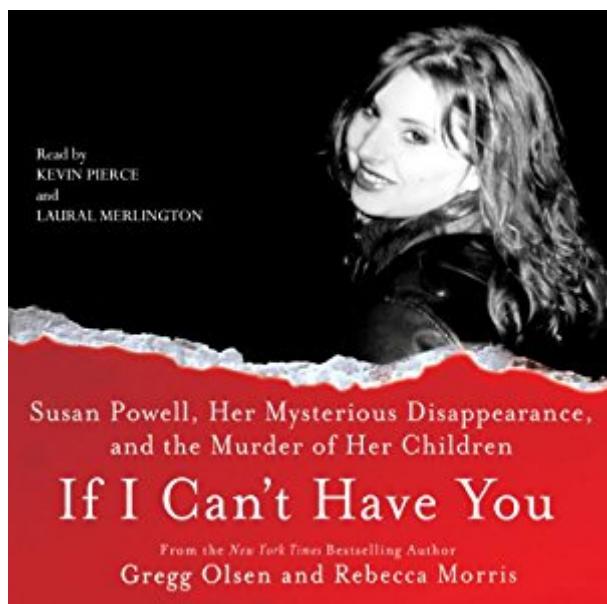


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# If I Can't Have You:: Susan Powell, Her Mysterious Disappearance, And The Murder Of Her Children



## **Synopsis**

Best-selling author Gregg Olsen and co-author Rebecca Morris investigate one of the 21st Century's most puzzling disappearances and how it resulted in the murder of two children by their father. Every once in a great while a genuine murder mystery unfolds before the eyes of the American public. The tragic story of Susan Powell and her murdered boys, Charlie and Braden, is the only case that rivals the Jon Benet Ramsey saga in the annals of true crime. When the pretty, blonde Utah mother went missing in December of 2009 the media was swept up in the story - with lenses and microphones trained on Susan's husband, Josh. He said he had no idea what happened to his young wife, and that he and the boys had been camping in the middle of a snowstorm. Over the next three years bombshell by bombshell, the story would reveal more shocking secrets. Josh's father, Steve, who was sexually obsessed with Susan, would ultimately be convicted of unspeakable perversion. Josh's brother, Michael, would commit suicide. And in the most stunning event of them all, Josh Powell would murder his two little boys and kill himself with brutality beyond belief.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

As I am Susan Powells sister I read the book to to check out the facts of my sister's case. I was impressed with how accurate and well written the information is Gregg and Rebecca did an excellent job telling my family's story. This is the best book I have read so far about my sister. I encourage anyone and everyone to read this book. Although this is a sad story, it is a well written account of my family's struggle.

I kind of wish I didn't enjoy reading True Crime non-fiction... it seems wrong to submerge myself into the world of a family that has suffered such immense tragedy, when I can emerge at the end, but someone like Susan Powell and her sons cannot (nor can everyone who loved them). I suppose I can justify my interest with excuses like trying to understand (but can anyone understand?), or better learning the warning signs, or even honoring Susan by knowing who she really was. That justification feels insubstantial, however, and I feel like something of a voyeur (ironic, once you know her story). That said, this is one of the better books for submerging oneself in just such a tragic reality. Unlike in some other true-life histories, this author did an excellent job of keeping the characters separate, both by sometimes redefining them ("her sister, Denise") and by capturing them so very clearly that they become quite recognizable people (such as Jennifer who, BTW, cowrote a book on this same crime and its fallout). The hard part of reading true crime, perhaps as it should be, is rooting for the victim, when you know the book would not exist were she to get a happy ending (and yet, Susan and her family are very easy to root for). I wish that the reader's frustration in no knowing some of the answers could somehow relieve the family's desperate frustration at the same, but it can't. Because this is real. Which is why I feel guilty. This book proves out something that authors like Gavin deBecker have noted--when someone expresses fear of another person, even if they pretend to be joking, Believe Them and Act. Perhaps the reminder of that can save other lives. Perhaps keeping Susan Powell alive through her story will help lead to the eventual discovery of her body. In any case, having read about what happened to her, I very much care. And maybe that matters.

This book is one of my top five all time reads! !!! Even though I already knew the story, I was in awe of all the details and new information that went into it. A lot of interviews and hard work obviously done by the authors! !! I can't imagine how someone that had never heard of the story would react to it...I wish I had been one of them, I would have enjoyed it even more...if that's possible! I'm going to fill my entire Kindle bookshelves with Greg Olsens previous books! ! He's fantastic! !!

I probably would have given this 5 stars if I had not just read another book about loss that delved more deeply into the emotional impact on the family that is left picking up the pieces after the murder of a child. However, the story needed to be told. Josh, the narcissist, Powell, was his father, Steve's son. Steve, it turns out, spawned a whole pond of deceptive, self-centered, perverts! Josh, whatever he did to cause Susan's "disappearance", certainty was living up to the paranoid, cruel,

controlling standards set by his father. This book was not an "eye-opening" account of what occurred in Utah to Susan Cox Powell because of her husband, Josh's, dysfunctionally codependent family. It does, however, pull together the facts and timeline of a crime that occurred in Washington State which is unforgettable and unimaginable to those of us who thought we had read it "all".

This book will not disappoint! I had followed this case in the media for years and was surprised at the additional wealth of information this book provides. The story of a troubled young family who on the outside appeared to be devout picture perfect Mormons. This book takes the reader through every twist and turn of the Susan Powell disappearance, presenting solid evidence of the guilt of her husband Josh Powell in the crime. 'If I Can't Have You' will take you full circle from the humble beginnings of this doomed marriage to the heartbreaking and gut wrenching moments when a diabolical husband brings it all down in flames.

If I hadn't followed this case in the media and on the true crime shows I would have given this 5 stars because of the compelling and strange nature of the story. The fact that I knew the story well took a little off of the book. However, this is a really good book on the whole saga of Susan and Josh Powell, their families, their children, and the whole evil mess. The writing is very good and there are quite a number of details of which I was not aware. In fact reading this book and knowing all the pieces of circumstantial evidence I'm quite surprised they didn't charge Josh Powell. I've seen people convicted on significantly less. I suppose they would have but they were waiting to make it a better case (hopefully finding the body) but this was interrupted by Josh Powell's ultimate evil act. I highly recommend this book and if you aren't familiar with the story you will be amazed. Well done.

As a fan of both authors I decided to buy this book for that reason. I knew about the Susan Powell case and all of the horrible things that happened, but I didn't know the little details. I know now. What a twisted, sick man Powell was. His father is even worse. It's hard to believe people like them walk our streets. The authors did a great job of letting us get to know all of the people in this case and how everything happened. It's one you can't put down. This is probably my favorite book that I have read this year. I recommend it highly.

Rebecca Morris and Gregg Olsen have smashed another one out of the park with their great new narrative about the tragic case of Susan Powell and her children. This saga is a page turner from

the beginning until the very end. For those of us who have followed this tragedy on the radio and in the papers, this book is a marvelous Rosetta-Stone that unravels so many of the mysteries that surrounded this horrible crime.

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