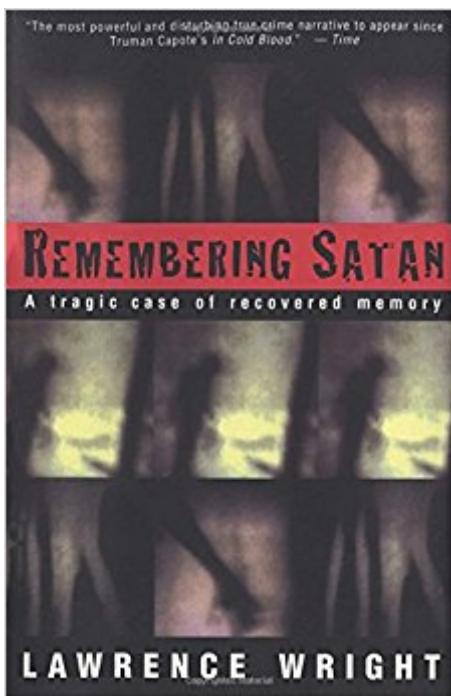


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# Remembering Satan: A Tragic Case Of Recovered Memory



## **Synopsis**

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.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

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. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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 explores 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. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The amount of information and detail Wright manages to cram into this slim volume is amazing. The story of the implosion of the Ingram family is a chilling and fascinating one, making this a great read for anyone who has ever wondered how someone could confess to something that they hadn't done. The Ingram family fell victim to some really faulty theology, law enforcement ignorance about how memory works, and the moral panic of "ritual abuse." If it hadn't destroyed so many lives, the entire concept of ritual abuse would be hilarious -- serious injuries that vanish without scarring, huge conspiracies involving prominent community members, dozens of murders without a body ever being discovered. I feel deeply for Ingram's daughters, who come across as unhappy and genuinely disturbed by what they think they remember. But it's hard to have much sympathy for the law enforcement officials who were so willing to believe the impossible and destroyed multiple lives in

the process. This is a disturbing story and Wright does it justice.

Fascinating in-depth book on one tragic result of the phenomenon of devil-worshiping hysteria gone amok. Wright puts this case in clear perspective, and with a critical eye, points out the fallacy of eyewitness reliability and the fallibility of memory, and unveils the landslide effect one person's story could have on an entire town. If you think the Salem witch trials are over, read this book, a true story--which is a lot like the Salem story reincarnated in the 1980s (minus the rye mold). Even in the "modern" age, religious fundamentalism combined with child abuse (which was not proved, but which seems likely in this case) and rumors can spawn the ruination of dozens of lives.

Lawrence Wright is an excellent writer of non-fiction and apparently a relentless researcher. This tale would be hard to believe if I hadn't been aware of the news stories. But, here is all the incredible details along with a well written analysis. Nicely done.

As always Lawrence Wright writing style was on point. I gave the book 4 out of 5 stars because of the darkness of the story and not because the author missed the mark. It was an intense read and more then I bargained for when I purchased the book. I loved Going Clear and Leaning Towers by Mr. Wright so I decided to give this early work of his a read.

As a retired therapist I am very familiar with the idea of "recovered memories" that are not real. Lawrence Wright does a masterful job of describing how such things happen using a well documented case.

True crime stories are of interest to me and this fits that bill, but going well beyond that genre to describe the whole false memory scene that occurred in the 90s. Truthfully the whole story is pretty sad and frankly I was left at several points wondering why/how people could confess to things that weren't true.

Short, vivid, powerful. A look at the potential destructiveness and perversity of false memories.

Great book. Very informative.

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