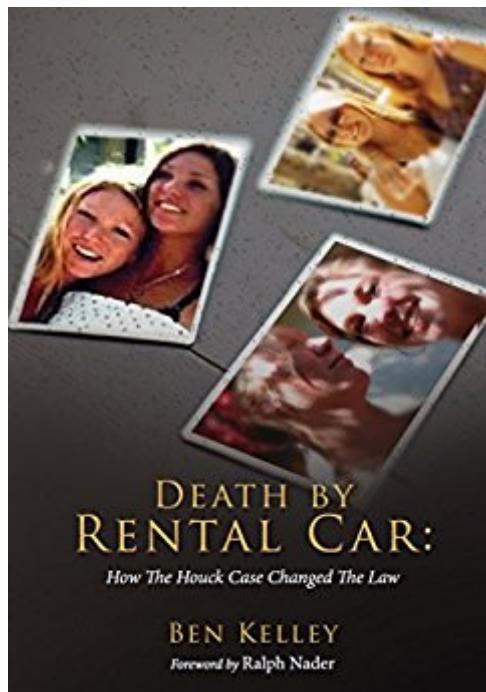


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# Death By Rental Car: How The Houck Case Changed The Law



## **Synopsis**

After sisters Raechel and Jacqueline Houck died in a fiery crash while driving a Chrysler PT Cruiser belonging to Enterprise Rent-A-Car, their parents were shocked to learn that the car was under recall at the time for a flawed brake hose. A small plaintiffsâ™ law firm, Grassini & Wrinkle, agreed to take their case, filing suit against DaimlerChrysler and Enterprise in June 2005. Death by Rental Car: The Houck v. Enterprise Case offers an insiderâ™s view of the six-year court battle between the Houcks and the two corporate defendants, who attempted to blame the crash on the sisters. With a foreword by Ralph Nader, this book uncovers the shocking truth about defective rental cars, deadly malfeasance, and the failure of public policy to close loopholes that allow companies to put profits ahead of consumer safety.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This was a tough read because of the tragic loss of two beautiful young sisters...however, the information with regard to rental car policy and what big corporations will do to undo both lawsuit and family by fighting to stop and change policies and refusing to take responsibility for human life is unbelievably sad. Ben Kelley did a fine job of detailing Enterprise Rental car policies and just what was technically wrong with the car they chose to rent to the girls even with the safety recall being in

place. Opens your eyes to the greed which comes first with corporations, putting money before lives. Very well researched and written.

This was a wonderfully researched treatise on the tragic death of two young adult sisters, who had the misfortune to trust the integrity and safety promises of a rental car company. The book provides an inside look into how profit overrides appropriate safety concerns within the auto industry and the companies that rent vehicles. Mr Kelley takes you into the center of how naive customers are placed at risk through conscious decisions of auto rental companies to not attend to necessary recalls/repairs. His presentation of the civil litigation process will anger those who have never had to endure the deception, transfer of blame, and denial patterns of defendants, even when they KNOW they are responsible and liable for deaths and injuries of harmed plaintiffs. This is an exceedingly well written expose about the unnecessary deaths of two young women caused by corporate greed: profit being placed over human safety. I recommend it highly. James Eddy PhD

Read this book. It'll open up a world you may not know about corporate greed and the love for family...

**A Life Or Death Story of Our Time**  
**Death by Rental Car** is a life or death story of our time. It is a story both of significant individuals and of the giant corporations that simultaneously strive to give us the better lives that we demand, and are perfectly willing to let individuals die in the process. This is a story of what could happen to anyone who currently drives, owns, rents or rides in a motor vehicle. Within its covers we discover some of the human costs of living in today's fast paced economically driven corporate world. Technically sharp, informative and broadly based, the author describes and explains little items such as the minute mechanical design decisions or omissions that can create catastrophic results, as well as major situations that most of us will never experience, such as an engine fire's effect on the passenger compartment of a fast moving modern car traveling at the speed limits of today's interstate highways. Equally fascinating and valuable are the author's descriptions of, and the transcripts for, portions of the legal depositions and subsequent trial. It is all well and good to imagine what happens behind lawyers' closed doors or in the courtroom; included here are transcripts containing the actual words. **Death by Rental Car** reads like a well-written work of fiction. It is a page-turner. But, unlike some of the best fiction, the contents within are all quite real.

I really enjoyed Death by Rental Car--it's a fascinating, horrible story with far-reaching consequences. It's a well-written, compelling cautionary tale, and a must-read for anyone who is interested in how big companies sometimes try to cover up defective products at all costs--even death. Thanks to the expert author, I will never again rent a car without asking if it's ever been the subject of a recall.

Very well written!How a dreadful tragedy was turned around into a positive. How a mother took the most horrific situation imaginable and turned it into a beacon of hope for the unsuspecting public, in the hope no else will ever pay that unspeakable price again The devotion of the parents in this true story is deeply touching,Judy Whittington

The loss of life is heartbreaking, but the courage and moral character of a mother rejecting a multi-million dollar corporate hush money offer in lieu of accomplishing greater good is truly inspiring.

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