



The Killers Among Us: Examination of Serial Murder and Its Investigations (2nd Edition)

By Steven A. Egger

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For undergraduate/graduate-level courses in Special Topics in Criminal Justice, Deviance, Criminal Investigation, Special Topics in Policing, and Advanced Criminology. Explicit in detail, yet sensitive in perspective, this text describes and analyzes the phenomenon of serial murder and discusses why these killers kill as well as various methods of identifying and catching them. It provides vital and up-to-date information to criminal investigators, criminologists, crime writers and anyone interested in the phenomenon of serial murder. Detailed case studies of seven infamous serial killers are presented-Henry Lee Lucas, John Wayne Gacy, Kenneth Bianchi, Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer, Joseph Miller, and Jerry Marcus-with an in-depth cross-analysis of these cases. An exploration of the history and challenges related to the investigation of serial murder is also included.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

Definition of a Serial Killer: A series of two or more murders, committed as separate events usually, but not always, by one offender acting alone. The crimes may occur over a time ranging from hours to years. Quite often the motive is psychological, and the offender's behavior and the physical evidence observed at the scene will reflect sadistic and sexual overtones.

– The Definition of a Serial Killer (Brooks et al., 1988)

This book takes the reader into the complex world of serial killers by providing a detailed account of seven up-to-date cases, the myths surrounding serial murderers and the reasons why they continue to kill, the seven major problems of investigating a serial murder, and an analysis of the fourteen different law enforcement agencies who respond to a serial murder.

New to the second edition:

- An expanded chapter on how the media treats the phenomenon of serial murder
- An essay on victimology
- An expanded chapter on the victims of serial killers
- Three new cases
- Numerous examples of serial killers, both on a national and international basis
- A discussion on the concept of "the less dead" or how victims of serial killers are devalued

About the Author

Steven A. Egger is professor of Criminal justice at the University of Illinois at Springfield. He was formerly interim dean of the School of Health and Human Services at the University of Illinois. He was project director of the Homicide Assessment and Lead Tracking System (HALT) for the state of New York. HALT, which was the first statewide computerized system to track and identify serial murderers, has become the model for the development of a number of other statewide systems.

Dr. Egger has been conducting research on serial murder since 1983. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from the School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University. He has a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University, where he completed the first dissertation on serial murder in the world. He has worked as a police officer, homicide investigator, police consultant, and law enforcement academy director. His other research interests include the epistemology of criminal investigation, police interagency networking, and the future predator.

He is the author of *Serial Murder: An Elusive Phenomenon* (Praeger, 1990), editor of a series of monographs entitled Criminology and Crime Control Policy for Praeger, and series editor of a series entitled Issues in Criminal Justice Controversy, under contract to Allyn and Bacon. He has lectured on serial murder in England, Canada, the Netherlands, and Spain.

Dr. Egger and his wife, Kim, are currently working on an encyclopedia of serial murder, which will include entries on over seven hundred serial killers.

Kim A. Egger studied at Purdue University and has a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Illinois at Springfield. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Law and Psychology. She has co-authored, with Steven Egger, a chapter on the victims of serial murder in a monograph on victimology. For the past ten years she has been developing a database on serial killers, which currently holds information on 1,246 serial murderers. She has lectured at Purdue University, the University of Illinois at Springfield, and Brazosport College, Texas.

Don Larsen is a detective with the Springfield, Illinois, -Police Department. He holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Linda Kreuger was formerly a part-time patrol officer with the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office. She is currently employed in Rehabilitation Administration for the state of Illinois. She holds a master's degree in Rehabilitation from Southern Illinois University.

Both Don and Linda were previously enrolled in Steven Egger's course on serial murder at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

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The first edition of this book, published in 1998, was my second attempt to provide an overview of the phenomenon of serial murder and to discuss its investigation. This was essentially an update of my first book on serial murder, *Serial Murder: An Elusive Phenomenon*, published in 1990 by Praeger Publishers. This second edition of *The Killers Among Us* provides an expanded overview and exploration of the phenomenon of serial murder and its investigation using the same basic format as the first edition. Minor editorial revisions have been made throughout the book.

Part I has been updated and expanded, with the addition of minor myths to the major myths of serial murder discussed in Chapter 1 and the inclusion of additional theories of the etiology of serial murder in Chapter 2. A discussion of a number of serial killers in the United States and internationally has been added to Chapter 3. My essay, "Serial Killing of the Lambs in Our Dreams: Concept of the 'Less-Dead,'" now stands alone as an introduction to Chapter 4 on victims, which has been completely rewritten by Kim Egger to include the results of a preliminary analysis of her database of 1,246 serial killers identified worldwide between 1990 and 1999. Chapter 5, which discusses mass media treatment of serial murder, has been completely rewritten and expanded.

Part II now includes seven case studies of serial killers rather than four. The study of Jeffrey Dahmer, which appeared alone in Part IV of the first edition, is now included with the other case studies. Two additional case studies are new to this edition. The case study of Joseph Miller, written by Don Larson, describes Miller's killings in the Chicago and Peoria, Illinois, areas. The case study of Jerry Marcus, written by Linda Kreuger, describes Marcus's killings in three southern states. Marcus is unique among the seven case studies in that he is African American and also because most of his victims were women he knew. Chapter 13 presents a cross-case analysis of these seven case studies.

Only minor changes have been made in Part III since the status of serial murder investigation has remained essentially unchanged.

As in the first edition, Part IV briefly discusses the future of the phenomenon and of its investigation.

This book is intended for a variety of audiences. Students attempting to understand the phenomenon of serial murder and its investigation will find the book useful. It is designed as a text for a separate course on serial

murder or as a supplement to a variety of college and university courses, including Criminology, Criminal Justice, Victimology, Deviant Behavior, Penology, Criminal Investigation, and Abnormal Behavior. Crime writers should find this book useful as a research tool. It is my hope that criminal investigators will also find this book useful in dealing with serial murder investigations or in becoming prepared to respond to such an investigation.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shawn Holmes:

The book *The Killers Among Us: Examination of Serial Murder and Its Investigations* (2nd Edition) gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can to be your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem using your subject. If you can make reading through a book *The Killers Among Us: Examination of Serial Murder and Its Investigations* (2nd Edition) being your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about many or all subjects. You may know everything if you like wide open and read a reserve *The Killers Among Us: Examination of Serial Murder and Its Investigations* (2nd Edition). Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this publication?

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Andrew Gillon:

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