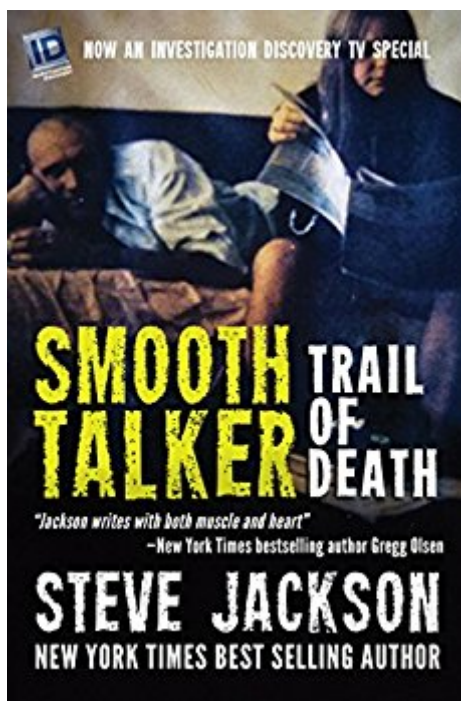


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# Smooth Talker: Trail Of Death



## Synopsis

New From New York Times Bestselling True Crime Author Steve Jackson A Shocking Story Of A Brutal Murderer And The Intrepid Police Investigators Who Tracked Him Down And Made Him Pay

One morning in July 1974, Anita Andrews, the owner and bartender at Fagiani's Cocktail Lounge in Napa, California was found dead in her bar "raped, beaten, and stabbed to death in a bloody frenzy. She'd last been seen alive the night before talking to a drifter who sat at the end of the bar, playing cards and flirting with her. But the stranger, along with Anita's Cadillac, had disappeared. Unable to locate a suspect, police investigators sadly watched the case grow cold over the years." Jackson writes with muscle and heart.--New York Times bestselling author Gregg Olsen

Meanwhile a month after Anita's murder, young Michele Wallace, was driving down a road in the mountains near Crested Butte, Colorado, when she gave two stranded motorists, Chuck Matthews and a man named Roy, a ride. Dropping Matthews off at a bar in Gunnison, she agreed to take Roy to his truck. She was never seen alive again, nor could a massive search of the mountains locate her remains. The trail leading to her killer also ran into deadends. Fourteen years later, Charlotte Sauerwin, engaged to be married, met a smooth-talking man at a Laundromat in Livingston Parish, Louisiana. The next evening, her body was found in the woods; she'd been raped, tortured, and her throat slashed. The police suspected her fiance, Vince LeJeune, though he proclaimed his innocence to anyone who would listen. Meanwhile, the man from the Laundromat couldn't be located. The three murders would remain unsolved, eating at the hearts, minds and lives of the women's families, friends and communities. Then in the early 1990s, a rookie Gunnison County sheriff's investigator named Kathy Young began looking into the Wallace case and identified a suspect named Roy Melanson, a serial rapist from Texas. It would lead her and other investigators looking into murders and rapes in other states to a serial killer who struck again and again with seeming impunity. SMOOTH TALKER is the story of Melanson, his depredations, and the intrepid police work that went into bringing him to justice not just in Colorado, but California and Louisiana.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Warning- once you start this book you will not be able to put it down. I was drawn into the marvelous storytelling by Steve Jackson and couldn't stop reading till I finished. "SMOOTH TALKER" tells the story of Roy Melanson, who for decades raped and killed women all over the country The heartbreak of the families of each victim are described with great compassion and sensitivity. I felt I personally knew each person in this book. Thank God for DNA and the amazing law enforcement teams who were relentless in solving these crimes.

I really like how Mr. Jackson not only describes the rapist/killer. But how in depth his descriptions of the victims and their families are, and everything they went through. He also excellently explains all the hard work and dedication of all the various law enforcement agencies to catch this monster.

How many more victims did Roy Melanson have.. we will never know. He coned and smooth talked almost everyone he came in contact with. This book covers 3 women that he killed and after decades was finally convicted of. He is currently serving his first sentence and faces LWOP when it is over. Bad health will probably prevent him from serving many more years, then he can face his Maker. This book held my interest from the first page to the last. I am looking forward to reading Steve Jackson's related book, NO STONE UNTURNED. I will recommend this to all of my True Crime friends.

Roy Melanson was a smooth talking charmer who crisscrossed the country robbing, raping and murdering women. He served some time for various crimes including rape but was always released to continue on with his crime spree. The book also describes how the families of some of the victims tried to cope with their losses while waiting patiently for justice to be served for their loved ones. This is a real page turner and I highly recommend it.

What a fantastic read. This book was extremely hard to put down once I started. Roy Melanson spent decades killing, raping women all over the country. He is what I call a sociopath. He was convicted of certain crimes, yet still managed to be released and continue his terror spree. It was so sad to read about the families who's lives he destroyed, and how they had to cope with their tragedies. A must read!

I thoroughly enjoyed the book but not the subject. The death of a love one is always difficult. Reading this book was a page turner that caused the hair on the back of my neck to raise up. If you like a crime genre you will enjoy. I have read other books by Steve Jackson and he is a very detailed, in-depth story teller. Roy Melanson could be your uncle, cousin, or neighbor. I am just glad he is behind bars. He was a serial killer, rapist that seemed to have a gentle average joe persona. I highly recommend this book.

Thanks to Prime, I watched all the seasons of Forensic Files and saw this author interviewed about Roy Melanson (Season 9, episode 18) and was fascinated with the tragedy of the Michele Wallace murder and cold case. I was intrigued and had to get his book. It's a page turner; I couldn't put it down! It's a well-written and compelling book. I'll get the others by Steve Jackson, too.

Shat an excellent story telling of this true story. I went to school in Napa but I had left before the killing of the bar owner on Main Street. And, I was too young to know any of the people involved. Smooth talker made my skin crawl which is not surprising because I love Steve Jackson's writing. I know he does a lot of research to get facts, places, and circumstance straight.

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