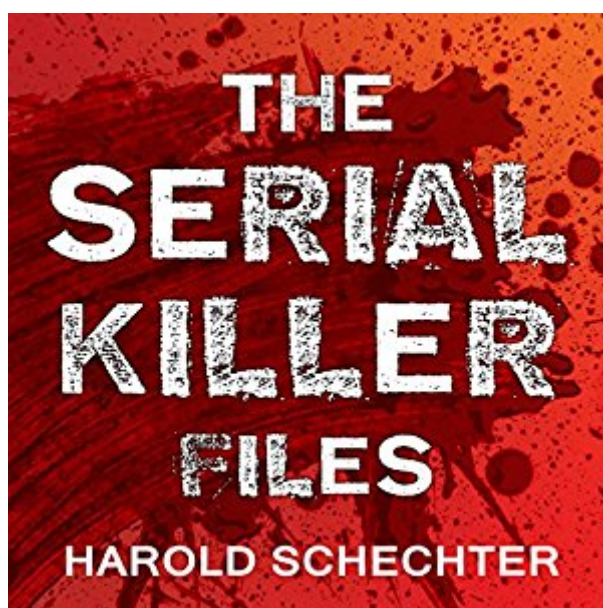


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# The Serial Killer Files: The Who, What, Where, How, And Why Of The World's Most Terrifying Murderers



## Synopsis

Hollywood's make-believe maniacs like Jason, Freddy, and Hannibal Lecter can't hold a candle to real-life monsters like John Wayne Gacy, Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer, and scores of others who have terrorized, tortured, and terminated their way across civilization throughout the ages. Now, from the much-acclaimed author of *Deviant*, *Deranged*, and *Depraved*, comes the ultimate resource on the serial killer phenomenon. Rigorously researched, this innovative and highly compelling compendium covers every aspect of multiple murderers, including psychology, cinema, fetishism, fan clubs, "trophies", and trading cards.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Very exhaustive research by the author. The book is very informative, interesting, and hard to put down. I recommend this book for anyone interested in serial killers, their motivations, and methods. I worked on death row for 23 1/4 years and got to know several serial killers personally and the book is spot on. 

For a person interested in the psychology and facts surrounding serial killers through history this is a must read. Harold Schechter has the ability to convey the facts and details of a case without over inflating or dramatizing them but at the same time without sounding completely scientific and inhuman. I spent hours back checking facts and reading further on the fates of killers and victims in many of the cases he references, for which there are many (I want to say hundreds but I'm not

completely sure that's true). I found the evolution of the public understanding of serial killers to be fascinating. Schechter does not follow a chronology but rather tackles key elements and common themes behind serial killers and then uses examples found across centuries to bring to light the key details behind the psychology or behaviour patterns of said themes. Very well done.

Oh yes, I am a lady with raunchy humour, and a deviant curiosity into the morbid. It is fascinating and educational. I didn't purchase this for me, but my 4th son, who is as warped as I, was so enamored with it, I thought I would take a peek... read the whole thing in two days. Now, I have a Masters in Forensics, and I learned a couple things from this book. Well written, easily to comprehend (if your not simple), and graphic enough to hold your attention. I did find it a little "jumping around". Disorganized is not at all what it is, but you will find yourself flipping here and there more than a couple times. But, overall, I did like it, as well as those whom I have lended it to.

I absolutely enjoy reading about true crime and serial killers. I've always wondered why they interested me and why it is that they do what they do. What is it in their heads that make them just decide to go on killing sprees? This book answered a lot of my questions as well as corrected some of my misconceptions on the subject. I have always thought that in order to be a serial killer, you had to be a genius in order to get away with it for so long. In fact, this book states that is on the contrary and that some of them were of average intelligence. If you enjoy reading these types of books, this is a must read. However, I will warn you, there are some stories they tell about some of the serial killers that may be disturbing. I have read some books that have pretty disturbing stories and even they did not compare to some of the stories in this book. That being said, I still feel this is a very good read and would recommend it to anyone and have already recommended it to some of my true crime reading friends.

I am finding myself consumed with all of Schechters works so far. This was a great read. I learned a ton of new info about books, authors, artists. The only reason for just four stars is it is quite repetitive. Many killers are referenced numerous times and each time the same short description follows. Its almost like every chapter was written separately for something else then just compiled in this book. But it doesn't ruin the book by any means. I would still highly recommend it along with any and all of his other books.

This book is not for the squeamish. I enjoy the horror genres as well as learning about the

psychology behind why people do some of the things they do, and this book does not disappoint. The author delves more into the reasons why these sociopaths do what they do which I found very interesting and enlightening. It is an educated, well-written look at the subject. There are some details that may make people cringe, but overall it does a nice job of delivering the material. One other point that I really liked were all the links and suggestions for further reading throughout the book. For those wanting more, the author does provide numerous avenues.

Though disturbing, this book was highly graphic and had a lot of information about these serial killers I almost wish I never knew. To anyone interested in reading this, first ask yourself, do I have a weak stomach? If the answer is maybe - I don't recommend you read it. There were several of the killers I barely made it through just knowing that it was a real person. The book itself was very interesting and well-written, it's the content you need to prepare yourself for.

It's a reference book but reads well cover-to-cover, or you can just look up the specific topics you're interested in. But you'll end up reading the whole thing. Covers all the basics (Gacy, Bundy, Dahmer. . . . and the difference between serial killers and mass murderers) plus a hundred other things I'd never heard of (African American serial killers, or weirdest ways of dumping the bodies). . . . also has a whole comic book about a serial killer named Panzram.

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