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Double Jeopardy: Obsession, Murder, and Justice Denied

By Bob Hill



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A critical look at the American criminal justice system describes how Mel Ignatow, acquitted for the murder of his fiancée in 1988, was later proven guilty but could not be retried per the Fifth Amendment. 10,000 first printing.



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Double Jeopardy: Obsession, Murder, and Justice Denied By Bob Hill Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #384200 in Books
- Brand: Brand: William Morrow n Co
- Published on: 1995-07
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.75" h x 6.75" w x 1.25" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 321 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Louisville divorcee Brenda Schaefer disappeared in 1988, last seen with her ex-fiance, Mel Ignatow. A year and a half later, Ignatow's sometime mistress, Mary Ann Shore, revealed that he had tortured, raped and murdered Schaefer, and she led police to where the body was buried. She was certain of Ignatow's guilt, because he had had her photograph the entire five-hour spree of sadism. Ignatow was brought to trial, but a combination of sloppy police work, an excellent defense attorney, the bad impression created by Shore on the stand and the lack of direct forensic evidence resulted in an acquittal. An expert on sexual sadism suspected that the incriminating photos would not have been destroyed, and indeed they were found under a floorboard in Ignatow's former house in 1992, proof that Shore's testimony had been true in every particular. The Fifth Amendment's double jeopardy provision meant that Ignatow could not be tried again, although he was given some prison time for perjury. Hill, a Louisville Courier-Journal columnist, has done an outstanding job of showing how the case developed and what went wrong. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

As grisly, sadistic murders go, Brenda Schaefer's ranks right up there. In 1988, after the 36-year-old Louisville native's car was found abandoned, her manipulative boyfriend, Mel Ignatow, quickly became the prime suspect. After months of dead-end leads, enigmatic Mary Ann Shore, another of Ignatow's lovers, finally admitted that she had witnessed the murder and helped Ignatow bury the body. Although the case seemed airtight, a flighty jury found Ignatow innocent of murder, sodomy, and rape. Sadly, incriminating photographs were eventually found that directly linked Ignatow to the brutal slaying. Louisville journalist Hill reconstructs this convoluted, disturbing case in precise detail. But although he presents the facts admirably, the veteran reporter fails to explore the psychological reasons and motivations for Ignatow and Shore's despicable actions. *Sue-Ellen Beauregard*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anthony Valdez:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the whole day to reading a e-book. The book Double Jeopardy: Obsession, Murder, and Justice Denied it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book provides high quality.

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