



Remembering Satan: A Tragic Case of Recovered Memory

By Lawrence Wright

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In 1988 Ericka and Julie Ingram began making a series of accusations of sexual abuse against their father, Paul Ingram, who was a respected deputy sheriff in Olympia, Washington. At first the accusations were confined to molestations in their childhood, but they grew to include torture and rape as recently as the month before. At a time when reported incidents of "recovered memories" had become widespread, these accusations were not unusual. What captured national attention in this case is that, under questioning, Ingram appeared to remember participating in bizarre satanic rites involving his whole family and other members of the sheriff's department.

Remembering Satan is a lucid, measured, yet absolutely riveting inquest into a case that destroyed a family, engulfed a small town, and captivated an America obsessed by rumors of a satanic underground. As it follows the increasingly bizarre accusations and confessions, the claims and counterclaims of police, FBI investigators, and mental health professionals. Remembering Satan gives us what is at once a psychological detective story and a domestic tragedy about what happens when modern science is subsumed by our most archaic fears.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This shocking cautionary tale focuses on the bizarre case of Paul Ingram, a Washington State deputy sheriff, Republican county leader and Pentecostal who was accused by his daughters Ericka and Julie of sexual abuse and of belonging to a satanic cult that allegedly included other sheriff's department members and that engaged in orgies and ritual sadistic abuse. Ingram confessed to having repeated sex with both daughters, and also to impregnating Julie at 15 and taking her to have an abortion. He subsequently retracted these statements, maintaining that all of his "recovered memories" were fantasies produced under pressure. Because he pleaded guilty to rape charges in 1989, he is serving a 20-year prison sentence. Yet months of investigation produced no physical evidence that any sex crimes or satanic practices ever took place, reports Wright, who leans strongly to the view that Ericka and Julie's own "recovered memories" were sheer fantasy. This suspenseful account of a controversial case, most of which appeared in the *New Yorker*, pleads for greater skepticism and caution in dealing with sex-abuse charges based on recovered memories.

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From Library Journal

In 1988, the case of Paul Ingram, a Washington state deputy sheriff accused of extensive child abuse and participation in Satanic ritual, made headlines across the country. Exploring the fates of the participants in the case, this book examines the recovered memory phenomenon (i.e., the retrieval of previously forgotten traumatic events) and the societal circumstances that have led, Wright believes, to mass hysteria similar to the Salem witch trials. While not a required purchase, this book serves as a fascinating case study to accompany other recent books that explore the same phenomenon, such as Lenore Terr's *Unchained Memories: True Stories of Traumatic Memories, Lost and Found* (LJ 1/94) and Robyn M. Dawes's *House of Cards: The Collapse of Modern Psychotherapy* (LJ 3/1/94). Previewed in *Prepub Alert*, LJ 4/93.

- *Mary Ann Hughes, Neill P.L., Pullman, Wash.*

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From Kirkus Reviews

Is satanic ritual abuse (SRA) real? In this book Wright (*Saints and Sinners*, 1993) examines the bizarre case of a family's "memories" of abuse and the flawed investigation that followed. The Ingrams of Olympia, Washington, were a hard-working, Christian fundamentalist family. Paul was a deputy sheriff; he and wife, Sandy, were loving partners but strict parents of their five kids. In 1988, 22-year-old Ericka, prompted by a counselor at a church retreat, accused her father of sexual abuse, charges later expanded by younger sister, Julie, to include her dad's poker buddies. The investigators, Paul's juniors in the sheriff's department, accepted the charges uncritically, believing that something must have happened. They quickly elicited a confession from Paul and steered him into implicating two of Paul's friends: all three were arrested. The detectives next brought up Satanism (nobody else had), and the highly suggestible Paul spewed out memories of atrocities he had committed during cult rituals. Later, Ericka claimed to have watched 25 babies sacrificed and, under pressure, Sandy and sons Paul, Ross, and Chad dredged up their own memories--none of which matched, dismaying the prosecution-hungry detectives. Wright steps back from the yammering to supply a context: the growth of interest in SRA (books, talk shows); research into false memories; the links between the recovered-memory phenomenon; Freud's seduction theory; and the concept of repression. Meanwhile, the prosecution's case collapsed and charges against Paul's buddies were dropped. Paul himself asked for, but was denied, an opportunity to withdraw his guilty plea; he is now serving a 20-year sentence. Wright tentatively concludes that the Ingram daughters' assertions stemmed from their repressed fantasies.

This important case could have turned into a witch-hunt, and Wright does an excellent job of making that clear; he has a harder time involving us in the fate of the alleged victims and perpetrators, who--especially the robotic Paul--are as colorless as their memories are lurid. (First serial rights to The New Yorker) --
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joan Myers:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be update about what going on or details even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era which can be always change and move forward. Some of you maybe can update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which you should start with. This Remembering Satan: A Tragic Case of Recovered Memory is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and want in this era.

Alan Durham:

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