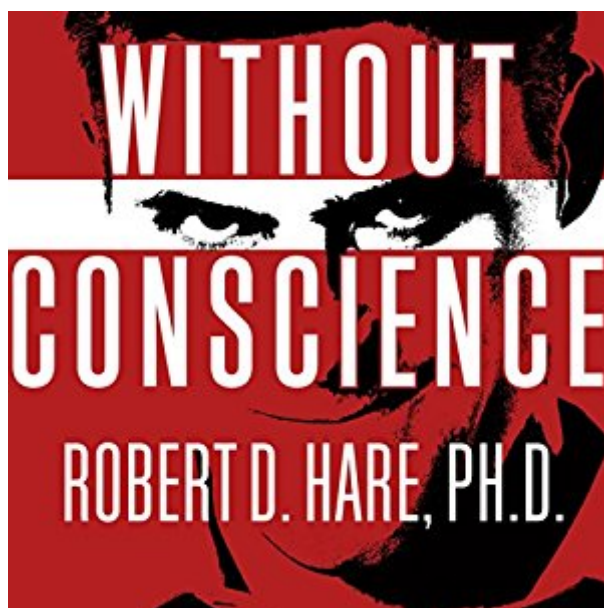


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# Without Conscience: The Disturbing World Of The Psychopaths Among Us



## Synopsis

Most people are both repelled and intrigued by the images of cold-blooded, conscienceless murderers that increasingly populate our movies, television programs, and newspaper headlines. With their flagrant criminal violation of society's rules, serial killers like Ted Bundy and John Wayne Gacy are among the most dramatic examples of the psychopath. Individuals with this personality disorder are fully aware of the consequences of their actions and know the difference between right and wrong, yet they are terrifyingly self-centered, remorseless, and unable to care about the feelings of others. Perhaps most frightening, they often seem completely normal to unsuspecting targets. Presenting a compelling portrait of these dangerous men and women based on 25 years of distinguished scientific research, Dr. Robert D. Hare vividly describes a world of con artists, hustlers, rapists, and other predators who charm, lie, and manipulate their way through life. Are psychopaths mad, or simply bad? How can they be recognized? And how can we protect ourselves? This book provides solid information and surprising insights for anyone seeking to understand this devastating condition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Chilling, Engaging & Cogent. "There had always been something odd about..." "Several percent of the population is psychopathic to some degree: those without use for a conscience. From page 102: (To Dr. Hare)..." "Your work, I think, will assist us in convincing courts to understand why educated men in three-piece suits commit crime and what must be done at sentencing." Dr. Hare is a pioneer,

and the reason we are now aware of the psychopath and what he can do. Dr. Hare also pioneered a project that allowed a simple task, done while being monitored by an EEG machine, to leave a highly legible "signature" of abnormal brain function in those who lacked ability to discern the difference between happy, sad, fearful or angry faces. His test subjects came from a maximum security prison, most of whom were brutal and remorseless. Psychopaths lack empathy, and many do not truly understand normal human emotions, which is why they have difficulty identifying the differences of emotion expressed on human faces. Psychopaths come in degrees of severity, which is why some can work their wills and still "pass." The Hollywood psychopath is annoying because it is usually built on a false stereotype, a caricature that clouds discernment. Most are of average intelligence. I find him repulsively fascinating and once knew one for several years, before I began learning about psychopaths and psychopathy (see CAH path EE). I am so fortunate to have gotten a court order and scared him away. I am so thankful that he was of such very low intelligence, and that he was cowardly. He was a stalker, a wife-beater, and a liar extraordinaire. He could lie as easily as breathing, and when a lie was proven to be a lie, he had no facial affect, showed no emotion. I did not know of psychopaths then. I gave him a kitten for a companion, and before it was grown, he brutally murdered it. In 2007 I obtained a permanent restraining order in court, and between his fear of me (I wasn't abuse material; I reacted to him as though I was tougher than I really was), and his fear of being locked up has kept him away. I am thankful all the time that he was of such low intelligence, and so inwardly cowardly that he was incapable of planning or confrontation. He was a life-lesson.

If you are moving around in the world of people who call themselves leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, business angels, thought leaders etc. then this book may help you navigate safely.

Psychopaths are scary individuals. The worst part? Many of them play us and we don't realize it until the damage is done. You can protect yourself somewhat by having knowledge of their behavior. If things start making you uncomfortable, or just don't seem right, don't wait until it's too late. If you are a good person, you may not be able to imagine how people can act like they do, but better to take your losses and move on early in the process. They don't necessarily have to be criminals, either. Some very successful people are psychopaths. "He will choose you, disarm you with his words, and control you with his presence. He will delight you with his wit and his plans. He will show you a good time but you will always get the bill..."

This is a wonderful study of a personality defect. Yes, he has worked with a lot of criminals, but I'd guess that that's simply because psychopaths are easier to find in that population. . . . since psychopaths simply don't care to reveal themselves and many function well--even if at the expense of the rest of us--in society and business. I recommend this for anybody to read. I picked it up because I have become aware that one of my friends just wasn't "right" in his dealings with others--treating them as objects instead of people with feelings! Very weird, but this book takes a hard look at that dynamic. Worse, our village suffered the shock of the criminality of a psychopath amidst us when a respected businessman was arrested for kidnapping and torture. We all knew him. Now, it's a bit easier to understand WHY we never, in 45 years, ever saw what he was inside the facade.

Hare does a good job of explaining what a psychopath is. Though you won't finish the book and be an expert at diagnosing the condition in others, you will, however have a better idea about what compels these people to do what they do. Some of the people described in the book may remind you of some people in your life.

Pretty technical writing but very compelling. If you jsut want to know how to deal with a psychopath or other personality disorder a better read would be In Sheeps Clothing. This one will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about psychos and with case studies so very interesting.

According to this book about 1-3% of men and 1% of women are psychopaths. This book is a basic survival guide for recognizing them and mitigating effects of the wake of wreckage that they cause. A psychopath is not necessarily a homicidal maniac. Psychopaths exist in every calling and occupation. If you believe that you have encountered a psychopath, get online and find Dr. Hare's Psychopathy Checklist, then get this book along with Dr. Hare's book "Snakes in Suits." If you are in a management position this is a must read! This book is so well written that a reader will be drawn in by the descriptions of the psychopathic characters that Dr. Hare has encountered. The reader will recognize from the case studies that he or she has more likely than not encountered a psychopath at some point. The thing that I most appreciate about this book is Dr. Hare's candor. He does not claim to have all the answers; neither does he set out a course for treatment for the psychopath. He does not attempt to excuse the psychopath's bad behavior with the traditional bad childhood, brain injury, whining approach taken by many in his field. According to Hare, there is no treatment for the psychopath. If believe that you are currently dealing with a psychopath after reading this book don't

try to help the psychopath, rather cut your losses, mitigate your damages, and get away!

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