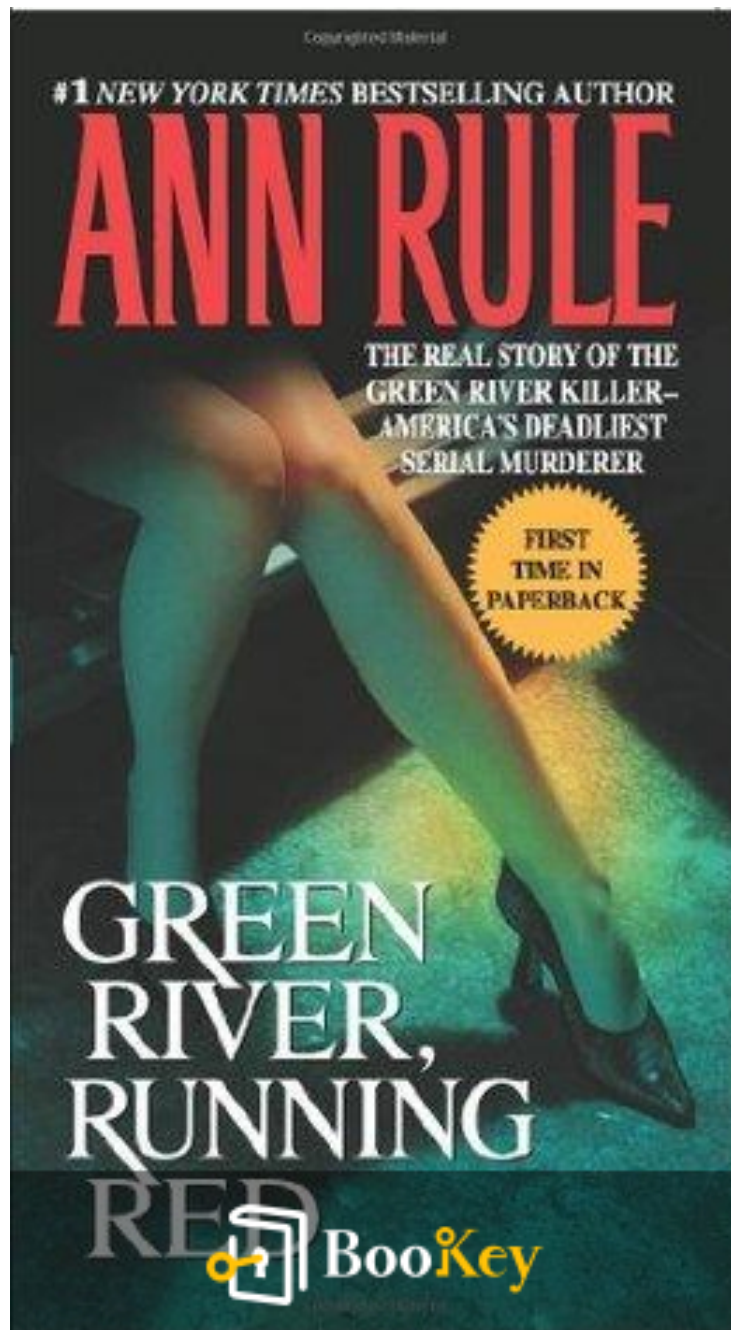


# Green River, Running Red PDF (Limited Copy)

Ann Rule



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# **Green River, Running Red Summary**

The Chilling Journey into the Mind of America's Most Notorious  
Killer

Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

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## About the book

In "Green River, Running Red," Ann Rule immerses readers in the harrowing story of the Green River Killer, a figure who loomed large over Seattle during the 1980s and early 1990s. The book begins by setting the scene with the disturbing rise in disappearances of young women in the Seattle area, many of whom were involved in prostitution or vulnerable due to systemic socio-economic issues.

Rule provides a detailed account of the devastating impact these crimes had on the victims' families and the community, illuminating the fear and confusion that permeated Seattle as more bodies were discovered in the Green River. The chronological narrative follows the extensive police investigations, highlighting the challenges faced by law enforcement, including the lack of immediate leads and the difficulty of coordinating efforts among various agencies.

As Rule delves deeper into the profile of the killer, Gary Ridgway, she presents a chilling portrait of a man who blended seamlessly into ordinary society—one who even participated in her book signings. The author shares personal anecdotes, emphasizing the unnerving reality that the murderer lived close to her home, a coincidence that resonates with the book's exploration of community and safety.

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Through meticulous research and a gripping personal narrative style, Rule sheds light on the psychological and societal factors that allowed Ridgway to evade capture for so long, detailing the turning points that eventually led to his arrest in 2001. By interweaving the stories of the victims and the relentless pursuit of justice, Rule offers both an intimate and comprehensive look at one of America's most notorious serial killers, ultimately inviting reflection on the ongoing consequences of violence against women and the importance of vigilance in social justice.

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## About the author

Certainly! Below is a smooth, logical, and readable summary of Ann Rule's background and significance in the true crime genre, emphasizing her contributions and experiences.

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Ann Rule, a prominent figure in American true crime literature, is widely recognized for her gripping storytelling and profound insight into criminal psychology. Growing up in a family intertwined with law enforcement, Rule cultivated a keen understanding of the criminal mind, which later became instrumental in her writing.

Her early career as a policewoman in Seattle provided her with firsthand experience in the field, informing her perspectives on crime and justice. It was during this time that she encountered Ted Bundy, a notorious serial killer, while volunteering at a suicide hotline. This unique connection granted her a distinctive vantage point when she later penned "The Stranger Beside Me." In this groundbreaking work, Rule detailed the chilling trajectory of Bundy's crimes, showcasing not only the horrors of his actions but also the complexities of his character, as she had once considered him a friend.

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Rule's contributions to the genre did not go unnoticed; she received two Anthony Awards and multiple nominations for the prestigious Edgar Award, establishing her as a trailblazer in true crime writing. In addition to her own work, she also published under the pseudonym Andy Stack and is the mother of fellow author Leslie Rule, continuing the family's literary legacy. Ann Rule's writing has left an indelible mark on the genre, blending intimate knowledge of law enforcement with a narrative style that captivates readers while shedding light on the dark facets of humanity.

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## Chapter 1 Summary:

### Summary of Chapter 1 of "Green River, Running Red" by Ann Rule

The chapter opens with a historical overview of the Pacific Highway, a crucial artery that has shaped the communities of Tukwila, Kent, Auburn, Des Moines, and Federal Way for many years. Once a vibrant two-lane road known for its nightlife, featuring iconic venues like the Spanish Castle and Rose's restaurant, the region gradually declined. As these establishments vanished, the highway transformed into a notorious strip marked by seedy motels and adult entertainment, which drew an atmosphere of crime and vice.

This transformation coincided with significant socio-economic changes. While the proximity of SeaTac Airport boosted local businesses and increased traffic, it also exacerbated vulnerabilities, particularly as a shadowy figure—a serial killer—began to haunt the area, targeting young women who traversed this dangerous stretch.

The narrative shifts to the grim discovery of Wendy Coffield's body, initially dismissed by the public amidst other local crises, including a cyanide poisoning scare. However, as more bodies emerged near the Green River, a pattern indicating a serial murderer became undeniable.

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Central to the investigation is Detective Dave Reichert, whose personal commitment to solving these crimes is underscored by the emotional weight of his role. Reichert, marked by the anguish of having lost a close colleague to violence, epitomizes the determination to bring justice to the victims.

As the chapter progresses, it paints poignant vignettes of the victims, including Wendy Coffield and Debra Bonner. By delving into their lives, the narrative seeks to illuminate their struggles and the societal challenges surrounding sex work. The author approaches their stories with empathy, underlining their humanity amidst the tragedy of their fates in a world rife with exploitation and danger.

In conclusion, Chapter 1 lays the groundwork for a harrowing exploration of a community in turmoil, grappling with the realities of crime and fear as a serial killer emerges. It tackles complex societal issues and the precarious existence of vulnerable women, framing their tragedies within a broader narrative of loss and neglect that transformed a once-thriving community into a backdrop for violence and sorrow.

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## Chapter 2 Summary:

### Summary of Chapter 2: Green River, Running Red

#### Investigating Disappearances

The Green River Task Force faced grave challenges in unraveling the cases of numerous missing women, particularly those involved in prostitution. Many of these victims were transients, making it difficult for friends and families to recognize their absence or report it in a timely manner. Initially, investigators worried that the women discovered in the Green River might represent the entirety of the tragedy. However, as investigations progressed, it became clear that the list of missing women from August 1982 to November 1983 was far more extensive, with many victims having severed their ties with family.

#### Giselle Lovvorn's Story

Seventeen-year-old Giselle Lovvorn, who had moved from California to Seattle entangled in a relationship with an older boyfriend, found herself engulfed in a life of instability and prostitution. Despite her intelligence and love for literature, Giselle's aspirations faded as she ultimately chose to remain in Seattle despite plans to return home. Her last sighting was on July

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17, 1982, and her subsequent disappearance sparked concern among authorities and family. Tragically, her body was later identified, marked by a tattoo, confirming the task force's fears regarding a burgeoning list of victims.

## **Mary Bridget Meehan's Background and Disappearance**

Mary Bridget Meehan, an eighteen-year-old pregnant girl from a supportive family, also disappeared in September 1982. Her teenage rebellion led her to estrangement from her family and unhealthy romantic entanglements. After giving a child up for adoption, Bridget seemed to fall back into destructive patterns. She was last seen on September 15, 1982, and her disappearance added to the web of interconnected cases, intensifying fears about her well-being.

## **The Task Force Investigation**

Led by Lieutenant Greg Boyle, the task force began correlating the backgrounds of the victims through interviews with various witnesses. The investigation highlighted Melvyn Foster, an unemployed cab driver with a troubled history, as a key suspect. Foster's unusual interest in the ongoing investigation raised eyebrows among detectives, who recognized that such behavior often characterizes those involved in their own crimes.

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## **Additional Victims and Leads**

As the inquiry progressed, more young women went missing, arousing anxiety within the community. The case of Geri Slough surfaced, adding complexity to the investigation; although not involved in prostitution, her murder bore striking resemblances to those of the Green River victims. Detectives diligently pursued new leads and potential suspects as they confronted the ominous possibility that a serial killer was active in their midst.

## **Public Reaction and Police Challenges**

Reactions from the public varied widely, oscillating between empathy for the victims and harsh judgments regarding their lifestyles. Detective Dave Reichert, alongside the task force, exhibited unwavering commitment to uncovering the truth behind the Green River murders, fueled by a critical question: were they on the trail of a faceless killer or someone disturbingly close to the victims' lives?

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## Chapter 3 Summary:

### Chapter 3 Summary: The Green River Killer Investigation

#### Serial Killer Profiling

In the early 1980s, the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit (B.S.U.), led by special agents like John Douglas, began formalizing the analysis of serial killers. They recognized patterns in behavior that could help identify suspects among the growing list of potential offenders. Notably, Pierce Brooks supported Douglas's theories, which became crucial in the investigation of the Green River Killer—a shadowy figure who had begun to terrorize the Seattle area by targeting vulnerable women.

#### Profile of the Green River Killer

Using the cases of six victims, all women connected to street life or prostitution, Douglas crafted a psychological profile of the suspected killer. He posited that the perpetrator would likely appear trustworthy, possibly resembling a police officer, enabling him to lure victims into a false sense of security. His profile suggested that the killer would be a Caucasian male in

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his late twenties to early thirties, with traits indicative of a difficult upbringing and troubled relationships with women. This chilling characterization painted a portrait of a man devoid of remorse, seeing his heinous acts as a misguided service to society.

## **Victim Disappearance**

The narrative shifted to the disturbing cases of young women who went missing in King County from 1982 to 1983. Each victim's backstory revealed a tumultuous life filled with challenges, often involving drugs, prostitution, or running away from dysfunctional family environments. These harrowing accounts highlighted the myriad factors that put them at risk and generated a palpable fear among their loved ones, who were increasingly aware of the threat posed by the Green River Killer.

## **Ongoing Investigation Challenges**

As authorities endeavored to locate more missing women, they encountered significant obstacles. Inconsistent witness testimonies and unreliable tips muddled the investigation, intensifying the sense of urgency as the number of disappearances climbed. The psychopathic tendencies of the killer added to the anxiety within law enforcement and the community, but progress in

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identifying him remained frustratingly slow.

## **General Observations on Victim Impact**

The chapter underscored a societal apathy towards the victims, primarily sex workers, which hampered the investigation's urgency. Local law enforcement agencies struggled to keep pace with the alarming rise in cases of missing and murdered women. This highlighted the dual tragedies wreaked by the killer and the societal neglect that facilitated these vulnerable women's predicaments. The interplay of psychological and societal dynamics painted a complex portrait of the investigation, revealing a tragic tapestry woven with neglect, misunderstanding, and horror in the realm of the Green River Killer.

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## Chapter 4:

### Summary of Chapter 4: Green River, Running Red

In Chapter 4, entitled "Green River, Running Red," the narrative delves into the chilling presence of the Green River Killer, a serial murderer whose violence escalates as he actively targets vulnerable women. This chapter reveals how such individuals often develop an addictive compulsion toward killing, driven by a distorted need for normalcy amidst chaos.

As the summer of 1983 approached, the frequency of abductions surged alarmingly. Several key cases of missing women are highlighted:

- **Martina Theresa Authorlee** vanished after a visit for Mother's Day. Known for her past arrest related to prostitution, her disappearance raises concerns about at-risk populations.
- **Cheryl Lee Wims** disappeared shortly before her birthday. A shy individual with potential drug issues, she did not engage in sex work, highlighting the indiscriminate nature of the killer.
- **Yvonne Antosh**, last seen in a well-known street area, became another statistic as witnesses reported her presence before her mysterious vanishing.

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- **Constance Elizabeth Naon**, who worked at a sausage factory, disappeared en route to meet her boyfriend, underscoring the randomness of the abductions.

- **Carrie Ann Rois**, a troubled teenager from a chaotic family background, was last seen in July 1983 after associating with a questionable crowd.

The chapter portrays the lives of these victims, often characterized by instability, addiction, and a series of tumultuous relationships that made them particularly vulnerable. It highlights how their struggles with self-destructive behaviors rendered them prime targets for the killer.

Two specific victims are elaborated on further. **Rose Johnson** endured a troubled home life that pushed her into prostitution. Despite her striking beauty, she ultimately became another disappearance statistic, while **Keli Kay McGinness**, a young mother with a difficult background, split her time between Portland and Seattle before vanishing, leaving her fate uncertain.

Law enforcement faces significant challenges in tracking the mounting number of missing persons. Many disappearances go unreported, fostering anxiety in both the community and police. As the narrative progresses, the

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emergence of bodies becomes a stark reminder of the killer's audacity, with some victims found in disturbingly staged positions, reflecting a psychological game playing out between the killer and authorities.

The impact of these events weighs heavily on the community of Des Moines, once considered a safe haven. Residents grapple with a growing sense of dread, realizing that a serial killer lurks among them. The chapter closes with a somber acknowledgment of the tragic reality facing the families of the missing women and the mounting pressure on law enforcement, who are increasingly overwhelmed by the specter of a serial predator in their midst.

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## Chapter 5 Summary:

### Summary of Chapter 5: He Didn't Stop Killing

### The Continuation of Violence

The chapter opens with the grim realization that the Green River Killer's reign of terror is far from over, with authorities uncovering yet more victims. Just a week after Shawnda Summers' body is discovered, the killer resumes his brutal campaign of abduction, signaling an alarming pattern in Seattle's landscape of violence.

### April Dawn Buttram's Story

In the midst of the chaos, the chapter introduces April Dawn Buttram, a typical teenager who, after relocating from Spokane to Seattle, finds herself entangled in a web of new temptations. In August 1983, her reckless decisions lead to her disappearance, a tragedy marked by her family's growing fears as they report her missing months later, wrestling with the possibility of her fate at the hands of the killer.

### Debora May Abernathy

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Debora May Abernathy, a 26-year-old mother, also drew a deep emotional connection with those around her as she sought a fresh start in Seattle. However, after arriving on September 5, 1983, she disappears, leaving her concerned boyfriend and young son in a state of worry, amplifying the tension surrounding the ongoing abductions.

### **Tracy Ann Winston's Disappearance**

The chapter continues with Tracy Ann Winston, a young woman facing her own difficulties. Just shy of her 20th birthday and grappling with family issues, Tracy disappears in September 1983 following a brief encounter with the law. As her family awaits news, their growing anxiety is highlighted, marking the transition into a deeper examination of the psychological impact of these disappearances.

### **The Pattern of Disappearances**

Detectives begin to unravel a disturbing pattern whispered among the community: many victims vanish on weeknights. However, the investigation into Tracy's case throws off this emerging narrative, complicating the search and leaving her family's fears amplified in an atmosphere thick with uncertainty.

### **Mertie Winston's Heartache**

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Mertie Winston, Tracy's mother, embodies the emotional toll of the ongoing crisis. Her hope for her daughter's safe return is cruelly shattered upon receiving a call from a detective linking Tracy's disappearance to the ominous presence of the Green River Killer, deepening Mertie's despair as each day passes without answers.

### **Maureen Feeney's Move to Seattle**

The chapter introduces Maureen Feeney, a naive girl eager for independence who gets involved with an older man, Eddie J. Her story reflects the vulnerability of young women in the city; shortly after leaving her apartment one evening, she too goes missing, plunging her family into a desperate search for answers.

### **Grisly Discoveries**

As the pattern of abductions unfolds, investigators uncover skeletal remains of several victims, grim evidence of the killer's merciless efficiency. The emergence of remains belonging to Yvonne Shelley Antosh, Connie Naon, and Kelly Ware further underscores the chilling reality of an ongoing nightmare, painting a bleak picture of loss.

### **Conclusion**

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Chapter 5 powerfully encapsulates the tragic narratives of young women ensnared in danger, the heart-wrenching dynamics of family relationships, and the continued horror of a serial killer haunting the streets of Seattle. Amidst the anguish and turmoil, law enforcement struggles to connect the dots, facing an urgent quest to unravel the horrific mystery of the Green River murders.

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## Chapter 6 Summary:

### Summary of Chapter 6 of "Green River, Running Red" by Ann Rule

In Chapter 6, the investigation into the mysterious disappearances of young women intensifies amid an alarming rise in reported cases. Alongside the ongoing inquiries into Kelly, Connie, and Yvonne, another notable disappearance is that of 25-year-old Mary Sue Bello, who went missing on October 11. Mary, who appeared streetwise and resilient, grappled with a turbulent past marked by poor choices and chaos, often dismissing her mother's warnings to steer clear of a risky lifestyle.

Mary's background is shaped by her mother, Suzanne Draper Villamin, whose own childhood was fraught with instability. Suzanne, believing she was adopted, faced further complexities regarding her origin when she was placed in a children's home and later adopted. This difficult journey influenced Mary, who became a teenage mother and later became estranged from her family.

Mary's life choices led her into a cycle of rebellion, exacerbated by her experiences growing up. Despite exhibiting intelligence, she succumbed to drugs and prostitution, attempting to support her habits while navigating the dangers of her world. In her adulthood, her relationship with Suzanne

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improved, yet Mary remained mired in her perilous lifestyle, feeling a false sense of security amidst the looming threat of the Green River Killer.

As October 1983 progressed, the Green River Task Force found itself grappling with the unsettling trend of missing women. Many of the victims shared similar struggles, like Missy Plager, who also faced a challenging upbringing. The pattern revealed that the killer specifically targeted vulnerable individuals, adding a disturbing layer to the investigation.

With an increasing number of bodies being discovered, the investigators encountered the grim reality of the killer's cruelty. The shocking revelations included young women reduced to mere remains, carelessly discarded or buried, revealing a chilling detachment characteristic of serial killers and underscoring the horrific nature of these crimes.

The chapter closes with a sobering reflection on the senseless violence inflicted on these young women. It emphasizes the societal neglect of their hardships and the urgent need for justice in the face of the horrifying events surrounding the Green River murders.

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# Chapter 7 Summary:

## Chapter 7 Summary

### **School Life and Early Relationships**

In this chapter, we follow a young man who faces challenges in both academic and social settings. Struggling with school while battling personal insecurities, he finds refuge in outdoor activities like hiking and fishing, which provide him a sense of peace and adventure. His romantic life is marked by a series of awkward encounters that evolve into relationships, leading to sexual experiences fraught with difficulties, such as premature ejaculation, which highlight his ongoing struggles with intimacy and confidence.

### **Military Marriage and Infidelity**

At the age of twenty, after completing high school, the young man enlists in the Navy and marries his long-time girlfriend, Heather, during his basic training. Initially, their married life is mundane; however, both spouses succumb to temptation, engaging in infidelity as they navigate the loneliness often experienced during military life. Accusations of cheating become common, causing strain in their relationship, ultimately resulting in a painful

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divorce that leaves lasting scars.

## **Investigative Developments**

The narrative then shifts to Detective Jerry Alexander, who is tasked with unraveling the murder of Bridget Meehan. As he delves into the investigation, Alexander identifies a potential suspect but soon finds that the individual has a solid alibi, complicating his efforts. Amidst this, a public outcry arises, criticizing law enforcement for seemingly overlooking victims like Bridget, who was a sex worker. This reflects broader societal issues regarding the perception of marginalized individuals and their lives.

## **Task Force Dynamics and Challenges**

In response to the increasing urgency of the case, Sheriff Vern Thomas adopts a new strategy, seeking more funding and manpower for the investigation. This leads to the formation of the Green River Task Force, which, despite facing initial setbacks, begins to streamline operations through improved organization. With an influx of information and tips, they strive to make sense of the chaos surrounding the investigation.

## **Continued Investigation and New Developments**

As the year draws to a close in 1983, the task force's efforts escalate

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dramatically with the discovery of more victim remains, including Kimi-Kai Pitsor's skull. This grim revelation sparks fears of a potential serial killer with numerous victims, intensifying public concern. The narrative highlights the logistical hurdles the task force faces, along with the limitations of early forensic practices that present additional obstacles to finding connections between the victims and the elusive perpetrator.

### **The Complexity of Suspects**

Throughout the course of the investigation, a plethora of suspects emerge, each exhibiting behaviors or characteristics that make them potential leads. Despite initial hopes for breakthroughs, the detectives are repeatedly met with dead ends, forcing them to confront their own biases and obsessions as they persist in tracking down the killer. The chapter underscores the complexity of the case and the emotional toll it takes on those involved, setting the stage for future developments in the investigation.

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## Chapter 8:

### Summary of Chapter 8 of "Green River, Running Red" by Ann Rule

Chapter 8 delves into the deepening crisis in south King County as residents, reluctant to confront the harsh realities of prostitution and the Green River Killer (GRK), demonstrate a troubling apathy towards community meetings. King County Executive Randy Revelle's attempts to rally public interest yield little success, with only a few locals attending, highlighting a troubling disconnect. Amidst this backdrop, Detective Frank Adamson raises alarm bells, warning that the GRK's violent spree may escalate further.

The narrative shifts to the tragic case of Mary Exzetta West, who vanished in February 1984 with an impending transition in her life, as she was unknowingly pregnant. This disappearance contributes to the detectives' growing concern over a pattern among the GRK's victims, many of whom seem to disappear near significant personal milestones, deepening the sense of urgency surrounding the investigation.

As the victim count rises, public frustration mounts against the Green River Task Force, which faces scrutiny for its inability to safeguard vulnerable women. The chapter introduces a mysterious letter filled with unsettling details about the crimes, yet investigators are skeptical of its authenticity,

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suspecting it may stem from an outsider seeking attention rather than an insider providing crucial evidence.

In response to community outcry, activists organize public marches to demand more decisive action against violence towards women, further pressuring the task force. Adjustments are made within the task force itself to concentrate resources and assign detectives to specific cases, aiming for a more focused investigation despite persistent public criticism.

The chapter also recounts the disturbing case of Cindy Smith, whose excitement upon returning home is tragically cut short as she quickly becomes another victim. Investigators identify a growing tally of missing women representing various demographics, complicating their understanding of the GRK's targeting strategy, while countless investigative efforts continue to bear little fruit.

Author Ann Rule reflects on her own experiences engaging with the community about the pervasive fear that the GRK could be lurking amidst them, showcasing societal shifts in the perception of women and violence during the 1980s. Her insights reveal the emotional landscape surrounding the investigation and the broader cultural context of the time.

Toward the chapter's conclusion, a new development emerges as investigators discover multiple body sites, re-igniting hopes of unmasking

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the elusive killer. The chapter illustrates the complexity of the investigation as the GRK's methodical approach becomes increasingly apparent, further complicating the task force's efforts.

Under Captain Frank Adamson's leadership, the task force seeks to enhance its strategy by enlisting the expertise of seasoned consultants, including Pierce Brooks. Their goal is to utilize psychological profiling in hopes of uncovering meaningful leads that might lead to capturing the GRK.

Overall, Chapter 8 encapsulates the mounting tension around the Green River Killer investigation. It highlights community skepticism, the grim dynamics surrounding the victims, and the relentless pursuit of justice by the task force amidst an atmosphere of fear and confusion.

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# Chapter 9 Summary:

## ### Chapter 9 Summary

### Task Force Investigation

By 1984, the Green River Task Force had painstakingly cleared thousands of suspects in King County, unveiling a disturbing array of dangerous individuals. Among them was Douglas Jeffrey, a motel manager with a history of rape who committed further assaults post-release due to questionable rehabilitation measures. Despite charges of rape and burglary, Jeffrey was ultimately dismissed as a suspect in the Green River murders, highlighting the complexity and challenges of the investigation.

### Confessions and Suspects

Throughout the inquiry, confessions emerged, including a young man who initially admitted to multiple killings with a friend, only to later recant his statement. Various potential suspects were considered, including one individual who bizarrely claimed knowledge of a cult connected to the murders—these claims were dismissed as delusional but demonstrated the wild speculation surrounding the case.

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## **Community Involvement**

The search for answers engaged the wider community, with concerned citizens actively contributing tips and theories, albeit many were unfounded. Some women, particularly those estranged from their partners, speculated that their husbands might be the killer, with one repeatedly calling in tips, reflecting a community gripped by fear and uncertainty.

## **Identification of Victims**

As the bodies were discovered, forensic science played a crucial role in identifying the victims. Forensic sculptors reconstructed faces from skulls to aid in the identification process, allowing victims such as Gail Mathews and Amina Agisheff to be named, although many others remained unidentified, adding to the heartache of families still seeking closure.

## **Continued Challenges**

The investigation faced intense public scrutiny and media pressure, exacerbated by comparisons to other notorious serial killers. By May 1984, despite a lack of new disappearances, the task force was compelled to address the rising number of discovered bodies, which intensified the urgency of their efforts.

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## **Psychics and Theories**

In an unexpected twist, several individuals claimed to possess psychic abilities regarding the case. Notably, Barbara Kubik-Patten asserted she received messages from deceased victims. Her controversial involvement attracted skepticism but also led to a significant discovery of a body, complicating the investigation further with competing narratives.

## **Subsequent Discoveries**

By the summer of 1984, the victim count rose to twenty-six. While some of these individuals had been officially identified, many were still missing, leaving families in anguish. The pressures on the task force intensified, resulting in doubts about the investigation's effectiveness amid ongoing discoveries of more victims.

## **Task Force Dynamics**

Despite the challenges, the detectives remained committed, grappling with their own emotional toll while aiding desperate families seeking answers. As winter approached, the absence of new sightings or bodies did not deter them; they conducted thorough searches, hoping to uncover further clues.

## **Ted Bundy's Involvement**

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Late in 1984 brought a peculiar twist when Ted Bundy, a notorious serial killer serving time, offered to assist in the Green River investigation from prison. Detectives were hopeful that Bundy's insights could connect his past experiences to the current, elusive perpetrator.

### **Closing Thoughts**

As the year came to a close, frustration mounted within the task force. They were left without clear leads, burdened by the emotional weight of ongoing discoveries and the unresolved grief of the families of missing women, leaving the investigation mired in uncertainty as 1984 ended.

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## Chapter 10 Summary:

### Summary of Chapter 10 from "Green River, Running Red" by Ann Rule

#### Overview: The Year 1985

The year 1985 was marked by a precarious public awareness of the Green River Killer, particularly outside the Northwest, as the media's focus shifted away from violent crimes. Despite the declining crime rate, brewing chaos surrounded the investigation, compounded by a lack of communication among law enforcement agencies. This fragmented approach allowed the killer the freedom to potentially alter his methods or relocate, further obscuring his identity and whereabouts.

#### Identification of Victims

In January, investigators began to piece together grim news as forensic teams connected skeletal remains found in the Star Lake area to missing persons. Among these was Gail Mathews, whose identification brought raw emotion to her family, serving as a painful reminder of the human tragedies behind the headlines. As the investigation pressed on, the alarming discovery of additional bones hinted at yet another victim, deepening the sense of urgency and horror.

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## **Discovery of Carrie Rois**

The narrative took a tragic turn on March 10 when a passerby discovered a human skull in a ravine near a gravel pit associated with the Green River investigations. The Green River Task Force acted swiftly, confirming the remains belonged to Carrie Rois. Demonstrating compassion and sensitivity, authorities chose to inform her parents directly, ensuring they learned of their loss from them, not the media.

## **Insights into the Killer's Life**

As 1985 unfolded, the killer's personal life took on a bizarre twist. He became more sociable, involving himself in community activities and dating various women. However, his conversations raised concerns among those he interacted with, as he often veered into unsettling discussions about murders and the profiles of the victims, leaving a trail of discomfort in his wake.

## **Emergence of Patterns in Disappearances**

By mid-year, a temporary decline in reported disappearances fostered hope that the killer might have ceased his violent spree or left the area altogether. Yet, as remains were discovered in Oregon, authorities were compelled to reassess the killer's reach. This finding hinted at an expansion in his

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operational territory, possibly indicating a strategic shift in his activities to confuse law enforcement.

## **Escape of Moira Bell**

The situation grew tenser in September when Moira Bell narrowly escaped an assault by a taxi driver fitting the killer's profile. Her courage in reporting the incident heightened awareness and anxiety among the community, suggesting that potential victims still lurked in danger.

## **Continuing Investigation and Discovery**

The chapter concludes by underscoring the relentless investigation and the harrowing emotional toll on families touched by disappearances. Each new victim discovered—such as Mary West—serves as a stark reminder of the killer's brutality and the ongoing challenge faced by law enforcement to bring the murderer to justice in this harrowing chapter of history.

This summary synthesizes key events, character developments, and the overarching investigation themes central to Chapter 10, painting a vivid picture of the turmoil wrought by the Green River Killer amidst societal repercussions.

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## Chapter 11 Summary:

### Summary of Chapter 11: Green River, Running Red

Chapter 11 dives deep into the mounting challenges faced by the Green River Task Force as they strive to solve the series of murders attributed to the elusive Green River Killer. Despite receiving federal funding, the investigation is met with rising scrutiny from the public and government, particularly as the new King County executive shows a lack of support, creating a tense atmosphere for detectives who feel the weight of increasing pressure without significant progress.

The FBI's comprehensive analysis of the victims reveals a disturbing pattern, showcasing the tragic demographics: twenty-six Caucasian women and ten African American women have fallen prey to the killer. With the holiday season of 1985 approaching, the discovery of new remains intensifies the urgency of the Task Force's work, spurring further investigation amidst rising community fear.

Morale among detectives plummets as media criticism mounts. Public discontent over resource allocation adds to their frustrations, while internal struggles surrounding the ambiguous connection to a stolen vehicle owner exacerbate the situation. A leading expert, criminal profiler John Douglas,

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offers insights into the psychological profile of the killer, leading them to closely monitor several suspects. One such suspect, Barney Tikkenborg, a fur trapper with an unsettling past, initially captures the investigation's attention.

Following intensified scrutiny, the Task Force executes a search warrant on Tikkenborg, yet he passes a polygraph test, resulting in his elimination as a suspect and prompting negative media coverage for the Task Force. This failure amplifies public disillusionment as additional remains of victims continue to surface, further highlighting the ongoing threat posed by the Green River Killer. Meanwhile, similar disappearances in neighboring areas heighten the community's alarm.

Compounding the investigation's troubles are shifts in leadership and personnel reductions due to budget constraints, disrupting continuity and progress. As detectives focus on integrating advancements in forensic science, including potential DNA testing, the enormity of the case remains daunting.

Despite the relentless efforts and the emotional toll on families waiting for closure, the chapter concludes on a somber note. The absence of substantial evidence, coupled with setbacks in public relations and morale among detectives, casts a shadow over their efforts. Tragic new evidence points to the killer's continued activities, leaving families in a state of painful

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uncertainty about the fates of their loved ones, highlighting the grim reality of an unresolved investigation.

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## Chapter 12:

### Summary of Chapter 12 of "Green River, Running Red" by Ann Rule

In the mid- to late-1980s, law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and Canada found themselves embroiled in a series of complex investigations into multiple serial killer cases, a phenomenon that sparked widespread public concern. One notable focus was in San Diego, where police were deeply troubled by a string of murders targeting women, with disturbing revelations suggesting possible involvement of rogue police officers.

Amidst this backdrop, the case of Donna Gentile stands out. A prostitute outspoken about police misconduct, Gentile was murdered shortly after appearing in a televised interview that highlighted safety issues in light of recent killings. Her death, marked by signs of sexual assault and a perplexing method of asphyxiation, sent shockwaves through the community and intensified fears surrounding the fate of vulnerable women.

Desperate for guidance, San Diego's Metropolitan Homicide Task Force, facing personnel shortages and a lack of experience, sought collaboration with King County detectives from Washington. This partnership aimed to share insights and identify connections in cases of missing women, many of which occurred during the same timeframe, suggesting a larger,

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interconnected crisis.

As the investigations unfolded, Gary Schons, appointed by the California State Attorney General, took charge of scrutinizing the San Diego police for allegations of misconduct. While his findings exonerated the department from complicity in the murders, individual detectives continued to express their concerns for personal safety as they navigated these treacherous cases.

The focus soon shifted to William Stevens II, whose eccentric behavior and suspicious activities drew the attention of investigators following a televised special on the Green River Killer. Despite substantial tips and hints of his potential involvement, authorities struggled to firmly connect Stevens to the murders, leading to a frustrating stalemate.

The televised program, “Manhunt...A Chance to End the Nightmare,” proved to be a double-edged sword. While it encouraged thousands of viewers to call in with tips, pointing fingers at Stevens, it also propagated a haunting profile of the elusive Green River Killer. As investigators looked deeper into Stevens, they uncovered his possession of police-grade equipment and firearms, fueling rumors of police connections to the crimes, yet leading to a series of dead ends.

By 1990, the Green River Task Force faced the grim reality of disbandment due to dwindling resources. Investigators were left with a mountain of

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evidence but struggled to develop clear leads, uncovering potential new victims all while desperately searching for answers.

Captain Bobby Evans and his dedicated team remained committed to the identification and recovery of additional victims' remains, utilizing forensic

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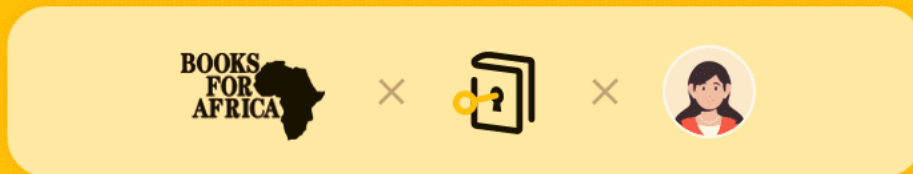




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## Chapter 13 Summary:

### Summary of Chapter 13 from "Green River, Running Red"

In 2001, Gary Ridgway, known as the Green River Killer, lives an outwardly content life in King County with his wife, Judith. Employed at Kenworth, he has successfully evaded suspicion from law enforcement for countless years. Ridgway has benefited from being underestimated by others, which has allowed him to blend into society while hiding his dark past.

Gary and Judith enjoy a seemingly idyllic home life, punctuated by their shared hobby of collecting items from swap meets. Judith, with her nurturing disposition, manages their household and remains blissfully unaware of Gary's horrific secrets. Their routine includes plans for retirement and careful management of their home and investments, painting a picture of stability that masks the chaos lurking beneath.

Meanwhile, law enforcement remains fiercely dedicated to solving the Green River Killer case. Under the leadership of Sheriff Dave Reichert, the task force is quietly revitalized by advancements in DNA testing, leading to new evidence, including genetic matches that tie back to Gary.

The tranquility of Gary's life shatters on November 30, 2001, when he is

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arrested for attempting to solicit an undercover officer. Completely oblivious to the significance of his actions, he is confronted by detectives outside his workplace. Simultaneously, Judith receives news of her husband's arrest, sending shockwaves through her understanding of their life together.

Judith's reaction to the unfolding events is one of disbelief and devastation. As detectives question her about Gary's alleged involvement in the murders, she struggles to reconcile the image of her loving husband with the grim reality of his past. The investigation sheds light on the depth of Gary's deception, leaving Judith grappling with the horrifying truth.

This chapter powerfully illustrates the stark contrast between Gary's facade of normalcy and the monstrous crimes he has committed. As investigators methodically piece together incriminating evidence against him, Judith faces the unsettling unraveling of her life and the foundation of their marriage. The narrative closes on a note of impending doom as Judith's world is about to be irrevocably altered by the revelations of Gary's hidden life.

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## Chapter 14 Summary:

### Chapter 14 Summary of "Green River, Running Red" by Ann Rule

Chapter 14 focuses on the aftermath of Gary Ridgway's arrest, showcasing the complex web of reactions from law enforcement, media, and the community, as well as the psychological underpinnings of Ridgway himself.

#### Gary Ridgway's Arrest

At fifty-two, Gary Ridgway, suspected as the infamous Green River Killer, appeared subdued in his mug shot, showing signs of aging but maintaining an eerie calmness. Initially resistant, he requested legal counsel and was placed in a secure cell, as his arrest became a major news story stretching across multiple states due to the involvement in numerous unsolved murders.

#### Author's Personal Encounter

Author Ann Rule reflected on an unsettling personal connection to Ridgway, recalling a moment at a book signing where her daughter recognized him. This revelation added an unsettling dimension to Ridgway's persona, as a familiar face turned out to belong to a notorious murderer.

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## **Authority's Cautious Approach**

Local law enforcement, despite the media frenzy, remained cautious.

Although Ridgway was charged with the murder of four victims, detectives emphasized that the evidence was still limited and further investigation was crucial to establish his involvement with more cases.

## **Search for Evidence**

In the wake of Ridgway's apprehension, an investigative task force meticulously combed through his past residences, hoping to uncover forensic evidence that might link him to the victims. However, their efforts yielded little, raising alarms about the potential lack of physical connections to the murders.

## **Life and Legal Progress in Jail**

Adjusting to life behind bars, Ridgway communicated with his wife, Judith, about their life together yet displayed no remorse for his actions. Facing charges of aggravated murder without the possibility of a plea deal, he was poised for a trial that might lead to either the death penalty or life imprisonment.

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## **Community Reaction**

The community was shaken to its core upon discovering that a seemingly normal neighbor could commit such monstrous acts. Colleagues described Ridgway as sociable but awkward, indicating behaviors that were inappropriate but not outwardly alarming.

## **Family Dynamics**

Ridgway's relationship with his family, particularly his younger brother, illustrated a profound disconnect, highlighting a distant familial dynamic where emotional understanding was absent.

## **Inmate Life**

Inside the jail, Ridgway struggled to find acceptance among fellow inmates and sought the services of prominent defense attorney Tony Savage. His attempts to secure a high-profile defense raised questions about his financial means and the potential costs of his trial.

## **Renewed Investigations**

With a reenergized effort, investigators sought to gather evidence against Ridgway, utilizing modern DNA testing that had been previously delayed.

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Their determination centered around connecting him to additional homicides.

## **Negotiating Guilt**

As investigators continued to build their case, negotiations began to emerge regarding a potential guilty plea from Ridgway in exchange for revealing the locations of bodies that had yet to be discovered. This proposition introduced ethical dilemmas for the prosecution, weighing the value of closure against the morality of bargaining.

## **Rumor Control**

Amid speculation of Ridgway attempting to escape, it was clarified that he was housed under strict guard at the Green River Task Force's office, allowing detectives to interrogate him securely while documenting his confessions.

## **Crime Scene Visits**

Ridgway's cooperation proved chilling yet crucial, as he led investigators to grim locations where bodies were deposited. His interactions revealed not only the heinous nature of his crimes but also an unsettling insight into his mindset.

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## **Psychological Insights**

Psychological evaluations probed Ridgway's motivations and background, uncovering troubling aspects of his life, including a tumultuous relationship with his mother and distorted views towards women. His confessions underscored his emotional detachment and an unsettling lack of empathy for his victims.

## **Deteriorating Morality**

Gradually, Ridgway's admissions of necrophilia and his chilling methods of disposing of bodies painted a harrowing picture of his psyche, revealing a frightening disconnect between his violent actions and any semblance of moral responsibility.

In conclusion, Chapter 14 paints a harrowing picture of the unraveling of Gary Ridgway's crimes in the wake of his arrest. It highlights the intense investigative efforts, the psychological dimensions of both Ridgway and those who seek justice, and the profound shock experienced by a community grappling with the reality of such horrific deeds.

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## Chapter 15 Summary:

### Summary of Chapter 15 from "Green River, Running Red" by Ann Rule

### Ridgway's Guilty Plea and Its Implications

On November 5, 2003, Gary Ridgway, known as the Green River Killer, appeared in court ready to plead guilty to an astonishing forty-eight counts of murder. Prosecuting attorney Norm Maleng and Sheriff Dave Reichert convened a meeting with the families of Ridgway's victims to explain the plea bargain, which sought to spare Ridgway from the death penalty. This decision sparked mixed reactions; while some families appreciated the closure it provided, others were vehemently opposed, desiring nothing less than his execution.

### Courtroom Atmosphere

As Ridgway entered the courtroom clad in prison attire, he presented an unremarkable image that belied the horror of his actions. His calm demeanor while acknowledging the terms of his plea starkly contrasted with the disturbing details that emerged during the proceedings. Attendees were horrified as Ridgway's graphic confessions laid bare the depths of his depravity.

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## **Confession of Crimes**

Ridgway's chilling confession highlighted his complete lack of remorse for the women he murdered, most of whom were vulnerable prostitutes. He preyed on them, aware that their disappearances would be less likely to raise alarm. His emotionally detached recounting of these crimes painted him as a calculating predator, intent on evading capture at all costs.

## **Revisiting Historical Victims**

As the courtroom proceedings unfolded, previously unknown victims came to light, indicating that Ridgway had continued his killing spree beyond what was initially believed. His meticulous recollections about their murders—down to the locations and specific circumstances—revealed a disturbing pride in his ability to remain undetected, further solidifying his identity as a methodical serial killer.

## **Victim Stories**

The narrative took a poignant turn, focusing on individual victims such as Cindy Smith, Patricia Barczak, Bobby Joe Hayes, Marta Reeves, and Patricia Yellow Robe. The chapter explored their lives and struggles, emphasizing the devastating impact their disappearances had on their

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families. For some families, Ridgway's confessions provided a somber closure, transforming years of agonizing uncertainty into the harsh reality of loss.

## **The Role of Law Enforcement**

Sheriff Dave Reichert's pivotal role in the investigation was also highlighted. Ridgway exhibited a mix of intimidation and fascination towards Reichert, recognizing him as a formidable adversary. The dynamics between them during interrogations revealed a complex interplay of power and narrative manipulation, underscoring how law enforcement navigated Ridgway's confessions to extract valuable information.

## **Conclusion and Sentencing**

The chapter concluded with a sense of hope and justice for families who had long suffered without answers. Although Ridgway's plea bargain meant he would escape the death penalty, he was scheduled for sentencing on December 18, 2003. This timeline brought a glimmer of justice amid the holiday season, as families finally confronted the full reality of their losses.

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## Chapter 16:

### Summary of Chapter 16: Green River, Running Red

In the days leading up to Gary Ridgway's sentencing, Sheriff Dave Reichert conducted a pivotal interview with the notorious killer in jail. Despite Ridgway's claims of befuddlement over the timeline of his actions, Reichert's questioning ultimately exposed Ridgway's chilling indifference towards those he had murdered. Ridgway's unsettling demeanor became evident as he discussed the increasing number of his victims, even suggesting that the FBI should be involved in further investigations—a move that felt more like an effort to associate himself as a helpful informant rather than a remorseful criminal. When he was pressed about his feelings toward the victims, his responses became shockingly egocentric, showcasing a profound lack of empathy.

As the interrogation unfolded, Ridgway attempted to justify his heinous actions, framing them as a misguided attempt to exert control and “clean up the streets.” His attempts at rationale often dissolved into self-serving narratives that failed to hold up under scrutiny. Reichert's frustration grew as Ridgway continuously evaded responsibility, defining his victims in degrading terms while keeping vital information about additional killings to himself.

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The gravity of Ridgway's crimes culminated on December 18, 2003, during a charged sentencing hearing. Family members of the victims confronted Ridgway in court, each given ten minutes to share their heart-wrenching memories and the profound pain in the wake of their losses. Their statements reflected a spectrum of emotions, from anger and grief to, for some, a surprising capacity for forgiveness. Ridgway, however, remained largely unmoved, his emotional detachment starkly displayed until some expressions of forgiveness seemed to momentarily touch him—though hardly enough to indicate genuine remorse.

Judge Richard Jones delivered the sentence: forty-eight consecutive life sentences without the possibility of parole, underscoring both the severity of Ridgway's crimes and the chilling disconnection that characterized his existence. The emotional weight of the court's decision left a somber mark; while justice was served for the families, Ridgway's seemingly inhuman response underscored the emotional void inherent in his actions.

After the sentencing, reflections from prosecutors and detectives encapsulated a complex array of sentiments. There was a bittersweet triumph in achieving justice, yet unease loomed over Ridgway's continued manipulative tendencies—their work to close the chapter on the notorious Green River killings marked an end, yet it left indelible emotional scars for the families affected.

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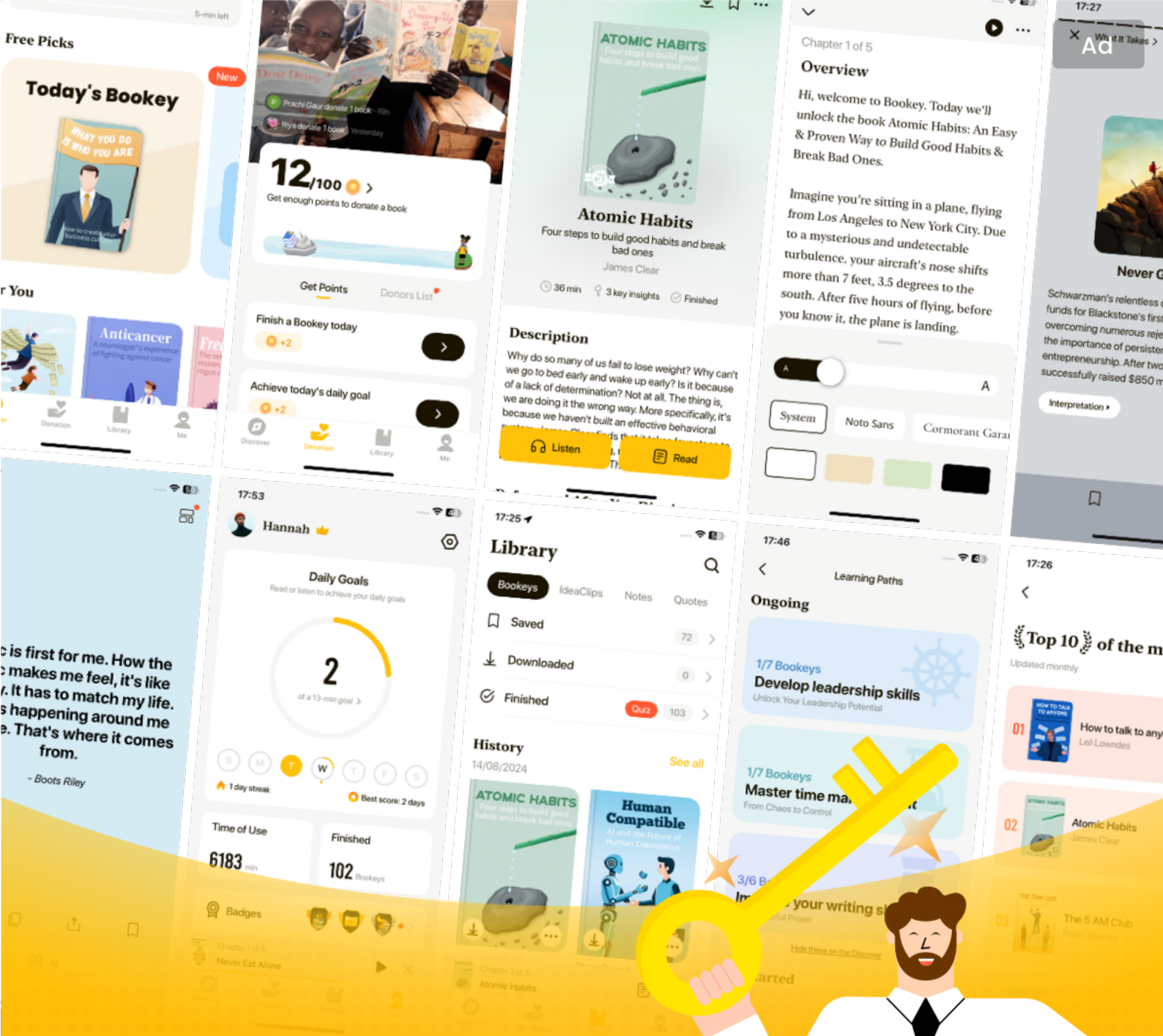
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As the courthouse emptied and the community aimed to move forward, many grappled with the lingering aftermath of the horrific events that had haunted their lives for over twenty years, a testament to the long, harrowing quest for justice that shaped their reality.

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