

DEADLY CONFIDANTE

Q & A

*Ten questions with
Nancy Whitmore Poore,
author of*

DEADLY CONFIDANTE

For information contact Nancy Whitmore Poore at
208-724-6931 or nanzetal@cableone.net

Q: Have you always been interested in true crime stories?

A: Long before I ever thought about writing any book, I was an avid true crime reader driven to understand the psychopathic or sociopath personality. I always have been interested in the techniques employed by the police in their investigations to bring these slippery characters to justice. As an aspiring true crime author, I found every case a fascinating one. But it wasn't until 1992, when I read about an upcoming trial in the local newspaper, that I felt compelled to write this book.

Q: How many years did you spend researching and writing this book?

*A: I spent approximately eight years working on **Deadly Confidante**. As people legally were allowed or willing to talk about the case, access to information became available. I read everything I could about the case: official documents, criminal records, trial transcript, and witness testimony.*

Q: How many people did you interview while doing research?

A: I interviewed almost a hundred people from California to New Hampshire. I spoke with Row's colleagues, former friends, witnesses, detectives, and prosecutors.

Q: What compelled you to spend years researching and writing the true crime story of State of Idaho vs. Robin Lee Row?

A: It was my curiosity in the crime itself that initially attracted me to the story, but it was the sympathy I felt for the many victims of Robin Lee Row and my anger at her actions that truly motivated me. Seeing how the victims were taken in, pawns essentially of a remorseless sociopath, sparked strong emotion in me. I wanted to tell the stories not only of the dead victims, but also others like Joan McHugh who went through personal agony because they were close to Robin Row.

Q: What are your perceptions of Joan McHugh, the friend who defended Robin Lee Row longer than others—and finally realized Row had fooled her?

A: *I introduced myself to Joan McHugh after a sentencing hearing and began a relationship that still exists today. It wasn't easy to gain her trust. After several meetings, Joan began, reluctantly, to tell me her story. My focus quickly evolved into compassion and empathy for Joan. The moment I put myself in Joan's shoes, I was shocked by the realization that her story could be mine—or anyone's. I became convinced that her story also should be told.*

Q: Did you attend the trial State of Idaho vs. Robin Lee Row?

A: *Yes. I began to outline my book by attending the trial and researching the profile of a psychopathic/sociopathic killer.*

Q: Did you ever meet Robin Lee Row in person?

A: *I met Robin after her trial, while she was in Canyon County jail. I also corresponded with her during the first two years of her incarceration in the Pocatello Women's Correctional Center.*

Q: Do you think Robin Lee Row showed any remorse for her crimes?

A: *In my correspondence with Robin and during my one face-to-face conversation with her, as is typical of a sociopath, she failed to show any remorse or concern for her victims. Her concern was, and still is, reserved for her own needs and comforts—evidenced by her ongoing pleas for money through the Internet. Robin continues to portray herself as the victim.*

Q: Today you work as a court reporter. Did you become a court reporter after you researched and wrote this book? How did working on this book influence you to become a court reporter?

A: *I always have been a "word" person and interested in the workings of the criminal mind and investigation techniques. Court reporting was a natural progression and combining of my interests.*

Q: What writing experience did you have before starting this huge project?

A: *I attended Boise State University where I studied writing and tutored students in writing. It was there that I began publishing essays and short stories. The "Deadly Confidante" story motivated me to take on a big writing project and to jump in with both feet. I felt confident in my ability to write the story.*

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