



Lethal Marriage: The Unspeakable Crimes of Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka

Nick Pron

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One of Canada's finest crime reporters tells the whole story of the Bernardo-Homolka case.

The sensational trials of Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka for abduction, rape, manslaughter and murder caused widespread controversy, as did the twelve-year sentence Homolka received as part of her deal with government lawyers. Yet, even though the publication ban on the case has been lifted, there is much the Canadian public still has not been told.

Nick Pron now gives us a comprehensive account of previously banned information about Bernardo and Homolka's backgrounds and early relationship; of Homolka's role in the death of her sister, Tammy; of what turned Bernardo into a sadistic rapist and killer; of slipshod police work and lack of communication that gave Bernardo and Homolka the opportunity to murder schoolgirls Leslie Mahaffy and Kristen French; of the fifteen-month suppression of key videotape evidence; and a host of disturbing facts that were ruled inadmissible at the trial.

Warning: This book contains graphic descriptions of violence.

From the Paperback edition.

Lethal Marriage: The Unspeakable Crimes of Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka Details

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Author : Nick Pron

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From Reader Review Lethal Marriage: The Unspeakable Crimes of Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka for online ebook

Jim says

A reasonably well-written account of the atrocities committed by this husband and wife team of monsters. This case was notable because of the infamous gag order effectively preventing the press from reporting on many details of the murders. The book contains transcripts of the notorious murder video recordings and the reader is warned that much of this is graphic and gruesome. If there were any real justice in Canada, this pair would be dancing at the end of a rope.

Julia Sapphire says

DNF about 150 pages in

I didn't DNF this due to flaws with the writing or with the structure of this. By far this is the most DISTURBING book I have ever read! Reading this hits so close to home for me and is truly terrifying to read about. I read 150 pages for my law class as I am doing an essay on this case but I can't bring myself to finish this book. The rape scenes and the abuse and murder is so DETAILED. It feels like your right there and it is beyond difficult to read in depth scenes with these two lover criminals. I don't understand how this was published with the VERY descriptive scenes this book includes. Mind you there is a warning on the back for violence but I did not expect what I read. I think the case could have been told just as well without the graphic descriptions. By know means did I want the case to be written untruthful but it didn't need to be this descriptive. I would not recommend this to anyone who is triggered by RAPE, SEXUAL ASSAULT. etc. If you are a true crime reader and you think you can read it, maybe give it ago. I have heard now that there are some better books having to do with this case though.

Jenn says

This True Crime was a little close to home, since it happened right around the corner from here. I even remember one of the guys I used to work with told me he had once been on vacation with Paul and a bunch of other guys. Creepy to the extreme! I think both of these two should have been shot, dismembered and dragged behind a horse while being set on fire.

Sherry says

I was interested to learn more about this case having worked as a CSI and having an interest in true crime, especially such a famous case from my new home country. However, I struggled to finish this book and did skip sections. Whilst I accept that the true crime genre can have a voyeuristic quality, this went too far with a multitude of very long detailed descriptions of certain events that went well beyond what could possibly be known from the transcripts. Poetic licence has no place in this type of book and I was disappointed at the blatant attempt to shock, as these crimes were shocking enough.

Jessica says

This is probably the most disturbing set of criminals I have read about. Their actions and what they did to their victims was disgusting. I found myself getting sick to my stomach at some points of the graphic descriptions of the crimes against these poor girls. The issue I have with this book is that there were so many typos that it was very distracting at points. Also I didn't really like the voice of the author and felt this book would have benefited from someone with a stronger writing style and less biased opinion. The author clearly feels pity for Homolka and for the majority of the book paints her more or less as a victim of Paul Bernardo's abuse. That is not to say the alleged abuse Homolka suffered at the hands of her husband wasn't horrific. However there was too much she did on her own, before the abuse started to write her off as innocent. I was appalled at the leniency of Holmolka's sentence in the end.

Kate says

I come from Buffalo, NY, not too far across the US/Canadian border from where these crimes occurred. Once I started, I couldn't put the book down. I spent much of the time reading it crying, so it took longer than normal to read. This book gives actual quotes from the videotapes made of the murders. Mr. Pron writes about the murders of Tammy, Leslie and Kristen, using language from the tapes and transcripts of the trial. The reader gets a detailed account of Paul and Karla's sick & twisted relationship. I am glad Paul will never get out of prison. My only hope is that Karla will never have a decent night's sleep nor a day of peace. And I send my thoughts, prayers and good vibrations that her son (yes, she had a baby after getting out of prison!) will survive life with this "Mommy Dearest"!

Rebecca McNutt says

Lethal Marriage offers shocking info on a very disturbing series of crimes. Detailed and accurate, this book is impossible to forget.

Ambre says

One of the most horrific books I ever read. And a catalogue of errors that should have seen Bernardo in prison long before he was finally captured. It took me a long time to read this because it was just so awful.

I have given it 4 stars - not because ~I 'really liked it' but because of how powerful an effect it had on me and how everyone should remember how monstrous some people are. What I find so completely unbelievable is that the evil bitch was ever let go and I hear she's had children! How on earth could anyone allow that monster to have an innocent child in her grasp?

Nevada-blue Groulx says

I prefer Stephen Williams books on the case of Karla Homolka and Paul Bernardo. I found that "Nick Pron" (if that's his real name) seems to buy up the story that Homolka was doing all she did because she feared for her own life. It all comes down to personal opinion but I think she had an equal part in the crimes and received a slap on the wrist. I found myself saying out loud a couple of times: "OH COME ON!" But again, if you read all of the books on this case, you can formulate your own opinion and meet somewhere in the middle. I do believe that Karla was a battered spouse but I do believe that she had the power to stop the murders of Leslie Mahaffy and Kristin French and she chose to do nothing. Decent book, but a tad bias.

Marsmannix says

Warning: this books contains extremely graphic language taken directly from videotapes of the crime. that said, i read this in 2 days. couldn't put it down. two disgusting human beings: should rot under the jail.

Eva Leger says

This is by far one of the most disturbing true crime stories I've ever encountered and I've encountered many. What these two "people" did to Homolka's little sister and the other women they abducted is beyond words. The book itself is written in a very easy way- the story itself is VERY difficult to read. I think anyone who isn't a seasoned true crime reader might have serious problems. I'm glad this wasn't my first true crime read. Or my hundredth. I might not have read any more were that the case.

Pron does a wonderful job of setting up the story like more true crime authors do. We learn about Homolka and her boyfriends pasts and when they met and all through their relationship, if you can call what they had a relationship.

I'd only recommend this to very, very hardcore true crime readers and no one else- I would go so far as to say that those who are hard core readers shouldn't miss this.

Vlad says

I read this book for my criminal psychology class, and I think this is arguably the most graphic true crime book I've read, so far. I see this book being akin to a non-fiction version of American Psycho by Bret Easton Ellis.

Kayla says

First of all, I don't even know why I read this book to be honest. I guess I had a morbid curiosity regarding the ins and outs of the crimes Karla and Paul committed together, but even so I should have known better. I also don't even know where to begin when it comes to rating this book. I feel terrible giving it 4 stars because of the horrific subject matter but I do think it was well written.

I haven't read many true crime books but I really enjoyed how this one read as if it were fiction even though it was not. It made the story easier to follow and honestly wasn't dry at all. I did read the warning attached to the book prior to purchasing it and for some reason I still thought I would be able to handle it. I was overly confident, that's for sure! I can't believe how graphic many of the scenes were throughout the book and often found myself skimming them because I felt dirty just reading it. I feel absolutely horrible thinking of what those poor girls had to go through. It was so cruel and unbelievable that I found myself constantly Googling images of Paul and Karla because it was just so hard to believe that anyone would be capable of the crimes they committed. I can't imagine being a mother and knowing the unspeakable things their babies had to endure during their time spent with the Bernardo's.

I agree with some of the other reviews on here that at times Nick Pron portrayed Karla Holmolka as a battered woman that didn't choose to partake in these crimes and was forced into becoming an accomplice. As someone that has been in an abusive relationship (albeit one that wasn't nearly as abusive as Paul and Karla's), I can't justify the thought that Karla was any less guilty than Paul was for the rape and murder of all three girls. Its devastating that she was let off so easy despite an utter lack of remorse or regret for the LARGE part she played in it all.

Some reviews on here question why the grotesque nature of this book was necessary, but I think it's important to make these details known so the world sees Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka as the monsters they truly are. I also think that it's also a great cautionary tale. These girls were defenseless but unfortunately in today's world Paul and Karla were not the first and won't be the last of their kind.

If you intend to read this book, heed the warning and only do so if you have a strong stomach. It's far worse than you could possibly imagine.

Christine says

I feel bad giving it a 4 star rating due to the circumstances of the book. However, it was a good read. I can't get over how people can hurt people that way. So sad... :(

Jeremy Hannaford says

This was an intense book. Anyone who says that this book victimizes Homolka clearly didn't read the authors note at the beginning and read it until the end.

The graphic detail was hard to read but it was necessary to emulate the true evil that Bernardo inflicted on his victims. Pron's means of narrative choice was excellent and truly put you in the moment and made the book incredibly engaging.

I zoomed through it and am still thinking about it. The fact that he not only incorporates what happened with Bernardo and Homolka but also the stages of the investigation, including the blunders and delays the police went through, the unbelievably daft choices law enforcement made and just how much Bernardo was able to get past police.

This was an amazing read and if anyone can stomach what this book dishes out, you are in for an incredible

read.
