



Profiling: The Psychology of Catching Killers

David L. Owen

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The true stories of how professional profilers help catch serial killers.

Profiling reveals the confidential arsenal of tactics that real-life FBI investigators used to solve some of the most horrific murders in modern history. It begins with an overview of how profiling was first developed as a viable technique, followed by illustrated chapters that describe the specific parts of the profiling process:

- The FBI's crime scene analysis procedure
- Crime scene facts and evidence
- The organized and disorganized classifications of violent serial offenders
- Geographical profiling
- Types of rape and the clues they leave
- A serial killer's crime signature
- Identifying child abductors and abusers
- Profiling criminals through written documents
- How profilers work with other investigators and interrogators

Profiling focuses on 50 notorious true crimes to explain profiling, describing how crime scene evidence is processed and revealing the psychological clues and how the profilers helped to solve the case. Some of these headline-grabbing cases are:

- The Black Dahlia murder investigation
- David Carpenter, the Trailside Killer
- Robert Hansen, a highly organized killer who abducted prostitutes and left them in the Alaska wilderness so he could hunt them with a rifle
- Ted Bundy
- Jeffrey Dahmer

Profiling is the gripping behind-the-scenes story of a topic that has had fans of *Criminal Minds* and the *CSI* series glued to their television screens for many years.

Profiling: The Psychology of Catching Killers Details

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Catie says

This book is disturbing. fascinating but very disturbing, threre are some photos, but it was so interesting, it is so hard to grasp the way the serial killers think. its a very good book. if your easily grossed out i would not reccommend it but if your not, go for it!

Nikki (anintrovertedbookworm) says

This was a good book. I loved the layout of it all and the pictures with the captions were cool as well. I've read better books but I highly enjoyed the case studies.

Grazyna Nawrocka says

The book was shocking. It made me realize that "Criminal Minds" might reflect reality. I thought that TV serial creators were trying to cause sensation and rubbed it in. Knowing about all those killers depressed me and brought some paranoia. Anyway, the book is good as an introduction to profiling. It explains in concise, very systematic and clear way logical premises of this part of criminology.

Hannah says

This really helped my profiling research! The cases interest me so much, it made me realize that this is definitely the career for me!

Megan says

Lots and lots of case histories here, but I found the book a bit lacking, and it was organized in a confusing way. It definitely packs a lot of visuals, but it ends up looking more cluttered than informative.

Niki McLaren says

I have an uneasy obsession with crime. If you're with me this book will explain what to look for in order to catch a criminal. Not that I will ever apply this knowledge unless I am watching Criminal Minds. . .

Anne Marie says

Very interesting and fascinating but not incredibly organized nor well written. Second to last case was like the summary but then a piece about suicide bombers was last and ended abruptly & didn't feel well tied in to the rest of the book.

Sometimes there were introductory sentences that were not followed up by the completion of the thought. Luckily, I was happy to read about the psychology behind it all so was glad to overlook the loose and not always totally coherent writing style.

There were also quite a few typos and/or spelling errors, sometimes in really noticeable places, too. This also took away from the attempts at filler (there's plenty of visuals/photos) to make things appear more "ooh and ah."

Pauline says

An informative read on serial killers, their method of killing and how they were eventually caught (or not). The book breaks it down into several sections outlining how a criminal profiler would use information gathered at the scene of the crime to compose a picture of who the criminal could be.

It gives a lot of basic backgrounds on a lot of killer. There are a lot of the well known ones (such as Dalmer, Jack the Ripper and others) as well as lesser known killers. It's a great book if you want to know more about how profilers operate but if you want a lot more details about the killers and their background you aren't going to get it here.

David Alexander says

It was an interesting book and it showed me how profilers draw up an image of the killer, but it was at time slow. Overall, I'm glad I read it, it taught me a lot about FBI profiling
