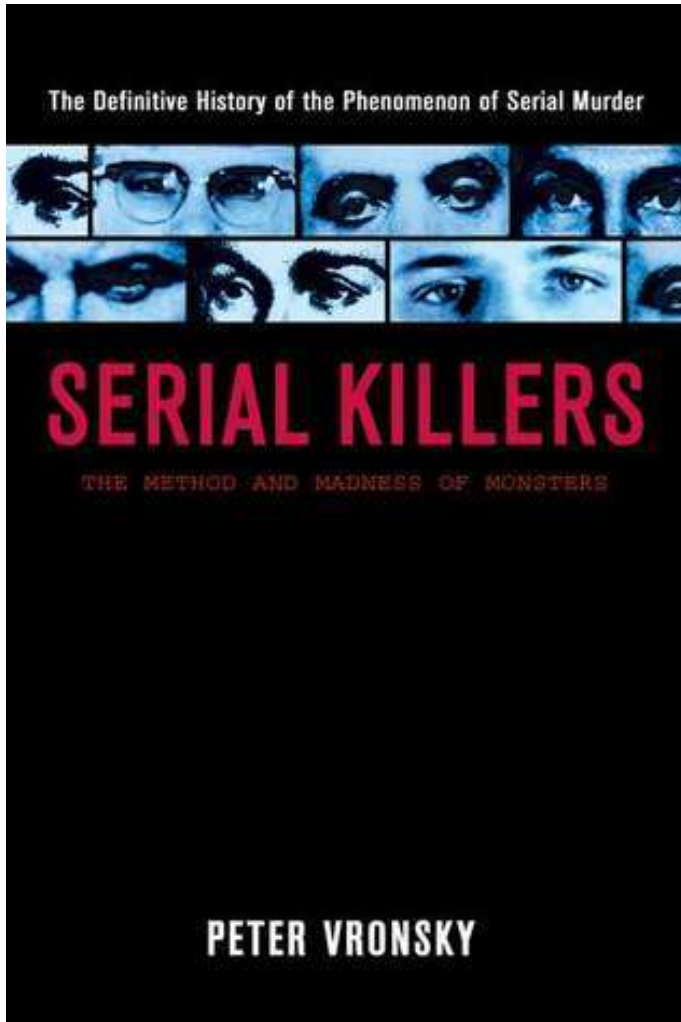

Peter Vronsky

Serial Killers: The Method and Madness of Monsters



Title: Serial Killers: The Method and Madness of Monsters

Author: Peter Vronsky

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Description

The comprehensive examination into the frightening history of serial homicide.

In this unique book, Peter Vronsky documents the psychological, investigative, and cultural aspects of serial murder, beginning with its first recorded instance in Ancient Rome, through fifteenth-century France, up to such notorious contemporary cases as cannibal/necrophile Ed Kemper, Henry Lee Lucas, Ted Bundy, and the emergence of what he classifies as the "serial rampage killer" such as Andrew Cunanan.

Vronsky not only offers sound theories on what makes a serial killer, but also provides concrete suggestions on how to survive an encounter with one—from recognizing verbal warning signs to physical confrontational resistance. Exhaustively researched with transcripts of interviews with killers, and featuring up-to-date information on the apprehension and conviction of the Green River Killer and the Beltway Snipers, Vronsky's one-of-a-kind book covers every conceivable aspect of an endlessly riveting true-crime phenomenon.

Insightful reviews

Kelsey: Really interesting book! Good for those who like or are studying psychology or criminology!

Christian Engler: Peter Vronsky's fascinating book is jam packed with an abundance of cultural, psychological, sociological and investigative insights into how and why serial killers emerge. The amount of detail and in-depth exploration in this work will certainly carry a reader into the dark unimaginable inner realm of human evil. And there in an abundance of case histories (some notorious, others less so, but still unimaginably horrific and disturbing) from which Vronsky cites. However, before he journeys into the lives of the monsters he chillingly writes about, he recounts with a vividness his own incredible and inadvertent meeting with not one but two (not yet captured) serial killers, most notably Andrei Chikatilo, a.k.a., The Butcher of Rostov as well as Richard Cottingham, a.k.a., The Torso Killer of New Jersey and New York. Long before Vronsky acquired a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice History and Espionage in International Relations, he worked in many facets of the documentary and film business, and these two chance encounters only helped in germinating his budding interest in the dark area of the human psyche.

While there are many aspects of this book that are quite compelling and well laid out (read the Brief History of Serial Homicide in Part I, most notably the case histories of Gilles de Rais, the original Bluebeard near Nantes, France and Countess Elizabeth Bathroy, The Vampire Blood Countess of Transylvania), I found the section, labeled Part II and III, to be especially informative, essentially because Vronsky addresses the various aspects and operations of the Behavioral Sciences Division of the FBI; he lays out the criminal profiling team's system of categories and subcategories, of organized sexual homicide, disorganized sexual homicide and mixed sexual homicide. From these categories emerge subcategories all the way downward, almost like a trickle down effect whereby a behavioral scientist can decipher-via the available

evidence at a crime scene-whether or not the perpetrator is married, was a bed wetter as a child or had a speech impediment while growing up, et cetera. Every behavioral nuance is labeled and micro analyzed repeatedly until a likely and credible profile is established. It is like a fractured and scattered chain whereby investigators try to connect the correct link with the previous one. The blow-by-blow depictions of the tools and techniques that are used in the cat and mouse chase of police against criminal is heart pounding, to say the least. And while the abundant descriptions and histories offered in the book-from killer to victim profile-does pander, intellectually, at least, to the baser interests of the wider public, it does offer some good scrupulous insights as to why men and women develop into the gruesome and nightmarish monsters that are so often depicted on celluloid. But truth is more disturbing than fiction. Vronsky's case assessments and facts attest to that truth.

As stated above, the book is certainly filled to the brim with a laundry list of serial killers, some more well known than other, but they are all on equal par (in my book) due to their deeds. While they all kill differently and uniquely in their own horrific way, the end results are still the same. And the insatiable thirst for lust and murder is never fully quenched, only more honed and developed, the mask of normalcy adjusted just right so an unsuspecting society does not raise an eyebrow of suspicion. Vronsky's book, in my view, is probably one of the better ones out there, lest you compare it to the Crime Classification Manual (CCM) or even remotely to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). If anything, works like this and others similar to it will certainly raise a clarion call of alertness to a general apathetic populace. A disturbing yet informative read!

James: A rather scary read, with many 'scary' moments for me personally. The two episodes of the writer encountering two serial killers on separate occasions give me goosebumps. Many of the quotes Vronsky chooses to open his chapters make me shudder. A few examples:

These crimes and offenses I committed solely for my evil pleasure and evil delight, to no other end or with no other intention, without anyone's counsel and only in accordance with my imagination.

—GILLES DE RAIS, Confession, 1440

When we remember that we are all mad, the mysteries disappear and life stands explained.
—MARK TWAIN

Take it from one who knows: It pays to be paranoid.
—DANNY ROLLING (The Gainesville Ripper)

Considering the recent surge of Indonesian serial killers, someone should translate and publish this book into Indonesian!

Ruslan Farben: this is often the absolute top e-book in the market on serial killing. how it is written you could crack open the ebook at any web page and skim through, like a television show. He repeats occasionally a idea or a sentence if you happen to overlooked an immense aspect during this random approach, however it doesn't damage whether you learn it from web page one instantly via to the end. i love that he doesn't current himself as a few form of profiler

professional yet methods the phenomenon of serial killers with worry and beauty from our personal beginner issues of view, yet underneath it's the services of a historian and tale teller. it is a very well written and gripping publication with no the standard bragging that so-called 'expert' profilers indulge in. Many 'experts' huff and puff how unwell and wicked their serial killing matters are, yet Vronsky virtually objectively slips into their minds revealing what's fairly going on. completely amazing ebook with a few amazingly frightening stories. The final chapter, on easy methods to continue to exist a serial killer while you're unfortunate sufficient to be captured via one, is the scariest--how skinny the road could be among dying and survival. Serial Killers: the tactic and insanity of Monsters

Terra: rather a lot interesting, nice information! you won't lose interest studying this book!

Amilia: Very interesting. not just does it inform you short histories of not just what the killers did, but additionally their very own own historical past (growing up and existence story). i believe it supplies an impartial view. And explains the FBI's profiling approach in huge summaries and provides you a bit historical past of the forensic psychology in the back of the killers.

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