



Nothing Is Strange with You: The Life and Crimes of Gordon Stewart Northcott

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A young man kidnaps his own nephew and makes him his servant and sex slave. He abducts young boys, has his way with them, and, if they "know too much," kills them. He forces his nephew to participate in his crimes and to consign these little victims, sometimes still living, to their graves. His father is afraid of his own son. His son mocks and abuses him, falsely accuses him of incest and child abuse-and still he supports his son. His mother loves her boy and will do anything to help him-even commit murder. The Gordon Stewart Northcott case-a part of which is fictionalized in the major new Clint Eastwood film CHANGELING, starring Angelina Jolie-is still, eight decades later, one of the most nightmarish in American criminal annals. This book-nearly two decades in the research and writing-tells the whole story for the first time. Disclaimer: It should be noted that the film CHANGELING is not based upon this book, nor this book upon it. Both are entirely separate works, and one had no influence upon the other's creation.

Nothing Is Strange with You: The Life and Crimes of Gordon Stewart Northcott Details

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Author : James Jeffrey Paul

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Megan Riley says

The story is good, despite the author's writing style. If he had just let the story tell itself, it would have been amazing. The historic details are insightful and add interest to the main storyline. BUT THE AUTHOR STINKS! He doesn't understand the meaning of the word irony, he peppers his text with italics and exclamation points (rather than using writing style to show emotion) and he constantly asks aside questions that are better left for reader to ask, not the author. His writing style continuously interrupts the flow of the story and breaks up what would have been an amazing, if disturbing, piece of history.

Judith A. says

This book is what I look for in true crime: an engaging story, a lesson to be learned, and a plethora of research. However, it is so bogged down in court testimony- relying on much of it to tell the facts- I found myself bored and struggling through some of it. It almost feels like a cut n paste from the courtroom trial notes.

Lynn says

I really think an interesting book could be written about this case. It is about Gordon Stewart Northcott, who was convicted in 1929 of murdering three boys, who he had kidnapped and molested. One of his victims was Walter Collins, whose mother was played by Angelina Jolie in the recent Clint Eastwood movie "Changeling."

This young man was living on a chicken farm with his nephew, who was about 5 years younger than him. Apparently he was in some kind of abusive rapist/molester relationship with this nephew also. He was not tried for sodomy, but it was sure discussed a lot in the court, as it was considered the motive for the murders. At the same time, it's not clear why GSN turns to murder, or how his other family members may have helped him with the murders or helped hide the murders. His mother ended up being convicted of one murder, but she may very easily have been lying when she confessed to that. GSN would tell different stories to different police and lawyers, confess to exaggerated numbers of crimes, and then retract and say he was innocent. The mother and to some extent the father would also lie and change their stories a lot. It was pretty tiresome.

This book didn't really shed any new light on it for me. I hoped there would be more insight into the way the homosexual aspects of it were treated by the media at the time. I still don't have a clear picture of what this guy was up to. Was he really a pedophile, what we think of now as a pedophile? The victims seemed to get younger over time, maybe just because they were easier to kidnap, or convince to go home with stranger?

I was surprised at some of the testimony from some of GSN's living victims, earlier victims that he apparently molested and let go. These accounts didn't seem to surprise anyone in the trial as much as they should. It was described that GSN would meet boys in public places and invite them home, and ask them to get in bed with him. They didn't sound upset about it, or even to think it was unusual. One of them

specifically testified that he (the victim) didn't like he situation after getting in bed, and got up and left without ever being afraid of the defendant or threatened in any way.

Valerity (Val) says

Nothing is Strange with You: The Life and Crimes of Gordon Stewart Northcott (Kindle Edition)

I got this book after reading another book first about these crimes and hearing of this one. I liked the other one much more, but like getting the full picture by reading all available on this very old crime that was so horribly shocking at the time. This one seemed to be less broad, and not very well edited.

Stacey says

Gripping and engrossing! Loved it nonetheless. :) (I don't like Gordon at all, but I love the way the author tells his story.)

Jennifer says

I saw and really enjoyed the move The Changeling. I wanted to learn more about the real Gordon Northcott, so I bought this book.

It was interesting, chilling, and a pretty good read. I would have liked to know more about the victims, but I understand the focus was more on the killer and his bizarre family.

I enjoyed the actual quotes from the court proceedings.

For those who like books about serial killers, I would recommend this book.

Shelby Sanchez says

The story was crazy and horrific. But amazing it was told and not just a story lost in the past. Due to the writing style it was hard to follow and focus (for me personally) but the author did awesome research and had tons of facts!

Crazy to think us, as humans, can be so evil to eachother.

P J Crawford says

Interesting Read

This book was an interesting, true tale of an unbelievably strange, sadistic and demented murderer whose horrific crimes inspired the film "The Changeling." I enjoyed the factual, journalistic style of the author and

his inclusion of actual trial transcripts and newspaper articles from the actual era when the real events occurred. Although some readers criticised the no-frills, almost textbook, format of the book, that was exactly what I was looking for to better understand what happened in Wineville. The author put a tremendous amount of research in this endeavor. After reading this book, I feel that I now have a better understanding of the time and place where the crimes took place; as well as, the enabling, wacko family structure and environment that produced the sociopathic murderer Gordon Stewart Northcott. It's certainly a cautionary tale for anyone so inclined to allow an offspring to bully, abuse and dominate everyone around him with no boundaries or respect for others. The Northcott's created a monster and unleashed him on their grandson and all the other unsuspecting children of Los Angeles. I have also read "The Road Out of Hell," the story of Sanford Clark, the grandson/nephew who survived the torture and abuse his murderous uncle inflicted on him. The Clark story is the other side of the coin: a story of survival, redemption and the triumph of the human spirit over the worst possible depravity. Evil, depraved G. Stewart Northcott faced the gallows. Sanford Clark overcame the evil that was done to him and went on to live a good and productive life. While both books had entirely different styles, each worked well within the framework of the type of stories the authors were attempting to convey. To get a real sense of this bizarre, tragic story, both books are well worth reading.

Cee Martinez says

This was a very thoroughly researched book on the life and crimes of serial killer Stewart Northcott. I appreciated every drop of information in it. The prose was not very strong and at times there was information overload that could have been pushed to footnotes, appendix and the like. Still I really enjoyed the book and recommend it.

KnowledgeGeek says

One of the most poorly executed books I've ever attempted to read. Just a hugely confusing & difficult to follow, hodge-podge of cut & paste quotes & terrible writing.

This is a truly fascinating & highly disturbing true story of a sadistic child killer & his equally disturbing family or origin. If one wishes to read an extremely well written version with much better detail, and something one rarely ever reads of in a case such as this, a somewhat "happy ending" I highly recommend *The Road Out of Hell: Sanford Clark and the True Story of the Wineville Murders*

Cailen K. Franze says

Closure

A great follow-up to *The Road Out of Hell*. *Nothing is Strange With You* painted the final portrait of a cunning, evil, and methodical Gordon Stewart Northcott.

Nancy says

An interesting read about Stewart Northcott, a child molester and murderer. Apparently the movie "The Changeling" is at least partially based on this story, although I haven't seen it to compare it to. The story is well told, although it does bog down near the middle with the minutiae details, otherwise a good read.

Dawn Kunda says

This is a very creepy book and if it weren't nonfiction, I'd have a hard time believing the vulgar, insensitive, and unconscionable actions of Stewart Northcott. A deeply researched drama mostly taken from the court proceedings shows us the twisted mind of a murderer who used young men for his pleasure. Northcott, an intelligent man, was also a chronic liar. This is noted as he represents himself in his defense of his criminal activities.

Fishface says

Well-written, well-researched and MUCH more horrifying than anything in the movie version, "The Changeling" starring Angelina's Jolie's lips in oppressive close-up. The story is far worse than you may suspect if you only saw the movie.

Aljan says

Ack! I made it through the first three or chapters of this book and just couldn't convince myself to finish. Although obviously meticulously researched, there is nothing of the author's style that makes what should be such a compelling and interesting case, despite its horrors, personable enough to make a readable story out of it. I found it to be completely uninteresting and was very disappointed.
