

NEWS MEDIA THEMES / TOPICS

for

Dare I Call It Murder? — A Memoir of Violent Loss

by Larry M. Edwards

- **Memoir:** The story delves into two pivotal aspects of the author's life:
 - After learning of his parents' deaths, Larry became involved in FBI the investigation and began to realize that his parents did not die in a tragic accident as he first thought. Rather, they had suffered violent deaths, possibly at the hand of their own son, the author's younger brother, Gary. However, when the U.S. attorney declined to prosecute, Larry had to learn to live not only with the loss of his parents but the anger over the lack of justice for his parents.
 - Years later, to deal with emotions that would not remain buried within, Larry sought professional counseling. But just when he had learned to compartmentalize his emotions, true-crime writer Ann Rule published an inaccurate account of his parents' death. That reopened the wounds and resulted in a further splintering of his already shattered family.
- **Mystery solved? / True crime:** The author leads the reader through the maze of contradictory witness statements—and family secrets—to reveal the truth underlying his parents' deaths. In-depth investigation and analysis of the facts to set the record straight and to lay out the case never presented in court. Few particulars of the incident and the subsequent FBI murder investigation were ever made public. The book reveals, for the first time, not only details of the unsolved mystery, but its tragic impact on the family at the time of the deaths and again three decades later.
- **Psychology / grief and bereavement:** Larry Edwards examines the effect of traumatic grief, complicated bereavement and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and the need for counseling for those who have lost loved ones to violent death. The Foreword of the book is written by Connie Saindon, a marriage and family therapist and founder of the Survivors of Violent Loss program in San Diego, California. The has been endorsed by Dr. Edward "Ted" Rynearson, Medical Director, Separation and Loss Services Program, Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle, Washington, and author of *Retelling Violent Death*.
- **PTSD:** Undiagnosed post-traumatic stress haunted the author for three decades, affecting his outlook on life and relationships with others, until he sought counseling through the Survivors of Violent Loss Program.
- **News media:** sensationalized coverage and inaccurate news reports cashed in on the tragic deaths of Loren and Jody Edwards, further traumatizes the family. Were he able to do it over again, Larry Edwards would handle the news media much differently today than he did at the time.
- **Sailing:** A family cruise is not always a trip to paradise—the suspicious deaths occurred mid-ocean aboard a sailboat cruising through French Polynesia and the South Pacific.

- **Law enforcement/criminal justice:** The FBI investigated this complex case and requested prosecution, but could not close it after the U.S. attorney in Seattle declined to prosecute. The case remains unresolved to this day; the author still seeks justice for his parents.
- **Blended families:** Loren and Joanne Edwards had a blended family. Loren had endured a drawn-out divorce and child-custody battle while Joanne became a widow when her first husband was killed by a drunk driver; her husband died on her twenty-first birthday. Loren had two sons and Joanne two daughters; together they added a fifth child. The story offers a look at blended families and the interaction of stepparents and stepchildren.
- **Human interest:** Larry Edwards confronts crippling emotions after suspecting that his brother killed their parents, then relived the horror three decades later following the publication of an inaccurate account of the deaths in a true-crime book written by Ann Rule.
- **Publishing:** Legal risks, roadblocks and complications delayed the publication of the book; some publishing industry “experts” said the story would never be published as non-fiction and advised the author to fictionalize it. But when Simon & Schuster published Ann Rule’s inaccurate portrayal of the case in 2009, Larry Edwards could not let that be the final word in his parents’ deaths; he had to set the record straight, revealing previously undisclosed facts and evidence gleaned from the FBI’s official report on the case, as well his discussions with law enforcement officials in French Polynesia and the U.S.

CONTACT:

Book It Northwest

Diane Duthweiler
dduthweiler@comcast.net
(206) 375-0012

or Gail DiRe
gail@gaildire.com
(206) 227-1866