

Press Kit



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Former Minnesota News Anchor Hopes Her Book Will Help Solve a Nearly 20-year-old Mystery What Happened to Jodi Huisentruit?

(Minneapolis, Minn.) - Mystery writer Agatha Christie said it best: “There are only three reasons someone murders another person: love, money or to keep somebody’s mouth shut.” Former Austin, Minnesota, news anchor Beth Bednar, thinks the latter best explains what happened to a young news anchor from Mason City, Iowa.

Jodi Huisentruit disappeared without a trace the morning of June 27, 1995. The last person to speak with her was her morning show producer. Amy Kuns had called Jodi to let her know she had overslept and was late for work.

As the minutes ticked by without Huisentruit’s arrival, panic set in, but Kuns had a job to do. She had to get the show on the air by herself.

By the time police were finally dispatched to Huisentruit’s apartment complex, two-and-a-half hours had likely passed since her abduction. Evidence of a struggle was very apparent. Jodi Huisentruit’s personal belongings were strewn around the parking lot and her blood was found on the mirror of her car. Police launched an all-out search, but to this day, nobody knows what happened to Jodi.

“I don’t believe for a moment it was a random act of violence,” said Bednar. “I think she was abducted by someone she knew, someone she had met before, maybe even in a casual kind of situation like at a bar or restaurant or party or something like that. Somebody out there knows something”

In Bednar’s book, *Dead Air The Disappearance of Jodi Huisentruit* (Beaver’s Pond Press, 2011, \$24.95), the author carefully lays out the theories she uncovered during a lengthy investigation. The ideas came from friends, former colleagues and investigators willing to talk to Bednar, who had just retired from a 20-year career on the air in the Rochester/Austin/Mason City television market when Huisentruit disappeared.

“I knew her only professionally, but at the time Jodi disappeared I was so distraught I became physically ill. Her disappearance affected me at a gut level. It was like being kicked in the gut because I was there and it just was horrifying and shocking to me that it would even happen,” said Bednar, who hopes her book will help lead to answers for Jodi’s family and the community.



David Kenney, a former coworker of Jodi's, had this to say about the book: "I enjoyed reading the vast details that weren't readily available to the media at the time. I believe that the way Jodi was portrayed in the book was spot on, exactly how I remember her. Thank you for taking on such a challenge as writing this touchy subject matter, but even more so by doing it in a way that was easy to read and understand."

Dead Air The Disappearance of Jodi Huisentruit is available at bookstores everywhere, as well as on Amazon.com and direct from the publisher, www.beaverspondbooks.com. The hardcover retails for \$24.95. The audio book sells for \$17.95.

About Beth Bednar

Beth Bednar was the main anchor at KAAL-TV in Austin, Minnesota for nearly 20 years, and had just left the news business when 27-year-old Jodi Huisentruit, a morning anchor at one of the competing stations in the Rochester/Mason City/Austin market, disappeared.

Nearly 20 years after the crime, a former colleague encouraged Bednar to write a book about the case. *Dead Air The Disappearance of Jody Huisentruit* was published in 2011 by Beaver's Pond Press of Edina, Minn.

Bednar is currently a professional speaker and seminar trainer, working with public and private corporate audiences throughout the United States. Also active in international Christian mission and humanitarian work, Bednar has engaged audiences all over the world. She lives in Minneapolis, Minn., with her husband.



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To arrange an interview with Beth Bednar, contact Rachel M. Anderson, Publicist, RMA Publicity at 952-240-2513 or rachel@rmapublicity.com.

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About Beth Bednar

Most people who work in the television business move from station to station to further their careers, but not Beth Bednar. She spent her entire career at the same station –KAAL-TV in Austin, Minnesota. “I started as a weather person and worked my way up through the ranks,” she said.

Bednar estimates that during her time in the television industry, she reported on thousands of crime cases, but none that have affected her as profoundly as the disappearance of Jodi Huisentruit, a morning anchor at one of the competing stations in the Rochester/Mason City/Austin market, KIMT-TV in Mason City, Iowa.

Nearly 20 years after the crime, a former colleague encouraged Bednar to write a book about the case. *Dead Air The Disappearance of Judy Huisentruit* was published in 2011 by Beaver’s Pond Press of Edina, Minn.

Bednar left the news business in Dec. 1994, and currently is a professional speaker and seminar trainer, working with public and private corporate audiences throughout the United States. Also active in international Christian mission and humanitarian work, Bednar has engaged audiences all over the world. She lives in Minneapolis, Minn., with her husband.

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Ask Beth Bednar, author

Dead Air The Disappearance of Jodi Huisentrui



1. Why should we still care about a case this old?
2. Do you think Jodi was targeted due to her celebrity?
3. How has this case affected you personally?
4. Do you think enough has been done to look for Jodi?
5. What do you hope will come about as a result of this book having been written?

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Praise for...



“Dead Air is the definitive book on the Jodi Huisentruit case!”
- Esme Murphy, WCCO Radio and Television, Minneapolis

“I enjoyed reading the vast details that weren’t readily available to the media at the time. I believe that the way Jodi was portrayed in the book was spot on, exactly how I remember her. Thank you for taking on such a challenge as writing this touchy subject matter, but even more so by doing it in a way that was easy to read and understand.”
- David Kenney, Mississippi – a former coworker of Jodi’s

*“I feel like *Dead Air* is one of the best books I ever read. Beth Bednar’s style is awesome. As familiar as I was with the case of Jodi Huisentruit, I feel like *Dead Air* really brought her to life. I found myself wishing the book would never end, like while you were reading it Jodi was alive again and wasn’t just some person on an *Unsolved Mysteries* episode, but really there.”*
- From the “Crime Kitehs” website

“Dead Air is fascinating and very well-written. I remember your warmth and professionalism during your time at KAAL and those qualities shine in your book. The chapter near the end with the scenarios is brilliant. Thanks for writing one of the best crime books I’ve read.”
- Patricia Wallace, North Dakota

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