

Chapter 1 : Why We Love Serial Killers by Scott Bonn

Unlike most other books on this subject, the primary focus of Why We Love Serial Killers is not on the crimes of serial killers. Much has already been written about that.

Colorful story lines are written to pique the interest of audiences, not to paint an accurate picture of serial murder. Media stereotypes and hyperbole create myths and great distortions in the public consciousness regarding the true dynamics and patterns of serial murder in the U. The Reality of Serial Homicide in the U. Serial killings account for no more than 1 percent of all murders committed in the U. Based on recent FBI crime statistics, there are approximately 15, murders annually, so that means there are no more than victims of serial murder in the U. If there are fifty, then each one is responsible for an average of three murders per year. Serial killers are always present in society. However, the statistics reveal that serial homicide is quite rare and it represents a small portion of all murders committed in the U. Persistent misinformation, stereotypes and hyperbole presented in the media have combined with the relative rarity of serial murder cases to foster a number of popular myths about serial murder. The most common myths about serial killers encompass such factors as their race, gender, intelligence, living conditions and victim characteristics. All Serial Killers Are Men. This is simply not true but it is understandable why the public would hold this erroneous belief. When the lethality of a femme fatale is presented in book or film, she is most often portrayed as the manipulated victim of a dominant male. This popular but stereotypical media image is consistent with traditional gender myths in society which claim that boys are aggressive by nature while girls are passive. In fact, both aggressiveness and passivity can be learned through socialization and they are not gender specific. The reality concerning the gender of serial killers is quite different than the mythology of it. Although there have been many more male serial killers than females throughout history, the presence of female serial killers is well documented in the crime data. In fact, approximately 17 percent of all serial homicides in the U. Therefore, relative to men, women represent a larger percentage of serial murders than all other homicide cases in the U. This is an important and revealing fact that defies the popular understanding of serial murder. All Serial Killers Are Caucasian. Contrary to popular mythology, not all serial killers are white. Serial killers span all racial and ethnic groups in the U. The racial diversity of serial killers generally mirrors that of the overall U. African-Americans comprise the largest racial minority group among serial killers, representing approximately 20 percent of the total. Significantly, however, only white, and normally male, serial killers such as Ted Bundy become popular culture icons. Real-life serial killers are not the isolated monsters of fiction and, frequently, they do not appear to be strange or stand out from the public in any meaningful way. Many serial killers are able to successfully hide out in plain sight for extended periods of time. Those who successfully blend in are typically also employed, have families and homes and outwardly appear to be non-threatening, normal members of society. Because serial killers can appear to be so innocuous, they are often overlooked by law enforcement officials, as well as their own families and peers. In some rare cases, an unidentified serial killer will even socialize and become friendly with the unsuspecting police detectives who are tracking him. Serial killers who hide out in plain sight are able to do so precisely because they look just like everyone else. It is their ability to blend in that makes them very dangerous, frightening and yet very compelling to the general public. The roaming, homicidal maniac such as Freddy Krueger in the cult film A Nightmare on Elm Street is another entertainment media stereotype that is rarely found in real life. Among the most infamous serial killers, Ted Bundy is the rare exception who traveled and killed interstate. Bundy twice escaped from police custody and committed at least thirty homicides in the states of Washington, Utah, Florida, Colorado, Oregon, Idaho and California. Articulate, educated, well-groomed and charming, Bundy was truly atypical among serial killers in his cross-country killing rampage. Unlike Bundy, most serial killers have very well defined geographic areas of operation. They typically have a comfort zone—that is, an area that they are intimately familiar with and where they like to stalk and kill their prey. Jack the Ripper provides the classic example of this geographic preference because he stalked and killed exclusively in the small Whitechapel district of London in the fall of The comfort zone of a serial killer is often defined by an anchor point such as a place of

residence or employment. Crime statistics reveal that serial killers are most likely to commit their first murder very close to their place of residence due to the comfort and familiarity it offers them. Serial killers sometimes return to commit murder in an area they know well from the past such as the community in which they were raised. Over time, serial murderers may extend their activities outside of their comfort zone but only after building their confidence by executing several successful murders while avoiding detection by law enforcement authorities. As noted by the FBI in its report on serial murder, the crime data reveal that very few serial predators actually travel interstate to kill. The major difference between these individuals who kill serially and other serial murderers is the nature of their traveling lifestyle which provides them with many zones of comfort in which to operate. Most serial killers do not have such opportunities to travel and keep their killings close to home. The images presented in the news and entertainment media suggest that serial killers either have a debilitating mental illness such as psychosis or they are brilliant but demented geniuses like Dr. Neither of these two stereotypes is quite accurate. Instead, serial killers are much more likely to exhibit antisocial personality disorders such as sociopathy or psychopathy, which are not considered to be mental illnesses by the American Psychiatric Association APA. An examination of psychopathy and sociopathy, and a discussion of the powerful connection between antisocial personality disorders and serial homicide is presented in chapter 4. In fact, very few serial killers suffer from any mental illness to such a debilitating extent that they are considered to be insane by the criminal justice system. To be classified as legally insane, an individual must be unable to comprehend that an action is against the law at the exact moment the action is undertaken. In other words, a serial killer must be unaware that murder is legally wrong while committing the act of murder in order to be legally insane. This legal categorization of insanity is so stringent and narrow that very few serial killers are actually included in it. Psychopathic serial killers such as John Wayne Gacy and Dennis Rader are entirely aware of the illegality of murder while they are in the process of killing their victims. Their understanding of right and wrong does nothing to impede their crimes, however, because psychopaths such as Gacy and Rader have an overwhelming desire and compulsion to kill that causes them to ignore the criminal law with impunity. When they are apprehended, serial killers rarely are determined to be mentally incompetent to stand trial and their lawyers rarely utilize an insanity defense on their behalf. Once again, this is due to the extremely narrow legal definition of insanity which simply does not apply to most psychopathic killers. Even David Berkowitz, the infamous Son of Sam, who told his captors tales of satanic rituals and demonic possession, was found to be competent to stand trial for his murders following his arrest in 1977. Considerable mythology also surrounds the intelligence of serial killers. There is a popular culture stereotype that serial killers are cunning, criminal geniuses. This stereotype is heavily promoted by the entertainment media in television, books and films. In particular, Hollywood has established a number of brilliant homicidal maniacs like John Doe in the acclaimed film *Se7en*. John Doe personifies the stereotype of the evil genius serial killer who outsmarts law enforcement authorities, avoids justice and succeeds in his diabolical plan. The image of the evil genius serial killer is mostly a Hollywood invention. Real serial killers generally do not possess unique or exceptional intellectual skills. The reality is that most serial killers who have had their IQ tested score between borderline and above average intelligence. This is very consistent with the general population. Contrary to mythology, it is not high intelligence that makes serial killers successful. Instead, it is obsession, meticulous planning and a cold-blooded, often psychopathic personality that enable serial killers to operate over long periods of time without detection. *Serial Murderers and Their Victims. Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives for Investigators.* National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime.

Chapter 2 : Do Some Damage: Guest Post -Why I Love Serial Killers

If you want an answer to "why we love serial killers" or to know the "curious appeal of the world's most savage murderers", you probably will not get the answer here. If this book was written in the 60's it would make more sense to me, but as it is it just feels outdated.

When Scott Peterson was sent to prison, he got marriage proposals by the bucket before he even got to the prison. They know that if they get involved with these men their name or maybe their picture will get in the paper," Isenberg said. Read More Charles Manson was recently engaged to be married, both the Menendez brothers got married in jail and so did the "Hillside Strangler" duo. Susan Atkins, a member of the Manson Family who got a life sentence for her role in the Sharon Tate-LaBianca murders, married two different men in prison. Fellow escapee had sex with prison worker Blinded by love In her research, Isenberg found that many in both groups cling to the belief that their convicted boyfriends and husbands are, in fact, innocent. She points to women like Carol Ann Boone, who began her relationship with Ted Bundy while he was on trial for two murders and three assaults at Florida State University, married him and had his child. Bundy later confessed to 30 murders. Boone, who had worked with Bundy at the Washington state Department of Emergency Services, said she "liked Ted immediately" and testified for him as a character witness because she felt like he was being "railroaded. Infamous serial killers Photos: Infamous serial killers John Wayne Gacy killed 33 men and boys between and Many of his victims, mostly drifters and runaways, were buried in a crawlspace beneath his suburban Chicago home. Hide Caption 1 of 26 Photos: Infamous serial killers Jeffery Dahmer was sentenced to 15 consecutive life terms for the murders of 17 men and boys in the Milwaukee area between and Dahmer had sex with the corpses of his victims and kept the body parts of others, some of which he ate. Dahmer and another prison inmate were beaten to death during a work detail in November Hide Caption 2 of 26 Photos: Infamous serial killers Law enforcement officers meet in San Francisco in to compare notes on the Zodiac Killer, who is believed to have killed five people in and The killer gained notoriety by writing several letters to police boasting of the slayings. He claimed to have killed as many as 37 people and has never been caught. Hide Caption 3 of 26 Photos: From mid to early , the Boston Strangler killed at least 13 women. DeSalvo was stabbed to death in while serving a prison sentence for rape. Hide Caption 4 of 26 Photos: Infamous serial killers Ed Gein killed at least two women and dug up the corpses of several others from a cemetery in Wisconsin, using their skin and body parts to make clothing and household objects in the s. Hide Caption 5 of 26 Photos: Infamous serial killers In , Juan Corona, a California farm laborer, was sentenced to 25 consecutive life sentences for the murders of 25 people found hacked to death in shallow graves. Hide Caption 6 of 26 Photos: Louis synagogue in Franklin was also convicted of at least five other murders, receiving a string of life sentences, but he suggested that he was responsible for 22 murders. He was best known for shooting Hustler publisher Larry Flynt, who was paralyzed from the attack. Franklin was executed in November Hide Caption 7 of 26 Photos: Hide Caption 8 of 26 Photos: Infamous serial killers Cousins Kenneth Bianchi, seen here, and Angelo Buono were charged with the murders of nine women between and Also known as the Hillside Stranglers, the cousins sexually assaulted and sometimes tortured their victims, leaving their bodies on roadsides in the hills of Southern California. Hide Caption 9 of 26 Photos: Infamous serial killers Wayne Williams killed at least two men between and , and police believed he might have been responsible for more than 20 other deaths in the Atlanta area. Williams was convicted and sentenced to two life terms in Hide Caption 10 of 26 Photos: Infamous serial killers After serving 15 years for murdering his mother, Henry Lee Lucas was convicted in in nine more murders. Lucas was the only inmate spared from execution by Texas Gov. Hide Caption 11 of 26 Photos: Infamous serial killers Richard Ramirez, also known as the Night Stalker, was convicted of 13 murders and sentenced to death in California in The self-proclaimed devil worshiper found his victims in quiet neighborhoods and entered their homes through unlocked windows and doors. Hide Caption 12 of 26 Photos: Infamous serial killers During a routine traffic stop, a police officer found a dead U. Marine in the front seat of a car driven by Randy Steven Kraft. Kraft was linked to 45 murders and sentenced to death in He would pick up hitchhikers, give them drugs and alcohol, sexually assault them and then

mutilate and strangle them. Hide Caption 13 of 26 Photos: Infamous serial killers Ted Bundy raped and killed at least 16 young women in the early to mids before he was executed in A crowd of several hundred gathered outside the prison where he was executed, and they cheered at the news of his death. Hide Caption 14 of 26 Photos: Infamous serial killers Joel David Rifkin was stopped by police for driving without a license plate when a body was found in his pickup. Rifkin killed 17 women in New York between and and was sentenced to life in prison. Hide Caption 15 of 26 Photos: Infamous serial killers Charles Ng, seen here, and accomplice Leonard Lake tortured, killed and buried 11 people in northern California between and After the men were arrested for shoplifting, police found bullets and a silencer in their car and took them into the police station for questioning. Lake killed himself there with a cyanide pill. Ng was later sentenced to death. Hide Caption 16 of 26 Photos: Infamous serial killers Robert Lee Yates Jr. He buried one of them in a flower bed by his house in the Spokane, Washington, area. Most of his victims were prostitutes or drug addicts he killed in his van. Hide Caption 17 of 26 Photos: Remains of his victims, mostly runaways and prostitutes, turned up in ravines, rivers, airports and freeways in the Pacific Northwest. Hide Caption 18 of 26 Photos: Infamous serial killers Aileen Wuornos was executed in Florida in for the murders of seven men whom she had lured by posing as a prostitute or a distressed traveler. Hide Caption 19 of 26 Photos: Infamous serial killers Derrick Todd Lee was accused of raping and killing six women in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, between and He was arrested in Atlanta for the murder of Charlotte Murray Pace, convicted in and sentenced to death. Hide Caption 20 of 26 Photos: Infamous serial killers Danny Rolling pleaded guilty to the murders of five students he raped, tortured and mutilated in Gainesville, Florida. Rolling was also found responsible for a triple homicide in Shreveport, Louisiana, and was executed in Hide Caption 21 of 26 Photos: During the s, he would rob and kill his victims near railroad tracks on both sides of the border and then hop rail cars to escape. Resendez was executed in Hide Caption 22 of 26 Photos: Infamous serial killers Pig farmer Robert Pickton was charged with 26 counts of murder after police found the bodies of young women on his farm in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia. He was convicted of six murders in , and he is serving a life sentence. Hide Caption 23 of 26 Photos: He was sentenced to 10 consecutive life terms in Rader named himself BTK, short for "bind, torture, kill. Infamous serial killers Police found the decomposing and buried bodies of 10 women and the skull of another woman at the Cleveland home of ex-Marine Anthony Sowell. He was convicted and given the death penalty in Hide Caption 25 of 26 Photos: Turner was later convicted and sentenced to death for four more murders. The harsh reality Since many states do not allow conjugal visits, for some of these couples there is never the chance to become physical. The women, for the most part, do not mind this, Isenberg says, and most are more interested in the romance. Most of these prisoners have nothing but time on their hands so they shower their girlfriends with affection. Some were physically, psychologically or verbally abused, but they were all victims.

Chapter 3 : BBC - Future - Why are we eternally fascinated by serial killers?

Why We Love Serial Killers: The Curious Appeal of the World's Most Savage Murderers by Dr. Scott Bonn, Foreword by Diane Dimond " an excellent source of myth-busting information for laymen and professionals alike.

Arranged across the four walls of a downstairs room are pictures of injury and mutilation, of skulls in myriad configurations and colours, of women in positions of explicit intimacy, of folkloric landscapes and fantastical animals. But what sets these works apart is not so much their content as their origins: This is the home of John Schwenk, who collects artworks and artefacts of murderers the way others might, say, rare stamps or film memorabilia. As well as art, Schwenk owns thousands of letters from serial killers on death row, many of them addressed to him personally. They have sent him locks of hair, a prison shirt, a prison ID card, a set of false teeth, some unused dental floss and other oddities of dark provenance. He has got to know some of these pen pals and even considers a few of them friends. View image of Credit: It begins with Manson asking Schwenk in a slow raspy drawl where he was calling from. Interest in morbid crime, and particularly in serial killers, has become pervasive in popular culture. Jack the Ripper, the most notorious serial murderer of all " perhaps because he was never caught " has been immortalised, with considerable artistic licence, in hundreds of novels, comics, films and TV shows. Guided tours of his killing grounds in east London still attract huge crowds, particularly at night. In the world of populist criminology this is par for the course. Why do we build this mythology around these troubled individuals? And what has that fascination taught us about their motivations? Serial killers and their ilk have attracted excessive attention since the rise of mass-circulation newspapers in the early 19th Century. Corder murdered only once, and his crime was not particularly gruesome, yet he was as infamous in his time as Jack the Ripper later that century and Charles Manson today. His deeds were depicted in theatre productions, and in puppet shows at country fairs. Ballads about the crime sold as sheet music in their hundreds of thousands. Tens of thousands visited the barn in Sussex where the killing took place. At least 7, attended his execution. For several weeks that year, a piece of his scalp with ear attached was on display in a shop front in Oxford Street in London. Astounding, perhaps, but not uncommon. In November , police in Plainfield, Wisconsin, discovered the decapitated and disemboweled body of a local storeowner hanging by her heels in the kitchen of an isolated farmhouse. Elsewhere in the house they found several human skulls, some of them used as soup bowls; four chairs covered with strips of human skin; a belt decorated with female nipples; a blind-pull featuring a pair of female lips; a collection of female genitalia stored in a shoebox; another box containing four noses; a vest fashioned from the skin of a human torso; lampshades, a wastebasket and bracelets of similar provenance; and various other monstrosities, including nine human face-masks carefully peeled from the bone. Why do we find serial killers so enthralling? But arguably what really makes serial killers compelling is their humanness. Serial murderers often have families and homes, are gainfully employed, and appear to be normal members of the community. Are they something alien, or one of us? With no agreed pathological profile, it is hard to say. He was very good-looking, he was successful, women were very attracted to him, which was why he was able to get 36 of them into his car [before abducting and killing them]. He looked like the boy next door, and that is frightening because if the boy next door is a serial killer, it means anyone is potentially a victim. In September , the serial murderer Rodney Alcala took part in an American TV show called The Dating Game For an illustration of how easily serial killers blend in " and why police investigators rarely catch them early " take the case of serial rapist and murderer Rodney Alcala. In September , he took part in The Dating Game, an American TV show in which a single woman " in this case drama teacher Cheryl Bradshaw " got to question three single men hidden from her view before selecting one based on their answers. Unbeknown to anyone, Alcala by this point had raped and killed at least two women in California and two in New York. On the show he appears witty and charming, with coiffured hair and a flamboyant shirt and suit. Over the next two years, Alcala raped and murdered three more. The apparent normality of serial killers " the juxtaposition of horror and humanity " fascinates enthusiasts like Schwenk, whose letter-writing and collecting is partly an attempt to understand what makes them tick. Like you and me. Many of them are nice, regular guys. Steven

Scouller, a documentary-maker and collector living in Scotland, has gone one better: Nico Claux, who served eight years of a year sentence, is not a serial killer, having being convicted of only one murder, but he was a serial consumer of the dead, stealing body parts from graveyards in Paris, eating the flesh of corpses at a morgue and drinking blood from a hospital blood bank after taking it home, cooling it in his fridge and mixing it with human ashes. Scouller says he and Claux are the same age and like the same music and films. Coleman is also known for his interest in the dark side of human nature, and for personifying it. He opens the door dressed in a black three-piece suit and black tie, an arrangement of occult keepsakes pinned to his waistcoat â€” a curved tooth, a miniature skull. His living room is a shrine of curiosities, full of ephemera of the sacred and profane: We sit on a couch opposite a prone effigy of St Agnes, a Christian martyr from the third century, which supposedly contains some of her skeletal remains. He points to a frame containing perhaps the most iconic letter of all in this genre, written by Albert Fish to the mother of Grace Budd, his final victim, in which he describes how he strangled the child, cut her up, cooked her and ate her. The historian McCorristine thinks that getting close to criminals and perpetrators of horror is a way of experiencing death without falling victim to it, of becoming a witness to death and thus exerting some control over it. Coleman says this is true for him, and that owning a piece of someone â€” a lock of hair or letter or artwork â€” reminds you of the dark forces that may lead someone astray. When I was really young I tried to set the school field on fire. I did some terrible things, and I feel that there but for the grace of god go I. Each of these has consistently been the most popular attraction at its respective museum, almost certainly because of their association with serial murder. The objects become contagious. This applies most to actual physical remnants such as skin, hair or fingernails. In Victorian times it was traditional to keep hair from a deceased loved one I have some from my great-great-grandmother. That might sound a tad unhealthy, yet Schwenk, Coleman and Scouller never seem to question whether their obsessions are anything but normal. Scouller obtained his first piece â€” his Arthur Shawcross hair â€” on eBay, but the site banned the sale of crime-related memorabilia out of respect for the victims. Associated Press Several specialist auction sites cater for true crime collectors This led to the flourishing of several specialist auction sites, such as Murder Auction , Serial Killers Ink and Supernaut, that cater specifically for true crime collectors. Eric Holler, who runs Serial Killers Ink from his home in Jacksonville, Florida, says objects related to famous serial killers can sell in hours, and that all kinds of people buy from him. Since , Cornyn has been trying to persuade Congress to consider a bill banning the sale of crime-related materials, so far without success. He and others believe the trade glorifies violence, rewards the killers even though in most places they are not allowed to profit from their crimes and pains the victims. Predictably, there was no shortage of bidders: Many of the people who are drawn to the artefacts of serial killers are also drawn to the places where they killed. After murderers are captured, their homes and the scenes of their crimes often become pilgrimage sites. It is effectively his mind laid out, his work displayed and signed, a text to be read. Most of the sites he chose are in wilderness areas close to hiking trails, and his photographs re-frame them as scenes of epic beauty. They are memorials to the victims, not the crimes. Chalmers had the idea after hiking near Tiger Mountain outside Seattle with a woman he was dating. Stephen Chalmers In each of the photographs in Unmarked his camera focuses on the precise spot the victim was found, and as viewers we are caught between the exquisite landscape and the trauma inscribed therein. The knowledge of what happened changes everything. Recently, Chalmers returned to the sites to collect flowers and grasses, which he has been drying and pressing in the basement of his home outside Youngstown, Ohio. He plans to include the cuttings with a limited-edition book of Unmarked that will be published this year, to strengthen the sense of connection to the places he has photographed. Catharsis One of the more provocative explanations for the appeal of serial killers is that they serve some kind of social function, allowing us to indulge our most vengeful fantasies without having to act them out, and, once the killer is caught, without having to feel guilty about it. This, he says, is why some people are compelled to watch Isis execution videos, even though they may later regret it. It could also explain why we slow our cars in the aftermath of a traffic accident, gawking for a glimpse of horror on the other side of the barrier. Perhaps what we like most of all is to be terrified. In , I dated a girl in Paris who was convinced she was being stalked by a serial killer. The police seemed worried too. They thought her stalker could be the same man who had raped and stabbed to

death four young women in her part of Paris over the previous 18 months. The police gave her an emergency phone which she could call any time, and a friend gave her a gun which she kept under her bed. She was terrified all the time. Frequently she refused to let me in fearing it was her stalker at the door. It terrified me too. But I was also transfixed, and addicted. Not that I told her. Eventually the threat subsided. Three years later, the police arrested a man who confessed to the four midnights murders, and to three others. He is serving life imprisonment with little possibility of parole. I have no desire to write to him, nor to solicit him for a painting or lock of hair. He will certainly be hard to forget.

Chapter 4 : [PDF/ePub Download] why we love serial killers eBook

*Why We Love Serial Killers: The Curious Appeal of the World's Most Savage Murderers [Scott Bonn, Diane Dimond] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. >For decades now, serial killers have taken center stage in the news and entertainment media.*

Chapter 5 : Why We Love Serial Killers (Audiobook) by Scott Bonn | calendrierdelascience.com

Why We Love Serial Killers: The Curious Appeal of the World's Most Savage Murderers Description: In the business of murder, serial killers are a rarity. Yet they make an indelible mark on the public conscious, attracting relentless media coverage, and sparking fictional characters that are some of the entertainment industry's most memorable.

Chapter 6 : 5 Myths about Serial Killers and Why They Persist [Excerpt] - Scientific American

In the shadow of this news, it's a bit uncomfortable to consider why Americans love to read about serial killers. It feels almost callous, an affront to the victims that we should make.

Chapter 7 : Scott Bonn, PhD - Home

Groundbreaking in its approach, Why We Love Serial Killers is a compelling look at how the media, law enforcement agencies, and public perception itself shapes and feeds the "monsters" in our midst. © Scott Bonn (P) Audible Inc.

Chapter 8 : Serial killer lovers: Why people love murderers - CNN

In Why We Love Serial Killers, Drew University criminology professor Scott Bonn, PhD, simultaneously examines the public's and media's fascination with the monsters among us and the ways in which that attention impacts them.

Chapter 9 : Author: Why We Love Serial Killers - Scott Bonn, PhD

Titled "Why We Love Serial Killers" the book is published by Skyhorse Press and released in October, Professor Bonn is not your average academic. He combines the knowledge and skills of an academic scholar with more than twenty years of senior-level corporate experience in advertising and news and entertainment media.