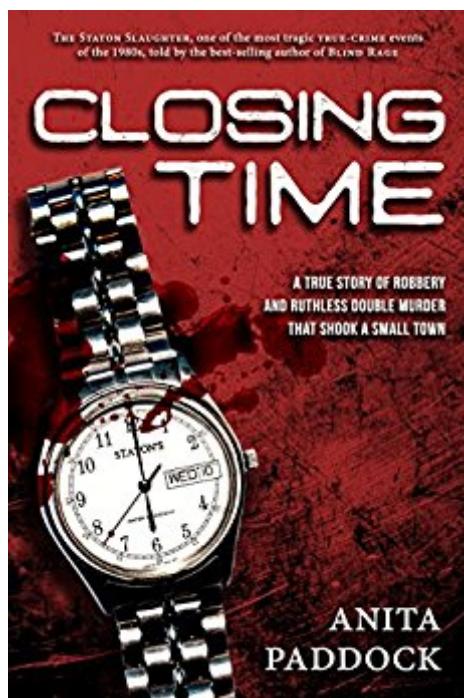


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Closing Time: A True Story Of Robbery And Double Murder



Synopsis

From the best-selling author of *Blind Rage* —“Blood from two bullets fired at close range into the head of the man and two bullets into the head of the pretty girl with long, light-brown hair.” The Staton Slaughter is one of the saddest true-crime events of the 1980s, told by the best-selling author of *Blind Rage*. In the vein of *In Cold Blood*, *Closing Time* is the stunning story of good and evil colliding in the most tragic of ways, both for the victims and their loved ones left behind to re-live their horror. Kenneth Staton was the well-respected owner of a jewelry store in Van Buren, Arkansas. Although crippled with rheumatoid arthritis and unable to walk without crutches, he had built his business through excellent watch repair work, fine quality jewelry sold at fair prices, and a dedication to his customers that surpassed all other merchants. He was the quintessential gentleman in all aspects of his life, and a beloved father. Unknown to him, two men—a seasoned criminal with a propensity for violence and a younger man, handsome, but broke and with an obsessive thirst for alcohol—plotted to rob the jewelry store at closing time on September 10, 1980. The thugs had only met each other days before, and it was the younger one’s first venture into armed robbery. When Staton and his daughter Suzanne didn’t show up for supper, his other two daughters became alarmed and went to the store. There they found the bodies of their father and youngest sister lying in pools of blood, gagged, hogtied, and shot twice in the head. Close to \$100,000 dollars in diamonds and other jewelry had been stolen. This senseless, bloody crime rocked the town of Van Buren and set its lawmen, sworn to find the killers, on a fiercely determined hunt that led from Rogers, Arkansas to Jacksonville, Florida, and all the way to Vancouver, Canada. Seventeen years later, was justice served? Praise for *Closing Time* —“Anita Paddock is the newest and strongest voice in true crime writing. *Closing Time* makes you feel as if you are there, seeing what happened, and feeling the terror and sorrow of those felled by these brutal crimes.” —Marla Cantrell, Editor of *Do South Magazine* and an Arkansas Art Council Fellow —“Anita Paddock delivers again. *Closing Time* reveals an unvarnished truth that will, at times, leave her readers breathless. Those familiar with her work will quickly conclude that *Closing Time* is a worthy successor to her previous best seller, *Blind Rage*. Get ready for some late nights because you won’t be able to put this one down.” —Greg Shepard, author of *Earthstains*, the story of Matt and George Kimes who came of age in the Roaring Twenties with a string of sensational bank robberies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the second book I've read written by Anita Paddock, the first being her debut "Blind Rage". I find her books to be extremely gripping, and having grown up in Van Buren, Arkansas the subject matter she writes about is very familiar to me. I have had the distinct pleasure of meeting and talking with Anita, and I am so proud to call her an acquaintance. I would highly recommend "Closing Time" and "Blind Rage" to anyone. I tore through both of her books in about an evening and a half. Do yourself a favor and buy "Closing Time" today!

Well written true crime story. She did a good job with the story by bringing in the family members and giving a history and detailed description of them. I used to live in Ft. Smith, so it was very interesting to me.

This book was well written and easy to follow. That things like this have to happen to anybody is so sad. I am impressed how the surviving family could and did carry on with their lives after this awful tragedy.

True crime written by the now, crowned queen of true crime. (Blind Rage, her first book, set the crown on Anita Paddock's head). Thoroughly researched with a fact driven timeline, Anita Paddock brings it all to readers who must read to the very last well composed sentence.

Another good book from Anita Paddock. Very interesting. I live close to where the story took place so it was very interesting. Some people can be so cruel and hard hearted. I wonder if they realize they will have to face a judgment some day.

What a heart wrenching story. I felt as though I knew the people in the story by the way Anita Paddock described the town, the people and the horrific nature of the crime. Great read.

Touching story of a family's strength through the worst of events. Very well written. It makes you have empathy for the family members and even one of the guys involved in the murder.

Even better than those big name writersA great talent and to think she only started writing in her 70s. I hope she writes many more.

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