

# DEADLY CONFIDANTE

## News Release

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(BOISE, Idaho--December 2005) Nancy Whitmore Poore, an Idaho author and court reporter, spent years researching the true crime case of Robin Lee Row, a Boise mother accused of starting a house fire which killed Row's husband and two children. Now—thirteen years after the suspicious house fire—the story is told in *Deadly Confidante* (Book Publishers Network, trade paperback, \$19.95).

Fire rages through a home in a peaceful Boise, Idaho, subdivision in the early hours of a foggy February morning. Inside the house, a man and two young children sleep. Robin Lee Row watches in shock and horror as her entire family—her husband and two young children—are lost in the fire. Eventually, to the surprise of many people, the fire is determined to be arson, and the devastating loss of life is ruled homicide. Now the horrible incident is a triple-murder case.

Robin Lee Row, the grief-stricken widow and mother, quickly becomes the focus of the investigation. Her friends and neighbors are shocked and can't believe Robin is guilty. Surely, the authorities have made a terrible mistake. The Robin Row they have come to trust—loving wife, devoted mother, caring community member—is a victim of tragic circumstances, not a murderer.

But when the police investigation uncovers incriminating information, people begin to question their loyalty to Robin and her professed innocence. Despite the inconsistencies and innuendo, Joan McHugh remains Robin's closest confidante. Convinced that Robin is the victim of false accusations and sloppy police work, Joan fights to prove her friend's innocence. As the evidence against Robin continues to mount, even Joan begins to have doubts. Was Robin Lee Row the kind and compassionate person Joan knew her to be, or was she the cold and calculating serial killer the police claimed she was?

### **About the Author:**



Northwest native Nancy Whitmore Poore chronicles the case of Robin Lee Row and the agonizing ordeal of Joan McHugh, who becomes entangled in this true crime tragedy—and survives to tell the story. Through carefully compiled crime reports, court records, police interviews, and her own nearly 100 interviews with Row's colleagues, former friends, witnesses, detectives and prosecutors, Nancy Whitmore Poore skillfully recounts the real-life drama surrounding the investigation, the trial, and the unforgettable outcome of this case. Whitmore Poore spent eight years researching and writing this book. She felt compelled to find out the truth about Robin Row and to write this story because she wanted the story of the victims to be told. The author, who has worked as a court reporter for five years, lives in Boise, Idaho, with her husband and children. This is her first book.