

# The Encyclopedia Of Serial Killers (Facts On File Crime Library)



## Synopsis

Provides information on hundreds of serial murder cases - from early history. This book includes major serial killers, as well as many older cases that have been solved, such as the Green River Killer, or further investigated like Jack the Ripper and the Zodiac Killer. It covers entries and appendixes, which pair with more than 30 photographs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Arranged alphabetically to include case histories of individual serial killers and essays on general topics, this reference work would appear to be the perfect companion to Jay Robert Nash's *Encyclopedia of World Crime: Criminal Justice, Criminology and Law Enforcement* (1989. o.p.). However, close examination reveals several flaws. The first is that Newton (*Serial Slaughter*) never explains his criteria for inclusion--a serious problem, in that he includes people like Josef Mengele (generally considered not a serial but a mass murderer). The second, related problem concerns the way he defines serial killer. By FBI standards, a serial killer is a person who murders three or more people. But Newton doesn't define his terms until two-thirds of the way into the book--and then he uses the National Institute of Justice's definition (that is, a person who murders two or more people) and argues that this should be the accepted one. Unfortunately, until someone else writes a better book on this topic, Newton's will have to do. Purchase cautiously. -Michael Sawyer, Northwestern Regional Lib., Elkin, NC Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

.. "a good source of general information on the topic from a reputable publisher ...an excellent choice..."

I am a Criminal Justice major. This is actually a textbook for one of my classes! Suffice it to say, it's my favorite class. This book is fascinating. I'm a long-time student of serial killers and I would recommend this to anyone who is interested in this topic. Truth is stranger than fiction and much more compelling!

I got this for Christmas. I love it. It reads just like an encyclopedia and you can look people up by name. I wish I had gotten it in hardcover, but I still love it in softcover for sure.

What I really appreciate about this is the lack of gore-based information. It's scientific. We get brief details regarding the killings themselves, but more about the criminals. If you are interested in the history of these killers, this is a must-have. If you're looking for gory details, it's not for you.

I spent a great amount of time one night just reading all this crazy and insane information on what these people did. Easy to read, and super cool as a gift. Got this one for my boyfriend but I think I ended up liking it more than he did. Makes for a great coffee table book

I read this book cover to cover in 5 days! Very informative, thorough, provoking, intense, exciting & I couldn't stop reading it. I only wished there were more photos of each killer & often times more information about them individually. I would highly recommend this piece of art literature to any student studying abnormal behavior, psychopaths, sociopaths & even rarely schizophrenics. This Encyclopedia is one of a kind and a "must have" for anyone fascinated by killers in our society today as well as from the killers that are now in the grave. We may never know "Why" some killers get addicted to the hunt & act of murder that they feel compelled to keep killing until they get caught or until they are dead. I'm intrigued with death, murder, violence, sex and true crime and I'm a freak but I am comforted by the fact that I am NOT the ONLY FREAK because murder sells somewhere in the billions of dollars each year. Its worth every penny~ You gotta buy this book!

This is a fascinating read for true crime buffs. The author's stated purpose is to "demystify, as far as possible, those predators in human form who have been with us since the dawn of history..." Serial

killers at large are so frightening that they end up touching all of our lives--most especially in the United States, where 84% of all known serial killers have committed their crimes since 1980. I first became aware of this type of human predator when I was a student at the University of Michigan, and John Norman Collins was murdering coeds with pierced ears and long brown hair. California native Michael Newton has published 181 books since 1977, including 147 novels but he is best known for his true crime and reference works. I have to say that I assumed this author was British because of his concise, witty style and also for his tendency to critique other true crime authors who failed to get their facts straight, including the names of a serial killer's victims. One of his special peeves is the term 'spree killer,' and he also doesn't seem to think much of profilers. Most of the entries in this encyclopedia are concerned with the serial killers themselves, whether they acted alone, in twosomes, or in packs. One of the biggest surprises for me was the large number of serial killers who are or were women. Something like 12% of all serial killers are female, and Hungarian women seem especially prone to this behavior, starting with Countess Erzsebet B'thory in the sixteenth century whose final body count was somewhere between 300 and 650 victims. In the early 1900s, Vera Renczi murdered 35 husbands, lovers, and a son and was arrested by the police only after they searched her basement and discovered 35 zinc coffins. "Some evenings, Vera liked to sit among the coffins in an armchair and enjoy the company of her adoring beaux." Then there were the "Angel Makers of Nagyrev"...Well, let me just close by remarking that "The Encyclopedia of Serial Killers" is an extremely interesting source of information on the darker side of human nature. In addition to the encyclopedia entries, there are also appendices on "Solo Killers," "Team Killers," and "Unresolved Cases," plus an extensive bibliography.

I love the way the book is set up and how it goes so into detail. It's not just like a paragraph for every killer or group. For example, Aileen Wuornos has about 4 pages all to herself. The book was in great condition when I received it and was thicker than expected, haha!! I find serial killers fascinating and this book is a great way to obtain the information.

Love this book, Still one of my favorites

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