If you like Ann Rule….
A selection of true crime stories.

JOHN WAYNE GACY: DEFENDING A MONSTER by Sam L. Amirante
364.1523 AMI
Amirante tells Chicago serial killer Gacy's story—with Gacy's permission—by focusing on Gacy's last murder, the investigation, and the trial. Although the subject matter is quite gruesome and includes photographs showing the excavation of several of Gacy's victims from under his house, readers will find the book hard to put down. – Library Journal

THE SUMMER WIND: THOMAS CAPANO AND THE MURDER OF ANN MARIE FAHEY by George Anastasia
364.1523 ANA
The twisted tale of a young woman who said "no" to an obsessive, overbearing boyfriend, The Summer Wind recounts the sad life and death of Anne Marie Fahey and the clinically detached attempts by the man who shot her to wriggle his way out of responsibility for the deed.

BEFORE HE WAKES: A TRUE STORY OF MONEY, MARRIAGE, SEX, AND MURDER by Jerry Bledsoe
364.1523 BLE
This story of a Durham, North Carolina woman who appeared to be a devoted mother, loving wife, and church leader, is even more puzzling when we learn that what's beneath is not all that shocking: she lies, she's promiscuous, and she spends too much money. The mystery is the motive in this tale of a murderer, both of whose husbands died, in bed, of "accidents with guns."

BITTER BLOOD by Jerry Bledsoe
364.1523 BLE, HOOPLA AUDIOBOOK
This book recreates a complex case that claimed nine lives. The links in all the deaths were Susan Lynch and her cousin Fritz Klenner, each from a prominent, upper-middle-class Southern family.
DEATH SENTENCE: THE TRUE STORY OF VELMA BARFIELD’S LIFE, CRIMES, AND PUNISHMENT by Jerry Bledsoe
364.1523 BLE, HOOPLA AUDIOBOOK
In 1978, Velma Barfield admitted to poisoning four people, including her own mother. While she would be convicted of only one murder, it would be enough for her to die by lethal injection. Bledsoe glides smoothly through Barfield's history, from a brief look into her own poor, brutalized childhood through the love and stability she provided for her own young children and finally to her decline into the prescription-drug addiction.

THE PARADISO FILES: BOSTON’S UNKNOWN SERIAL KILLER by Timothy Burke
364.1523 BUR
Former homicide prosecutor Timothy M. Burke makes his case against Leonard Paradiso. Lenny “The Quahog” was convicted of assaulting one young woman and paroled after three years, but Burke believes that he was guilty of much more – that Paradiso was a serial killer in the Boston area for nearly fifteen years, assaulting several young women and responsible for the deaths of as many as seven.

A DEADLY GAME: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE SCOTT PETERSON INVESTIGATION by Catherine Crier
364.1523 CRI
Catherine Crier, a former judge and one of television's most popular legal analysts, offers a riveting and authoritative account of one of the most memorable crime dramas of our time: the murder of Laci Peterson at the hands of her husband, Scott, on Christmas Eve 2002.

A RIP IN HEAVEN: A MEMOIR OF MURDER AND ITS AFTERMATH by Jeanine Cummins
364.1523 CUM
On the night of April 4, 1991, during a spring-break family vacation to St. Louis, Cummins's 19-year-old brother, Tom, and his two female cousins were allegedly attacked while walking on the abandoned Old Chain of Rocks Bridge. Tom survived; the girls did not. Was Tom a victim or the perpetrator?

THE CASES THAT HAUNT US by John E. Douglas
364.1523 DOU
Douglas teams up again with Olshaker, his coauthor on the bestselling Mindhunter (363.25 DOU), to look at eight murder cases that have transfixed the popular imagination.
364.1523 DOU
Douglas offers his insights into one of this country’s most chilling killers—Dennis Rader, a seemingly innocuous family man and municipal employee, whose brutal murders terrorized Wichita, Kans., for three decades.

THE EMBRACE: A TRUE VAMPIRE STORY by Aphrodite Jones
364.1523 JON
The "Vampire Clan" was a loosely knit gang of Southern U.S. teenagers who played at being outcasts and goths, and then pretended to be vampires. The twisted fantasies and dark mind of their young leader, Rod Ferrell, dominate The Embrace.

RED ZONE: THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES STORY OF THE SAN FRANCISCO DOG MAULING by Aphrodite Jones
364.1523 JON
A 33-year-old woman was mauled and killed by dogs that were in the safekeeping of her neighbors. The trial of the victim's neighbors (they were both convicted of involuntary manslaughter) was in the news for months—helped by the fact that the neighbors were attorneys taking care of the dogs for an imprisoned client who happened to be a member of the Aryan Brotherhood.

AMISH GRACE: HOW FORGIVENESS TRANSCENDED TRAGEDY by Donald B. Kraybill
364.1523 KRA, OVERDRIVE AUDIOBOOK
This book takes a behind-the-scenes look at Nickel Mines tragedy in Lancaster County and the soul-searching it took for the Amish people to forgive what seems unforgivable.

THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY: MURDER, MAGIC, AND MADNESS AT THE FAIR THAT CHANGED AMERICA by Erik Larson
364.1523 LAR, BOOK CLUB TO GO, OVERDRIVE EBOOK, OVERDRIVE AUDIOBOOK
Tells the story of the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893 to commemorate Christopher Columbus's discovery of America. The book intertwines the tale of two men: Daniel Burnham and H. H. Holmes. Burnham, the chief architect and mastermind of the Exposition (also known as the White City) inadvertently created a perfect setting for Holmes, one of America's first serial killers.
THUNDERSTRUCK by Erik Larson
364.1523 LAR, LARGE PRINT, CD AUDIOBOOK
Set in Edwardian London and on the coasts of Cornwall, Cape Cod, and Nova Scotia, Thunderstruck tells the interwoven stories of two men—Hawley Crippen, a very unlikely murderer, and Guglielmo Marconi, the obsessive creator of an almost supernatural means of communication. Their lives intersect during one of the greatest criminal chases of all time.

THE BROTHERHOODS: THE TRUE STORY OF TWO COPS WHO MURDERED FOR THE MAFIA by Guy Lawson
364.1523 LAW
The trial of Louis Eppolito and Stephen Caracappa, two retired cops who were convicted of assisting the mafia during their long careers with the NYPD, riveted New York City. Investigative journalist Lawson has captured the story of their downfall with the input of Oldham, the detective who caught them.

BLIND FAITH by Joe McGinniss
364.1523 MCG
In 1984, Rob Marshall, a well-to-do New Jersey businessman, was knocked unconscious at a picnic area, and Maria, his wife, was killed. Police investigation led to Marshall’s trial and, for two of his sons, to the anguishing discovery that their father was behind Maria’s murder.

CRUEL DOUBT by Joe McGinniss
364.1523 MCG
McGinniss recounts the terrible events of July 25, 1988 when Lieth Von Stein was fatally stabbed and his wife Bonnie severely injured. Suspicion quickly focused on Chris, their son, and his friends, college students immersed in a world of drugs, alcohol, and the game Dungeons and Dragons.

INTERNAL COMBUSTION: THE STORY OF A MARRIAGE AND A MURDER IN THE MOTOR CITY by Joyce Maynard
364.1523 MAY
An examination of murder among the middle class. The setting is a gated community in a suburb outside Detroit. On Mother’s Day in 2004, Nancy Seaman, the wife of a successful auto-industry engineer, bought a hatchet at Home Depot. Three days later, her husband’s mutilated body was found in the back of the family’s Ford.
THE WRONG MAN: THE FINAL VERDICT ON THE DR. SAM SHEPPARD MURDER CASE by James Neff
345.02523 NEF
The brutal murder of Marilyn Sheppard in a Cleveland suburb in 1954 led to the wrongful conviction and imprisonment of her husband and precipitated a popular television series (The Fugitive), two hit films and the federal appeals case that made F. Lee Bailey famous. This is a story of "blood, violent death, mystery and sex."

“DOC”: THE RAPE OF THE TOWN OF LOVELL by Jack Olsen
364.153 OLS
For 25 years John Story, who established his medical practice in Lovell in 1958, molested dozens, perhaps even hundreds, of local women. This story tells what took place in Lovell when these events came to light.

THE MISBEGOTTEN SON: A SERIAL KILLER AND HIS VICTIMS by Jack Olsen
364.1523 OLS
Meticulously factual study of child sex-murderer Arthur Shawcross. In the early '70s he murdered two children and was sentenced to up to 25 years in prison; he served less than 15 years before he was paroled in 1987. He was difficult to place but parole officials sent him surreptitiously to Rochester, N.Y., where he killed at least 11 prostitutes.

WHOEVER FIGHTS MONSTERS by Robert Ressler
364.1523 RES
Former FBI agent Ressler coined the term “serial killer” in the 1970s. Writing with [Tom] Schachtman, he recounts in straightforward, fact-filled style his interviews with such infamous murderers as Edmund Kemper, Charles Manson, John Wayne Gacy, William Heirens and Ted Bundy. Before Ressler, the FBI knew surprisingly little about dangerous criminals. His quest—catching and understanding criminals—absorbs and unsettles the reader, placing true crime in the real world. – Publishers Weekly

FACING THE WIND: A TRUE STORY OF TRAGEDY AND RECONCILIATION by Julie Salamon
364.1523 SAL
This true-crime story reaches beyond the genre to ask painful and provocative questions about guilt and forgiveness. In 1978, Bob Rowe, an out-of-work Brooklyn lawyer, killed his two sons, his daughter and wife by bashing their heads in with a baseball bat. He was found not guilty by reason of insanity, and after several years in a mental institution was released. He later remarried and had another daughter.
Eric Thomas sued the Ford Motor Company for the wrongful death of his pregnant wife, Tracy, after a minor accident involving their Explorer. But this seemingly simple product-liability case soon evolved into something far darker and more complex...After an exhaustive investigation, Ford alleged that Tracy Thomas did not die from injuries resulting from a defective air bag. She died because of manual strangulation.

Schiller explores both JonBenet Ramsey’s mysterious death and the exhaustive, yet often mishandled, investigation that has, in the years since the crime, failed to produce either a plausible scenario or a killer.

Memoir by the mother of Emmett Till, a fourteen-year-old black teenager whose 1955 kidnapping and murder (because he allegedly whistled at a white woman) ignited the civil rights movement.

A tale of two men, a respected fire chief and a prolific arsonist who turned out to be one and the same.

Wambaugh tells the engrossing story of two British sex murders and the police hunt for the killer. The title stems from a procedure of genetic fingerprinting detected by examining blood samples, and used by the police to catch the murderer.