison in Utah as he undergoes extensive psychiatric testing to prove or disprove his competency. Just a few years before it was Ted who administered the same tests while studying psychology as a college student in Washington. It is quite possible that Ted knew how to manipulate the test results for a conclusion he would think positive and acceptable. Throughout the book, the author talks about Ted's ability to manipulate people and situations to get what he wants, whether it is getting a woman to run errands for him during his incarceration or some naïve young woman to accompany him on some ruse of an errand which ultimately results in that young woman's death.

Psychoanalysis also enters into the story with Ann's dream of the injured baby. The child has been run over by a car and despite Ann's frantic efforts to get help from medical personnel, no one will tend to the injured baby. Eventually, the baby is revealed to be

not a normal child but a demon that bites Ann firmly on the hand. Ann understands her dream to mean that she is trying to help a monster much too dangerous to survive.

Chapters 24, 25 and 26

Chapters 24, 25 and 26 Summary and Analysis

Ted adapts to life in Utah State Prison and continues his correspondence with Ann, telling her that he is somewhat of a celebrity and is valued among the other prisoners for his legal knowledge. One letter from Ted in September subtly reveals Ted's despondence over his situation and his intent to kill himself. "Unlike times of low morale I have survived in the past, I know I will not wake up in the morning refreshed and revived. I will wake up knowing only what has to be done—if I have the courage," Chapter 25, p. 232.

Ted decides to live and throws himself wholeheartedly into his defense of his innocence in the murder of Caryn Campbell in Colorado nearly a year before. Ted is found with items which would aid an escape and is put into solitary confinement. Letters from Ted to Ann at this time chide Ann for her newfound editorial success and accompanying financial gains. Ted leaves Utah for Aspen, Colorado, on January 28, 1977 where he is placed in the Pitkin County Jail.

Compared to the operation of the Utah State Prison, Ted feels that the Pitkin County Jail is "a Mickey Mouse operation," Chapter 26, p. 243. Ted's letters to Ann from Aspen indicate that Ted's mood is much more relaxed, brought about in part from the congenial, laid-back manner of the police and jail personnel. After a preliminary hearing, Ted is transferred to nearby Garfield County Jail in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, due to an order that no prisoner can be housed in the Pitkin County Jail for longer than 30 days.

Ted is even more pleased with his new "Mom and Pop" accommodations but continues to complain about the bad food as he had in the Pitkin County Jail. Ted manages to convince the local judge that he needs more amenities in order to prepare for his defense. Before long, Ted gets a desk, a typewriter, three meals a day and access to the law library in Aspen to which he is escorted several times a week. Ted's trial date is set for November 14, 1977, and the local judge orders Ted to be seen by a doctor for continuing weight loss. When Ted writes to Ann he requests that food be sent in to supplement his paltry diet.

The author interjects other famous people into the book to show some of the surrounding popular news items at the time of Ted's story. For example, when Ted is incarcerated at Utah State Prison, Gary Gilmore is executed by firing squad for his murder convictions. In Aspen, Ted's arrival at the Pitkin County Jail follows closely on the heels of the incarceration there of celebrity Claudine Longet accused of murdering her boyfriend, skier Spider Sabich.

The author uses the technique of foreshadowing in this section when she says, "He told me he was reading a good deal, the only respite he had from television soap operas

and game shows. His favorite book was Papillon, the story of an impossible prison escape from Devil's Island. 'I've read it four times,'" Chapter 26, p. 245. Foreshadowing means that an author drops little hints or allusions to upcoming activity or plot extensions which will be evidenced later in the book. The significance of the escape book will soon be revealed.

Chapters 27 and 28

Chapters 27 and 28 Summary and Analysis

On the morning of June 7th, Ted escapes during an escorted trip to the law library in Aspen. Ted manages to drop out of one of the library windows while under the watch of a new guard unfamiliar with Ted's cunning ways. A woman passing by the library reports Ted's escape but Ted manages to make his way into the mountains before search parties can be organized to track him. Ted, unaware of mountain passes and terrains, does not make a straight path to freedom but rather circles back toward Aspen where he is apprehended six days later driving a stolen Cadillac.

Soon after the recapture, Ted learns that Meg is involved with another man. Ted's misery is short lived and Ann learns that another woman named Carole Ann Boone has become Ted's female companion and champion.

Ted's escape attempt has added ninety more years of punishment to his current burden and he calls upon longtime Seattle friend, John Henry Browne from the public defender's office for help. Browne cannot represent Ted because Ted has not been charged in Washington but Browne will serve as confidante and long term advisor throughout Ted's legal troubles.

The auto accident death of Ted's attorney, Buzzy Ware, is just the beginning of Ted's burgeoning trial problems. Authorities from Utah want to include charges from their cases in the Caryn Campbell Colorado case due to the identification of Utah victims' hair in Ted's Volkswagen. Ted prevails on this issue but soon learns that the Utah courts have rejected his appeal in the Carol DaRonch case.

After Christmas of that year, Ann temporarily moves to Hollywood, California, to write a screenplay and Ted receives a change of venue for his trial which is to take place in Colorado Springs, Colorado. On December 29, Ted phones Ann to wish her good luck in her new venture and is amazingly calm, his only complaint the continuance of bad prison food.

The next day, Ted escapes from the Garfield County Jail. During the previous weeks, Ted had managed to cut out one of the ceiling panels in his cell and lift himself into the space above the cells and explore. On the evening of his escape, Ted stuffs his legal papers in his bed and covers them, leaves his untouched breakfast tray outside his cell and hoists himself into the attic area. Ted crawls to the open area of an officer's apartment closet, drops down, changes clothes and walks out into the Colorado night. Ted steals a car and makes it to the bus station in Vail where he catches a bus to Denver. From there Ted catches a flight to Chicago. By the time the jailers realize Ted's disappearance, Ted is on a train bound for Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Ann learns of Ted's escape from the legal authorities who urge her to take extra safety precautions in the event that Ted tries to hide out at Ann's. Ann is slightly unnerved by the warnings and keeps on the alert, unaware that Ted has arrived in Tallahassee, Florida, after stealing a car in Ann Arbor and making the drive south.

Ted finds a room at The Oak apartments and relishes in his newfound freedom. Assuming the names of Kenneth Misner and Chris Hagen from some university student records, Ted vows to get a job and to gain the weight he lost so he could fit through the ceiling panel in his cell in the Garfield County Jail.

This section ends at the point where the book begins—with Ted's arrival in Tallahassee, Florida. Ted's escape from the Colorado jail and his move to Florida signals the end of life as he has known it. From this point forward, Ted assumes a different identity and as events will soon show, will never leave the state of Florida.

Chapter 29

Chapter 29 Summary and Analysis

Ted's arrival in Florida finds him with very little money so he steals some things to set up housekeeping in his room as well as a bicycle for transportation. Ted knows he should find a job to provide for himself legitimately but also feels that the world owes him for the trouble he has experienced over the past few years. Keeping to himself, Ted revels in the quiet, warm days of freedom in Florida, sometimes playing racquetball, sometimes sitting in on classes and even eating in some of the campus cafeterias.

In contrast to the dilapidated lodgings of The Oak Apartments, the well-built, impeccably decorated Chi Omega sorority house sits just a few blocks away. The furnishings and the young women who inhabit the house are reputedly beautiful and sophisticated, untouchable to those of lesser status or position. By all appearances, the Chi Omega house is safe and impenetrable. This will all change as the evening hours of January 14, 1978, draw near.

Most of the Chi Omega girls have gone out for a Saturday night of fun, many of them to the dance club, Sherrod's, next door. When Sherrod's closes at 2:00 a.m., a few of the girls return to the Chi Omega house, noting that the back door is not locked. The girls mingle and chat about their evening as other sorority sisters return home. With the exception of a few, all the girls are in bed and asleep by 2:45 a.m.

When resident Nita Neary returns home at 3:00 a.m. after a date, she realizes that the back door is wide open. Moving into the house and beginning to turn out the lights, Nita hears a loud noise followed by running footsteps overhead. Nita freezes in her place and watches a man dressed in a dark jacket and knit cap running down the main stairs of the house. Nita notes that the man is carrying a club or a log and Nita's first thought is that someone is pulling a prank.

Upstairs Nita discovers Karen Chandler stumbling down the hall as she holds her head which is covered in blood. Karen's roommate, Kathy Meiner, sits in her bed also holding her head and bleeding from similar wounds. One of the girls calls 911 and when help arrives they find more horror than the two wounded, delirious girls. Lisa Levy is found dead, strangled, beaten, sodomized, and raped, her right nipple nearly bitten off. In another room, Margaret Bowman is found dead in her bed; her head had been bashed in and she had been strangled.

Eight blocks away from the Chi Omega house sits a renovated duplex at 431 Dunwoody Street where three girls share the residence; Debbie Ciccarelli and Nancy Young on one side and Cheryl Thomas on the other. The paramedics barely finish their work at the Chi Omega house when they get a call to respond to the Dunwoody address. Upon arrival the paramedics find Cheryl Thomas severely beaten and raped.

Karen Chandler and Kathy Meiner spend a week in the hospital and Cheryl Thomas is hospitalized for a month. Autopsies on Margaret Bowman and Lisa Levy reveal extensive splintering of the skulls, strangulation wounds, deep bruising and a double set of bite marks on Lisa's left buttock. Neither girl shows any defensive wounds indicating that they had been attacked while they slept and never knew what happened to them.

Just a week after he arrives in Tallahassee, Ted Bundy commits the horrific crimes against the college students. Even though he is in a completely different city on the opposite coast from where he grew up, Ted cannot escape the ties he has to his first real unattainable girlfriend, Stephanie Brooks. It is symbolic that the Chi Omega girls are wealthy, just as Stephanie was, as well as being bright and beautiful. That Ted's rundown apartment is close to the Chi Omega house is symbolic of how Ted's relationship with Stephanie played out; close but not within reach in any way. The attacks seem to have increased significantly in ferocity, perhaps because of Ted's pent up rage from being in prison and his being denied the ritual of murder for so long.

Chapters 30, 31 and 32

Chapters 30, 31 and 32 Summary and Analysis

The days following the attacks are filled with the collection of evidence by the authorities and increased police coverage near the campus. Ted, posing as Chris Hagen, chats with his neighbors about the attacks, assuring them that whoever committed the crimes is clearly a professional and must be long gone.

Ann still denies that Ted could be responsible for the Florida attacks, thinking instead that Ted would not jeopardize his new-found freedom by risking the possibility of discovery through new attacks.

One of Cheryl Thomas' neighbors reports a stolen license plate (13-D-11300) from his camper and receives a new plate. Soon after, a white Dodge van is reported stolen from the Florida State Audio-Visual Department.

On February 8, 1978, a young girl, Leslie Ann Parmenter, in Jacksonville, Florida, is approached by a man in a white van while waiting at a street corner for her brother to arrive. The man, claiming to Richard Burton from the Fire Department, tries to lure Leslie into the van but fortunately Leslie's brother arrives to intervene. The Parmenter children report the van's license plate number to their father, the Chief of Detectives for the Jacksonville Police Department. Detective Parmenter knows that the "13" in the plate number means the plate belongs to Leon County and makes a mental note to notify Tallahassee authorities as soon as possible.

The next day, twelve-year-old Kimberly Diane Leach disappears from outside her junior high school in Lake City, Florida. Witnesses would later recall seeing a white van driven by a man who by all accounts is angry at having to pick up his daughter sent home for misbehaving.

In Jacksonville, Detective Parmenter notifies Detective Steve Bodiford at the Leon County Police Department and the men discover that the plate is the one stolen from the camper near Cheryl Thomas' residence. The two men deduce that there is a connection between the Tallahassee murders and the possible fate of young Kimberly Leach.

Early in 1978, Ted Bundy's arrogance is building. He has escaped from jail in Colorado and has committed horrific murders to which he cannot be tied. Ted revels in his situation, especially that of outwitting the police for whom he has longstanding scorn. "He had boasted to them that he knew law very well, and that he was a lot smarter than any policeman. He'd said, 'I can get out of anything because I know my way around,'" Chapter 30, p. 302.

At the same time that Ted's crimes are escalating, Ann's conviction of Ted's innocence also increases. This is a good example to show that the criminal mind is so different

from a logical mind. Logic would say that anyone who has escaped an almost impossible situation should be grateful for his luck and disappear as best as he can. Unfortunately, Ted Bundy's psychopathic personality is fueled by his perceived successes and he delights in his ability to commit unsolvable crimes while maintaining a persona of calm intelligence.

Chapters 33, 34 and 35

Chapters 33, 34 and 35 Summary and Analysis

In the early morning hours of February 11, 1978, Ted is caught while attempting to unlock a Toyota parked near the house of his victim Cheryl Thomas. The police officer spots the stolen license plate (13-D-11300) inside the car and Ted vows no knowledge of the plate. When the officer returns to his squad car to check on the plate, Ted runs away into the darkness. The next day the officer will learn about the search for a stolen white van; very possibly the white van with a flat tire parked behind the Toyota he had seen in his encounter with the man and the stolen license plate.

Ted treats himself to a nice dinner with stolen credit cards on the night of February 11 and leaves Tallahassee for good the next morning, skipping out on two months rent due to his landlord. Ted steals an orange Volkswagen bug, installs the stolen plate (13-D-11300) on it and heads west. In Pensacola, Florida, in the early morning hours of February 15, Ted is picked up by an officer who spots the orange VW with stolen license plates. The police officer chases Ted for a short while until the VW slows to a stop.

Ted emerges from the car, enters into an altercation with the officer and finally runs away. The officer fires a warning shot and is able to apprehend Ted who admits that he wishes the policeman had killed him. Ted's identification papers mistakenly identify Ted as "Ken Misner," a shocking revelation to the real Ken Misner when he is notified in Tallahassee of the arrest. Tallahassee detectives travel to Pensacola in order to determine the identity of the man still insisting he is "Ken Misner."

Before leaving Tallahassee, Ted abandoned the stolen white van which is recovered by the owners and processed by the police who find leaves and vegetative debris covering up blood stains on the carpeting in the back. Investigators also find two price tags recently cut from articles of clothing purchased at a local sporting goods store.

On February 16, Ann learns of Ted's arrest and instinctively knows that Ted must have been involved in the Chi Omega murders in Tallahassee. When Ted calls Ann at 3:00 a.m., Ann offers to help Ted who is struggling with what to tell the authorities. Ann makes tentative arrangements to fly to Pensacola but authorities want three days for Ted to make a confession before they enlist any outside help. Ann never travels to Pensacola and receives no further calls from Ted.

Because the basis of this book is of an investigative nature, the author strives to provide as much detail as possible without burdening the reader. The story is more than just a simple formula of a character performing a function and moving on to the next task. Ted's actions have vast complications for many people whom he leaves in his devastating wake and those complications must be described fully. For example, it is not enough to say that Ted steals a VW and leaves Tallahassee. It is critical to know that Ted uses a stolen license plate which will ultimately lead to his capture. The discovery of

the blood and debris in the back of the abandoned white van is also critical and will soon figure prominently in the evolution of the story. The author does a good job at keeping the pace of the story interesting while revealing enough detail on the sub plots which will emerge to complete the picture by the end of the book.

Chapters 36, 37, 38 and 39

Chapters 36, 37, 38 and 39 Summary and Analysis

During the interrogation in Pensacola, Ted admits that he is Ted Bundy, a revelation which means nothing to the Florida authorities. The investigators eventually learn that Ted is one of the FBI's Ten Most Wanted individuals and Ted unburdens himself on tape for hours in the Pensacola jail. When the FBI joins in on the questioning, the authorities learn that Ted is responsible for thirty-six murders.

Ann's successful screenwriting venture in Hollywood ends in the screening of a movie on the day that Ted reveals his crimes to the authorities. Ann instinctively knows that Ted wants to return to Washington and she offers her services as liaison to expedite legal proceedings in Ted's case. Detectives in Seattle are willing to fund Ann's trip to Pensacola but the Florida authorities have first rights to Ted and they are not willing to give him up to Washington.

In early March Ted is returned to the authorities in Tallahassee to appear in court for charges of forgery and theft. Once again, Ted requests amenities such as access to a legal library in order to prepare his defense.

On April 7th, 1978, Kimberly Leach's decomposing body is discovered in an abandoned metal building near the Suwannee River State Park. Although autopsy at this advanced state of decomposition cannot definitively prove it, it appears Kimberly had been strangled and raped although there is no evidence of head trauma.

Although Ted shows no emotion upon hearing that Kimberly's body has been found, the evidence tying Ted to the murder is mounting but nothing can definitively mark Ted as the killer.

Throughout the book, the author interjects excerpts from letters that Ted Bundy writes her during their friendship. In this section, Ted's usual confidence and upbeat demeanor belie his underlying sense of defeat and impending doom.

"I try not to look forward. I try not to think back to the precious few days I had as a free person. I try to live in the present as I have on past occasions when I have been locked up. This approach worked in the past but is not working well now. I am tired and disappointed in myself. Two years I dreamt of freedom. I had it and lost it through a combination of compulsion and stupidity. It is a failure I find impossible to dismiss easily.

love,

Ted

P.S. Thanks for the \$10," Chapter 38, p. 345.

Since the book is written in the first person narrative perspective, this is the only way the author can reveal the thoughts of another person to add dimension and authenticity to the story.

Chapters 40, 41 and 42

Chapters 40, 41 and 42 Summary and Analysis

In April, Ted is charged with two more counts of forgery for the use of credit cards in Leon County, Florida, and he is also forced to submit to dental impressions for comparison to the bite marks left on coed Lisa Levy's buttock. Authorities still do not have enough definitive physical evidence to charge Ted with murder and continue to hold him on theft and fraud.

This stalled situation all changes on the evening of July 27 when Ted is formally charged with the attacks and murders of the girls in Tallahassee. When appearing in court on July 31st, Ted pleads not guilty to the charges and decides to represent himself. Ted is subsequently charged with the death of Kimberly Leach. In his typical style, Ted shows no emotion and launches an aggressive motion for his rights, including the use of the law library, better lighting in his cell, more outdoor time and other elements designed to avert attention from the real issues at hand. Ted's trials do not begin until the middle of 1979.

During this time Ted reveals to Ann that one of his longtime female friends, Carole Ann Boone, has become indispensable in support of Ted. Ted also realizes that he cannot defend himself in two murder trials and grudgingly accepts the counsel of public defender Mike Minerva and his team of attorneys. A further complication, to Ted's thinking, is the appointment of a new circuit court judge, Judge Edward D. Cowart, known for his strong personality hidden behind a slow Southern drawl.

As the June 11 trial date nears, rumors begin to circulate that Ted may plea bargain to a lesser charge than first degree murder in order to avoid a death sentence. Carole Ann Boone, now in love with Ted, and Ted's mother both beg Ted to plead guilty to lesser charges. By all appearances, Ted complies until plea negotiations break down and Ted withdraws what seems to be his written confession. On June 11, Judge Cowart rules that Ted is competent to stand trial and grants a change of venue to Miami, Florida.

Ted rallies in Miami, buoyed up by his new defense team and a healthy defense budget. Ann flies to Miami to attend Ted's trials and gains access to the capacity crowd in the courtroom via her press credentials. News media from all over the country are ensconced at the courthouse in order to cover the trial of this notorious man. When Ann first spots Ted in the courtroom she notes that it would be hard for an outsider to distinguish Ted from his polished attorneys. Also of note is the ever-present contingent of young women fascinated by the spectacle of the handsome Ted Bundy on trial for murder.

Throughout all of Ted's troubles, he never seems to have a grasp on reality in spite of his intellectual, witty personality. Prior to his murder trials, he is raptly interested in the media coverage of him and his trials, even asking Ann the perspective of media

coverage on him in Seattle. It is ironic that this man, so capable of murder, the most extreme degree of lack of self control, is outraged at the slightest innuendo that he is not in control of himself and bristles at the psychiatric findings of his sociopathic behavior. It is ironic, too, that Ted's underlying lack of control will ultimately destroy him when the breakdown in plea bargaining negotiations tests his endurance and he relinquishes all hope for a lesser sentence when he violently tears up his written confession.

Chapters 43, 44, 45, 46 and 47

Chapters 43, 44, 45, 46 and 47 Summary and Analysis

As the trials begin on July 7, 1978, the prosecution enters a strong case while the defense stumbles in its lack of experience, including Ted Bundy helping to represent himself, even questioning some witnesses on the stand. Ann notes that Ted's enthusiasm in the courtroom seems to be diminished a little each day as if he knows he will not escape. Outside the courtroom, Ted returns to his old rants about the inadequate conditions in his jail cell and even deliberately delays his appearance in court some days earning him contempt of court charges.

The most damaging evidence to Ted's case is the declaration from an odontologist that the bite marks on Lisa Levy's buttocks were made by Ted Bundy.

The defense begins its portion of the trial on July 20 with Ted once more proclaiming inadequate conditions in his cell and in the tools and attorneys chosen to represent him. Judge Cowart's patience is wearing thin by Ted's antics yet he agrees to allow Ted to represent himself with the public defenders acting as Ted's advisors. As final arguments near, Ann realizes that all the antics, delays and outbursts have just delayed the inevitable—Ted is going to die for his crimes.

Ted's defense team tries in vain to cast reasonable doubt on the dental evidence presented and in less than seven hours' deliberation time, the jury finds Ted guilty on all counts of murder and attempted murder. Ann leaves Miami before the sentencing phase of the trial, knowing full well that the horrific nature of Ted's crimes will surely garner the death penalty.

Until the moment of his conviction, Ted Bundy never seems to acknowledge the gravity of his circumstances. All his life Ted has been able to escape or outwit those around him and he feels sure that he can manipulate a sleepy courtroom presided over by a Southern lawyer. Ted is so fueled by his self-perceived superiority that he actually makes fatal errors in judgment when he could have, ironically, saved his life. Ted is the complete personification of a sociopathic personality with traits such as: glibness and superficial charm, lack of remorse, grandiose sense of self, pathological lying, impulsive and callous behavior. Ann is correct when she determines that although Ted is guilty of horrendous crimes, he is also a victim trapped in a body and psyche that would allow and encourage such behavior.

Chapters 48 and 49

Chapters 48 and 49 Summary and Analysis

During the penalty phase of Ted Bundy's trial, the prosecutors are warned not to go to extremes, so ultimately the jurors never learn of Ted's crimes in Washington, Utah and Colorado. When Ted rises to speak to the judge, he characteristically refuses to beg for his life based on the fact that Ted does not admit to committing any of the crimes of which he has been accused. In the end Judge Cowart sentences Ted to death in the electric chair and advises Ted to "take care of himself," Chapter 48, p. 424.

Upon hearing the finality of Ted's fate, Ann is overwhelmed with sadness for the loss of a friend and a young man who had so much potential but whose mental illness derailed any hope of a productive, fulfilling life. Ann's grief also extends to Ted's victims and their families, the most obvious victims in Ted Bundy's story.

It is only at the end of the story that Ann is able to admit that she, too, is one of the countless women manipulated by Ted Bundy. It is highly unlikely that Ted would have perpetuated a relationship with Ann had she not been associated with the authorities in Seattle. Through Ann, Ted is able to garner important information about the investigations as well as supply information that he knows will be turned over to the authorities when he deems the time is right. Ann writes, "And, like all the others, I have been manipulated to suit Ted's needs. I don't feel particularly embarrassed or resentful about that; I was one of many, all of us intelligent, compassionate people who had no real comprehension of what possessed him, what drove him obsessively," Chapter 48, p. 426.

Epilogue

Epilogue Summary and Analysis

Although Ted is sentenced to death, the state of Florida pushes for Ted to be tried for the murder of Kimberly Leach. It is generally understood that the state does not want to risk the possibility of Ted getting off if Ted should happen to be found not guilty in an appeal of the Chi Omega murders. The trial begins on January 7, 1980, in Orlando, Florida, with Judge Wallace Jopling presiding. Media and public attention is at a much reduced level of interest as compared to Ted's previous murder trial. Carole Ann Boone seems to be the only person completely vested in the outcome of this second trial.

The only real excitement in the proceedings comes on February 6 when it is learned that Carole Ann Boone has applied for a marriage license to marry Ted Bundy. Judge Jopling authorizes Ted's blood test but none of the interested parties believes that Carole Ann will actually marry a condemned man.

Ted is convicted of the murder of Kimberly Leach and on February 9, Carole Ann takes the stand to plead for Ted's life. The couple is actually married when Ted rises to question Carole Ann. The proper phrasing of the interest and intent to marry agreed upon by Ted and Carole Ann becomes legally binding and the two are married in front of a stunned courtroom.

Later that day, the jury decides that Ted should receive the death penalty and on February 12, Judge Jopling sentences Ted to death in the electric chair at Raiford prison in Starke, Florida.

Ironically, Ted Bundy's wedding day comes on the second year anniversary of the day that Kimberly Leach disappeared in Lake City, Florida, and on the day he receives another death sentence. A marriage usually signifies the beginning of a new life, a new beginning, which is the complete opposite of what Ted can actually expect, and the opportunity for life brutally denied to Kimberly Leach. Once more, Ted does not live in reality; rather he constructs his life as he sees fit, regardless of the very real circumstances crashing in on him.

Afterword

Afterword Summary and Analysis

It is now 1986, six years after Ted Bundy has been sentenced to die, and Ann updates the reader on Ted's appeals and life on Death Row. Even Ann is surprised by Ted's ability to rally and maintain a fight to stay his execution date. During this time, Ann receives much celebrity as the author of this book, originally published in August of 1980, which she thought had concluded with the pronouncement of the death sentences. Ann is deluged by strangers claiming some knowledge of Ted Bundy or by inquisitive types who want to know what Ted is like personally.

There are also stories from women about encounters with Ted Bundy from which they escaped, especially from the young women from the Chi Omega sorority who do not understand how they came so close to death and somehow were passed over that fateful night. On a more professional level, Ann is regarded as a Ted Bundy expert whose opinions are sought after by media and law enforcement officials.

Ted becomes aware of Ann's burgeoning publicity and good fortune as a result of the book's publication and sends Ann a letter requesting that Ann send money to Ted's wife, Carole Ann Boone Bundy. Ann's immediate reaction of guilt is replaced by the satisfaction that she had told Ted about her contract to write the book before Ted was even identified as a suspect in any of the crimes.

Ann also learns that in 1982 Carole Ann Boone Bundy became pregnant with Ted's child, made possible by furtive liaisons in the prison visiting area. Carole Ann brings the child on prison visits during the 1980's while Ted launches repeated appeals. Although the appeals for new trials are denied, there is still no execution date set and Ted revels in the requests for interviews from the media and psychiatric professionals.

Suddenly, on February 5, 1986, Ted's execution date is scheduled for March 4, just one month away. Ted receives new legal counsel and a stay of execution is granted until April 11, 1986.

Ann's naiveté about Ted Bundy comes full circle when she admits that she thought the death sentences in 1980 would not only bring the end of Ted's life but also the conclusion of her book. Not even Ann, who had been Ted's friend, could have anticipated the lengths to which Ted would go in order to delay his execution. It is tragic, too, that the energy and intelligence Ted expends in his new motions could not have been channeled into a more productive life less devastating to so many people. Up until this point, Ted had maintained a friendship with Ann largely due to Ann's ability to function as a conduit between Ted and detectives and media personnel. Ann understands that her usefulness has come to an end when she receives this letter from Ted:

"Dear Ann,

Since you have seen fit to take advantage of our relationship, I think it is only fair that you share your great good fortune with my wife, Carole Ann Boone. Please send her \$2500—or more—to: (he gave her address) as soon as possible.

Best regards,

ted" Afterword, p. 459.

It is interesting to note that in all his letters to Ann, Ted signs his name as "ted," using the lower case "t" as an indication of his true feelings of inadequacy and inferiority, so much in contrast to his bravado behavior.

The Last Chapter—1989

The Last Chapter—1989 Summary and Analysis

Shortly after his first scheduled execution date of March 5, 1986, Ted writes a letter to Ann claiming no animosity toward her and agrees to talk to Ann—just to talk—not so Ann can garner more information for another book about Ted Bundy. Ann communicates with Ted in letters but does not talk directly with Ted, whose new execution date is set for July 2, 1986.

Ted's attorneys determine that Ted's competency has never been established but finally Ted is categorized as a sociopath fully aware of his actions, even those during his years of incarceration. On July 1st, Ted receives an indefinite stay of execution.

Ann and Ted continue their letter writing and Ted tries to tell Ann about the serial killer mindset and all the people still fascinated with Ted's crimes.

In October, the third death warrant against Ted is signed and the newly scheduled execution date is set for November 18, 1986. Seven hours before he is to be executed, Ted receives another indefinite stay of execution. For many months, the question of Ted's competency will once again be argued but Ted loses his final appeal in December of 1988 and a new execution date is set for January 24, 1989. Shortly before his execution, Ted reveals details of his crime to Bob Keppel, the Seattle homicide detective who has known Ted for many years.

With no more hope of appeals or escape, Ted Bundy is executed in the electric chair at Raiford Prison in Starke, Florida, on the morning of January 24, 1989.

By the time Ted Bundy is executed in 1989, most of the public outrage has died down and the horror of Ted's crimes is no longer remembered by the general public. It is almost as if Ted never expects to die because he has always managed to rally with some new idea for an appeal. The clinical nature of Ted's life during his incarceration lulls Ted into a false sense of security far removed from the crimes he has committed. Ted's execution at this point in time seems almost as horrific, almost as startling as his crimes appeared in their time. According to the author, the tragedies inflicted by Ted Bundy should include another—Ted Bundy himself and the author sums up her feelings about Ted when she writes, "The Ted who might have been, and the Ted who was, both died on January 24, 1989," *The Last Chapter—1989*, p. 540.

Characters

Theodore Bundy

Ted Bundy is the serial killer convicted of murdering three girls in Florida and suspected of abducting and murdering at least 30 more primarily in the Pacific Northwest area, Utah and Colorado in the 1970's. Ted is an intelligent, charming man who does well in his college studies and is bound for law school and a probable career in politics, probably on the state level in Washington. Ted is the illegitimate son of Louise Cowell and is born in a home for unwed mothers in 1946. Ted's early life is marked by the deception that Louise is Ted's sister and that his real grandparents, Louise's parents, are Ted's parents. As a young boy, Ted moves with Louise to Washington where Louise marries Johnnie Bundy who adopts Ted. Ted is a good half-brother to his siblings and excels in school, ultimately going to college to study psychology and delving into local politics. Law school in Utah is more challenging for Ted, a frustration that is unusual for the intelligent young man. Beneath the composed, charming exterior lies the raging personality of a sociopath and Ted commits heinous crimes against young women including abductions and murders. Ted is ultimately convicted of murder and sentenced to death in Florida. Ultimately, Ted is responsible for at least 30, and probably more, murders and attempted murders over the course of his lifetime.

Ann Rule

Ann Rule is a true crime novelist whose friendship with Ted Bundy is the basis of this book. In 1971 when Ann meets Ted Bundy as co-workers at a Seattle Crisis Clinic, she is a thirty-five-year old, soon-to-be-divorced mother of four children. Ann has police training and works for the Seattle police department as a writer who documents the details of homicide cases for the department. Ann feels the need to add a dimension to her life other than work and children and her volunteer work at the clinic brings her in contact with Ted Bundy. Ann befriends Ted whom she finds intelligent, charming and sensitive but there is no romantic interest there as Ann is eleven years Ted's senior and the two have little else in common. Ann's work for the police department demands that she document the growing number of murders and attempted murders in the Pacific Northwest area in the early 1970's. Before long, Ann slowly realizes that the man probably responsible for the heinous crimes is Ted Bundy, a fact which plagues Ann but one which she cannot ignore. Ann realizes that the man she has been writing about is also the man who is her friend. Caught between duty and loyalty to a friend, Ann reveals what she knows to the authorities. Ultimately, Ted is apprehended and Ann informs Ted of the book she is writing and earns Ted's support. Throughout their seventeen-year association, Ann is conflicted by the memory of the friend she knew and her responsibility to the law and to Ted's victims to ferret out the truth and report it responsibly. To her credit, Ann remains in contact almost to the end of Ted's life, offering the support of a friend with the sadness that comes from tragedy both external and within.



Eleanor Louise Cowell Bundy

Eleanor Louise Cowell Bundy is Ted Bundy's mother. As a young unmarried woman, Eleanor becomes pregnant with Ted and delivers her baby in a home for unwed mothers in Vermont. Eleanor bends to societal pressures of the 1940's time period and the strict morals of her family and agrees to pretend to be Ted's sister while her own parents pose as Ted's parents. Eleanor does not figure prominently into the narrative of the book but her early deception in raising Ted strongly affects his psyche and his resulting relationships with women.

Johnnie Culpepper Bundy

Johnnie Culpepper Bundy is the man whom Eleanor Cowell marries in Washington. Johnnie and Eleanor have four children of their own and Johnnie becomes Ted's stepfather. Johnnie's role in Ted's life after Ted's youth is unknown but it can be assumed that Johnnie provided a stable life for Eleanor and Ted at the beginning which would extend into Ted's childhood.

Stephanie Brooks

Stephanie Brooks is a key figure in the story about Ted Bundy, not only for her actual relationship with him but also for the impact that her rejection of him has on Ted , perhaps provoking his heinous crimes. Ted meets Stephanie in 1966 when they are students together at the University of Washington in Seattle. Ted is quickly attracted to Stephanie but feels that Stephanie will never consider Ted because of her beauty and wealth and the fact that Ted is a year younger than she. Ted is able to charm Stephanie, though, and the two enter into a romantic relationship that seems as if it will last a long time. Although Ted and Stephanie come from vastly different socio-economic groups, they form an unlikely attachment that will last off and on for six years and Stephanie becomes the first real love of Ted's life Ted. Upon graduation from college, Stephanie's thoughts turn to finding a man with more marriage potential and she returns home to California thinking that the distance between Ted and her will cool Ted's intensity. Ted is devastated by Stephanie's rejection which haunts him until he is able to convince Stephanie to enter into a relationship again a few years later. Stephanie senses a new maturity in Ted and agrees to marry him, only to be unexpectedly and cruelly rejected. Unable to come to terms with Stephanie's earlier rejection, Ted manipulates her affections and in turn, inflicts the same crushing rejection on Stephanie. This pattern of hatred will be enacted many times as Ted moves through life, murdering and committing crimes against young women whose physical characteristics resemble those of Stephanie Brooks.

Freda and Ernst Rogers

Freda and Ernst Rogers rent a room to Ted Bundy in their Seattle home for five years during which time the Rogers' grow to like Ted so much that they consider him to be almost like their own son.

Meg Anders

Meg Anders meets Ted Bundy at a bar in Seattle in September 1969 and the two fall in love. Meg is much more enamored with Ted than Ted is with Meg but Ted does not want to hurt Meg by breaking up with her. Meg helps Ted financially and emotionally through some rough periods in his life. Meg eventually becomes much fonder of Ted and the two eventually fall in love and Ted moves into Meg's home. Meg's fragile self confidence is constantly shattered by Ted's cunning ways and manipulative emotional holds but Meg feels bound to Ted's vulnerability and her need to support him in all ways. Eventually, Meg's own suspicions of Ted, supported by a friend of Meg's, compels Meg to tell the authorities about Ted's activities and questionable behavior during the time of the murders and abductions in Washington. The strength of Meg's information ultimately convinces authorities that Ted is a prime suspect in the crimes. In a similar situation to Ann Rule, Meg is conflicted by her love for Ted and her need to do the right thing by reporting Ted to the authorities. Ironically, Meg is able to keep this secret from Ted in the same way that Ted is able to keep his alternate life secret from Meg. Meg's feelings for Ted waver but never end completely and she supports Ted throughout his incarcerations with prison visits, gifts and letters. When it becomes clear that Ted will never be a free man, Meg extricates herself from Ted's control and disappears from his life. It is the relationship with Meg that Ted will miss during his later years in prison.

Liane Anders

Liane Anders is the young daughter of Meg Anders, the woman in love with Ted Bundy from the years 1969-1975. Liane is three years old when her mother meets Ted Bundy in 1969.

Captain Herb Swindler

Captain Herb Swindler assumes the duties of commanding the Crimes Against Persons Unit of the Seattle Police Department in the Spring of 1974.

Robert Keppel

Robert "Bob" Keppel is the King County, Washington, homicide detective who investigates all the Ted Bundy murders and abductions in Washington. Bob maintains

contact with Ted throughout Ted's imprisonment and Ted invites Bob to hear some of Ted's confessions the day before Ted is executed.

John Henry Browne

John Henry Browne is an attorney associated with the Seattle Public Defender's Office who becomes a longtime supporter and friend to Ted Bundy.

Judge Edward D. Cowart

Judge Cowart is the newly appointed Florida Circuit Court judge who presides over Ted's Chi Omega murder trial and sentences Ted to death in the electric chair.

Judge Wallace Jopling

Judge Jopling is the judge who presides over Ted's Kimberly Leach murder trial in Orlando, Florida.

Objects/Places

Tallahassee, Florida

Ted Bundy arrives in Tallahassee, Florida, after his escape from prison in Colorado in January of 1978 and murders Florida State University coeds and a young girl.

4143 12th N.E. Street, Seattle

4143 12th N.E. Street, Seattle, Washington, is the home address of Ernst and Freda Rogers with whom Ted lodges for five years from 1969 -1974.

Seattle Crisis Clinic

Ann Rule meets Ted Bundy at the Seattle Crisis Clinic where the two work the night shift together in 1971 and part of 1972.

University of Puget Sound

Ted enrolls in law school at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma in the fall of 1973.

Olympia, Washington

Olympia is the state capital of Washington and several of the book's events center in this city, beginning with the murder investigation of Katherine Merry Devine.

4325 8th N.E. Street, Seattle

This is the address where University of Washington student, Joni Lenz, lived and was found brutally attacked in her bed on January 4, 1974.

5517 12th N.E. Street, Seattle

This is the address where University of Washington student, Linda Ann Healy, lived with roommates. Linda's room showed evidence of a brutal attack before her abduction and murder.



Evergreen State College

Evergreen State College is located in Olympia, Washington, and is the school attended by abducted student, Donna Gail Manson on March 12, 1974.

Central Washington State College

Central Washington State College is located in Ellensburg, Washington, and is the school attended by abducted student, Susan Elaine Rancourt on April 17, 1974.

Volkswagen Bug

A Volkswagen Bug is seen around the campuses during the abductions in 1974. Ted Bundy drives a Volkswagen Bug during this same time period and will use this car to transport himself outside Washington into Utah and Colorado where other abductions and murders occur. Ted also steals an orange VW bug in Tallahassee for his escape out of that city.

Corvallis, Oregon

Oregon State University student, Kathleen Parks, disappears in Corvallis, Oregon on May 6, 1974.

The Flame Tavern

The Flame is a bar located in Burien, Washington, and is the location where witnesses recall seeing victim Brenda Ball conversing with a handsome young man whose arm is in a cast. It is the last place Brenda Ball is seen alive.

Lake Sammamish State Park

Lake Sammamish State Park is located near Bellevue, Washington, and is the place from which Janice Ott and Denise Naslund disappear on July 14, 1974.

Midvale, Utah

Midvale, Utah, is home to Melissa Smith and the town from which she disappears on October 18, 1974.



Fashion Place Shopping Mall, Murray, Utah

The Fashion Place Shopping Mall in Murray, Utah, is the location where Ted Bundy lures Carol DaRonch into his car by posing as a detective investigating a car burglary.

The Wildwood Inn

The Wildwood Inn is the plush hotel in Aspen, Colorado, from which Caryn Campbell disappears while on vacation with her fiancé and his children in January, 1975.

Taylor Mountain

Taylor Mountain in Washington state is the location where the skulls of Brenda Ball, Susan Rancourt and Roberta Parks are located in March of 1975.

Utah State Prison

Utah State Prison is the site of Ted's psychiatric examination after his kidnapping conviction in the Carol DaRonch case.

Pitkin County Jail

The Pitkin County Jail is located in Aspen, Colorado, where Ted is housed temporarily while awaiting trial for the murder of Caryn Campbell.

Garfield County Jail

The Garfield County Jail is located in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Ted is escorted from The Garfield County Jail to the law library in Aspen from which he escapes on June 7, 1976.

The Oak Apartments

The Oak Apartments is where Ted rents a room upon his arrival in Tallahassee, Florida, in January, 1978.

661 W. Jefferson St., Tallahassee, Florida

661 W. Jefferson St. in Tallahassee, Florida, is the address of the Chi Omega sorority house where Ted murders two girls and brutally attacks two others in January, 1978.



Sherrod's

Sherrod's is the dance club located next to the Chi Omega sorority house in Tallahassee, Florida.

431 Dunwoody St., Tallahassee, Florida

431 Dunwoody St. is the location of the duplex where Cheryl Thomas is brutally attacked.

Stolen License Plate (13-D-11300)

License plate 13-D-11300 is stolen from a camper near the residence of Cheryl Thomas and is later discovered on a stolen Volkswagen bug driven by Ted Bundy.

Raiford Prison

Raiford Prison is located in Starke, Florida, and is the location where Ted Bundy sits on Death Row and is ultimately executed in January of 1989.

Themes

Deception

The element of deception is a core component of Ted Bundy's life and one that will ultimately destroy him. Ted's life begins with deception in the 1940's when his illegitimate birth forces his mother and her family into a lie about Ted's true identity. Ted is informed that his real mother is his sister and that his grandparents are his parents.

In order to avoid embarrassment for Ted and her family, Eleanor moves to Washington and legally changes Ted's name from Theodore Robert Cowell to Theodore Robert Nelson. When Louise marries in 1951, Ted assumes the surname of his stepfather and becomes Theodore Robert Bundy. Although it is outside circumstances that force the ever-changing face of Ted's identity, it leaves the young Ted with an unstable sense of self and a distrust of women. Having learned at an early age that deception is not only acceptable, but also socially approved, Ted begins to use charm and deception in his relationships, especially those with women. Ted deceives his victims by posing with false injuries requiring assistance in order to draw them in closer. Ted also uses deception in his most personal relationships when he secretly carries on a strong romance with Stephanie, unbeknownst to Meg with whom Ted lives. Ted manages to deceive Ann into maintaining their long term relationship under the guise of friendship when their continuing alliance is for his own benefit.

Lost Potential

There are many tragedies inherent in the story of Ted Bundy's life resulting in unnecessary loss of life and potential. Ted's murder and attack victims are all young women in the prime of their lives; intelligent, beautiful and socially responsible. Quite probably these young women would have continued on their paths of becoming teachers, businesswomen, medical professionals and other responsible positions benefiting others whose lives they would have positively touched. Not only does Ted cut short so many lives, but he dramatically impacts the lives of the women's families and friends whose grief must be life-altering. The ripple effect of Ted's crimes is far reaching and never fully measured. There is also the tragedy of Ted Bundy himself to consider. A bright, charming student whose life takes a tragic turn is a textbook case of lost potential. Ted's plans to help people by becoming a lawyer and politician are dramatically upended when his sociopathic tendencies take over his life and ruin forever any goals Ted held as being successful and socially accepted. Even the judge who sentences Ted to death acknowledges Ted's prowess in the courtroom and the pity that Ted had chosen a life of crime. There are two sides of the issue of lost potential: criminal or victim, and the unnecessary loss of the young victims and Ted's hope both lie in his wake of destruction.

Flawed Relationships

Just as all children learn love and respect at an early age, Ted learns that love, however misplaced or misguided, is a very powerful force. Unfortunately Ted's concept of love is flawed by his mother's early deceptions and Ted manipulates all his relationships to get what he wants. It is interesting to note that Ted is able to deceive and manipulate women, while associations with men take a different tone. Ted's inferiority exhibits in arrogant behavior with men whose opinion he values and in whose eyes he strives to be deemed successful, almost as if each man Ted meets represents the father Ted never knew. When Ted researches his birth records, he is pleased to find that his father had been older and intelligent, a fact which slightly assuages the lack of a relationship with the man. Ted respects the educators and politicians with whom he associates but has particular disdain for policemen, not only for their authority over him but for their usual lack of higher education and refinement. In all relationships, Ted strives to appear competent and in control, an outer shell to hide the seething rage just beneath the surface. It is interesting to note that Ted is able to control his rage and murderous tendencies when a relationship has some perceived value to him but that he can inflict heinous injury when the other person is more vulnerable and can offer nothing of value. Ultimately Ted seeks the authentic love he never received from his mother and from his first real life, a drive which will ruin his and so many other lives.

Style

Perspective

The point of view of the book is first person narrative because the author tells the story as one of the main characters. The book is nonfiction which means the author tells the story as if she is documenting the real life events without embellishment for literary effect. While the author has access to many facts and outcomes, her perception and feelings are limited to her own, as opposed to a work of fiction where the author can create the feelings and thoughts of her characters to fully form their personalities. Where possible, the author shares the thoughts and feelings of those she encounters or interviews, such as Ted Bundy or Meg Anders, so that the reader has a more authentic view of what those people experience in the course of the story. The author also tries to interject some of the emotions and thoughts of the young women who become Ted Bundy's victims. For example, the author shares that one young woman was separated from her husband away on business and how she must have been thinking about him when she sensed she was in danger. Another young woman was worried about her father's failing health at the time of her abduction and murder. By sharing what she has learned about the victims and projecting some possible last thoughts and feelings, the author attempts to provide some dimension to the young women. This technique adds authenticity to the story and also evokes more sympathy from the reader as the women become real people and not just statistics.

The novel has many locations in the United States from the time period of 1946 to 1989. Eleanor Louise Cowell lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and travels to Burlington, Vermont to deliver her baby at a home for unwed mothers. Eleanor moves with Ted to the state of Washington where half the story is based. Ted's youth is spent in the Seattle-Tacoma area and he attends college at the University of Washington. The Crisis Clinic where Ann meets Ted is located in Seattle where Ted lives until his decision to attend law school in Utah. Several of the abductions and murders occur in Utah and nearby Colorado where Ted commits more crimes and escapes twice from prison. It is ironic that Ted will leave the wide open spaces of these Western states as well as his favorite spots on the waterfront of Washington for the state of Florida and the constricted confines of a series of prison cells so close to the water of an ocean (which he loves). Ted's wanderings take him eventually to Tallahassee, Florida, where he will kill again. Ted's attempt to leave Tallahassee forever will find him in Pensacola, Florida, where he is ultimately apprehended for stealing a car and license plate. Ted will never leave the state of Florida as he is tried for murder in Miami and Orlando and is executed at Raiford Prison in Starke.

Tone

The language of the book is informal and engaging, almost as if the author is having a private conversation with the reader. As the book is based on the story of a friendship,

the tone is one of a personal nature which allows the author to share her own feelings which might seem out of context in a nonfiction book documenting a real event or topic. Throughout the book, the author uses quotes from Ted Bundy and others to interject some drama into the piece without sacrificing authenticity. The author also inserts passages of notes and letters written by Ted Bundy and sent to her in order to support some plot action or to substantiate a claim she makes about Ted's state of mind or the state of the author's relationship with Ted at a particular point in time. Although there is not enough dialogue or colloquialisms in the book to identify many of the characters in the book without knowing their geography, Judge Cowart from Florida exhibits strong typically Southern dialogue which firmly fixes him to this locale. The author has the advantage of having police department experience. This allows her to write with authenticity and a realistic tone as she documents the crimes and the resulting investigations and trials. Combining the feelings of a friend with the clear cut documentation of a professional, the author masterfully constructs a story that provides adequate detail and the appropriate level of emotion to balance what must have been a difficult story to live through and relate.

Structure

The book was originally completed with 49 chapters ending with the death sentence of Ted Bundy. Six years later when Ted was still alive on Death Row in Florida, the author added an Afterword in which she updated Ted's appeal process and new events in her literary career as they related to this book. The author is also able to provide updates on the families of Ted Bundy's victims and the police authorities involved in Ted's crime sprees. Three years after this, the author supplements the book with another follow-up covering Ted's appeals and resulting execution. By adding the updated material, the author is able to provide the most complete story possible to the reader. This is important in a real-life story such as the especially high-profile story of Ted Bundy which generated so much public interest during and after his life. Throughout the book, the author is able to move back and forth from different locations and characters to show the evolution of the story and events occurring at the same time. For example, the author shares information about her growing literary career and her children while also providing content about Ted's activities at the same time. This is an effective technique that results in a complex plot of two evolving personalities in entirely different locations. The author is also able to bridge this gap between herself and Ted by providing pieces of letters and fragments of remembered phone calls to help the reader fully understand the connection of the relationship over many years.

Quotes

"Ted Bundy is a man who learns from experience—his own and others'. Over the past four years, his life had changed full circle from the world of a bright young man on his way up, a man who might well have been governor of Washington in the foreseeable future, to the life of a con and a fugitive. And he had, indeed, become con-wise, gleaming whatever bits of information he needed from the men who shared his cell blocks. He was smarter by far than any of them, smarter than most of his jailers, and the drive that had once spurred him on to be a success in the straight world had gradually redirected itself until it focused on only one thing: escape—permanent and lasting freedom, even though he would be, perhaps, the most hunted man in the United States," Chapter 1, p. 5.

"When Ted met Stephanie Brooks in the spring of 1967 at McMahon Hall, he saw a woman who was the epitome of his dreams. Stephanie was like no girl he had ever seen before, and he considered her the most sophisticated, the most beautiful creature possible. He watched her, saw that she seemed to prefer football jocks, and hesitated to approach her. As he would write a dozen years later, 'She and I had about as much in common as Sears and Roebuck does with Saks. I never considered S. with any more romantic interest than I considered some elegant creature on the fashion page,'" Chapter 2, p. 13.

"So his father had been thirty years old when he was born, an educated man. Why had he left them alone? Had he been married? What had become of him? There is no information on whether Ted tried to find the man who had gone out of his life before he was even born. But Ted knew. He knew that what he had always sensed was true: Louise was, of course, his mother. Johnnie Bundy wasn't his father, and his beloved grandfather wasn't his father either. He had no father," Chapter 2, p. 17.

"If as many people believe today, Ted Bundy took lives, he also saved lives. I know he did, because I was there when he did it," Chapter 3, p. 25.

"What was happening in my life in 1971 is unimportant to the story of Ted Bundy, save for the fact that Ted's incisive viewpoint on my problems, his unfailing support and belief in my capabilities as a writer who could earn a living on her own, demonstrate the kind of man I knew. It was the man I would continue to believe in for many years," Chapter 3, p. 27.

"I never saw that anger. I never saw any anger at all. I cannot remember everything that Ted and I talked about, try as I might, but I do know we never argued. Ted's treatment of me was the kind of old-world gallantry that he invariably showed toward any woman I ever saw him with, and I found it appealing. He always insisted on seeing me safely to my car when my shift at the Crisis Clinic was over in the wee hours of the morning. He



stood by until I was safely inside my car, doors locked and engine started, waving to me as I headed for home twenty miles away. He often told me, 'Be careful. I don't want anything to happen to you,'" Chapter 4, p. 32.

"Although Ted still looked forward to law school, he had his sights on the position as director of the Crime Prevention Advisory Commission, was among the final candidates, and felt optimistic about getting the job," Chapter 5, p. 35.

"'I'm doing a study on rape victims,' he explained. 'If you could get me some back copies of the stories you've done on rape cases, it would help my research,'" Chapter 5, p. 37.

"Ted's life was so carefully compartmentalized that he was able to be one person with one woman, and an entirely different man with another. He moved in many circles, and most of his friends and associates knew nothing of the other areas in his life," Chapter 5, p. 42.

"Lynda... Donna... Susan... Kathy... Brenda... Georgeann. All gone as completely as if a seam in the backdrop of life itself had opened, drawn them in and closed without leaving so much as a mended tear in the tapestry," Chapter 8, p. 76.

"A sexual psychopath, according to Dr. Jarvis is not legally insane, and does know the difference between right and wrong. But he is driven to attack women. There is usually no deficiency in intelligence, no brain damage, or frank psychosis," Chapter 10, p. 100.

"At the time, I still felt that I might have caused Ted's arrest; it would be years before I learned that my information had been checked out and cleared early in the game, and then buried in the thousands of slips of paper with names on them. It had not been my doubts, but Meg's, which had pinned him to the wall," Chapter 16, p. 161.

"'And, on the other side of it, the man is my friend. But am I supporting him emotionally, writing to him, because I just want to solve all those murders, because I owe something to my detective friends too? Am I, in essence, trying to trap him? Am I being unfair? Do I have the right to correspond with Ted when I have a niggling feeling that he might be guilty? Am I playing straight with him?'" Chapter 16, p. 163.

"It is interesting to note that through all the trials, through all the years of black headlines that would label Ted a monster, and worse, he would always have at least one woman entranced with him in jail, running errands for him, proclaiming his innocence. The women would change as time passed; apparently, the emotions he provoked in them would not," Chapter 18, p. 180.

"As he made his plea, he was the cocky, witty Ted, the man so removed from the facts that the whole situation was ridiculous. It was a posture that would irritate several judges and juries in his future court wranglings, but it was seemingly an attitude

necessary for the survival of his ego. I have always felt that Ted would, literally, rather die than be humiliated—would face life in prison or the electric chair before humbling himself in any way," Chapter 23, p. 219.

"Then Ted was sentenced on June 30th, despite his tearful pleas that his being in prison would serve no purpose. 'Someday, who knows when, five or ten or more years in the future, when the time comes when I can leave, I suggest you ask yourself where we are, what's been accomplished, was the sacrifice of my life worth it all? Yes, I will be a candidate for rehabilitation. But not for what I have done but for what the system has done to me,'" Chapter 23, p. 220.

"Ted quoted from an interview D.A. Tucker had given about him. 'He (Ted) is the most cocky person I have ever faced. He tells his lawyer what to do. He arrives carrying armloads of books, as if he were an attorney himself. He sends notes to the judge and calls him at night. He refuses to talk to me or any other prosecutor,'" Chapter 26, p. 243.

"I learned much about myself, my weaknesses, my capacity to survive, and the relationship of freedom to pain," Chapter 27, p. 259.

"Lee took the man to his patrol car, read him his rights under Miranda, and headed for the station. The suspect, all the fight gone out of him, seemed strangely depressed. He kept repeating, 'I wish you had killed me.' As they neared the jail, he turned to Lee and asked, 'If I run from you at the jail, then will you kill me?' Lee was puzzled; the man wasn't drunk, and he'd only been arrested for possession of a stolen vehicle. He couldn't understand the black, suicidal mood that had suddenly gripped the prisoner," Chapter 34, p. 323.

"'I don't know of any case I've seen or experienced where an individual who is indigent has received the quality and quantity of counsel you have. There have been five separate counsel here representing you. It's unheard of. Who's minding the store for the public defender I can't tell you. And what's happening to all those other indigents they represent I can't tell you. This court has watched with a great deal of carefulness that, before witnesses are tendered, you are questioned, and this record will show hundreds of 'just a moment please' where they go by and confer with you. I've never seen anything like it in the history of any case I've ever tried. Or in twenty-seven years at the bar have I ever seen anything exactly like what has happened in the defense of this case,'" Chapter 45, p. 400.

"In all human endeavors that deal with what is unthinkable, too terrible to be dealt with squarely, we turn to what is familiar and regimented: funerals, wakes, and even wars. Now, in this trial, we had gone beyond our empathy with the pain of the victims, our niggling realization that the defendant was a fragmented personality. He knew the rules, he even knew a great deal about the law, but he did not seem to be cognizant of what was about to happen to him. He seemed to consider himself irrefragable. And what was about to happen to him was vital for the good of society. I could not refute that. It had to be, but it seemed hollow that none of us understood that his ego, our egos, the rituals of the courtroom itself, the jokes and the nervous laughter were veiling the gut reactions

that we should all be facing. We were all on 'this railroad train running...' I looked at the jury, and I knew. Never mind the odds. My God, they are going to kill Ted..." Chapter 45, p. 404.

"Ted is lost to me. He has been lost since I looked at the pictures of the dead girls and knew what I knew... knew what I had never wanted to believe. There is no need to remain for the penalty phase. Whatever is to come after is already foretold in my mind. They are going to kill him... they are going to kill him... and he knew it all along," Chapter 46, p. 414.

"I say that to you sincerely; take care of yourself. It's a tragedy for this court to see such a total waste of humanity that I've experienced in this courtroom. You're a bright young man. You'd have made a good lawyer, and I'd have loved to have you practice in front of me—but you went another way, partner. Take care of yourself. I don't have any animosity to you. I want you to know that," Chapter 48, p. 424.

"We sat there at my kitchen table, and the newspapers were spread out between us, with all the headlines about the dead girls and I remember how angry Ted was. He kept telling me that he'd like to get his hands on the man that would do something like that—he'd see he never had a chance to do it again..." Afterword, p. 474.

Topics for Discussion

Explain why you think Ted Bundy's victims had so much in common? Did he seek out these young women intentionally or were their similarities just coincidental?

Discuss the concept of trust. Did Ted grow up believing he could trust people? Why did he think his victims would trust him? Why did they?

A serial killer is different from a murderer. Discuss the differences and similarities between the two.

During Ted Bundy's incarceration he communicated with other serial killers such as David Berkowitz, the Son of Sam killer. What do you think was written in the letters to each other?

What is your opinion of capital punishment? Should it be outlawed or continued?

If Ted Bundy had committed his crimes in Washington or Utah, he would not have received the death penalty. How do you feel about life sentences for someone who commits such terrible crimes?

By all outward appearances, Ted Bundy had everything going for him. How did Ted's life take such a horrible turn?

Discuss the sociopathic personality and how Ted Bundy fits the criteria. What role do the family and society play in the development of such a personality?

Do you think the author was ever scared at any time during her friendship with Ted Bundy? Why or why not?