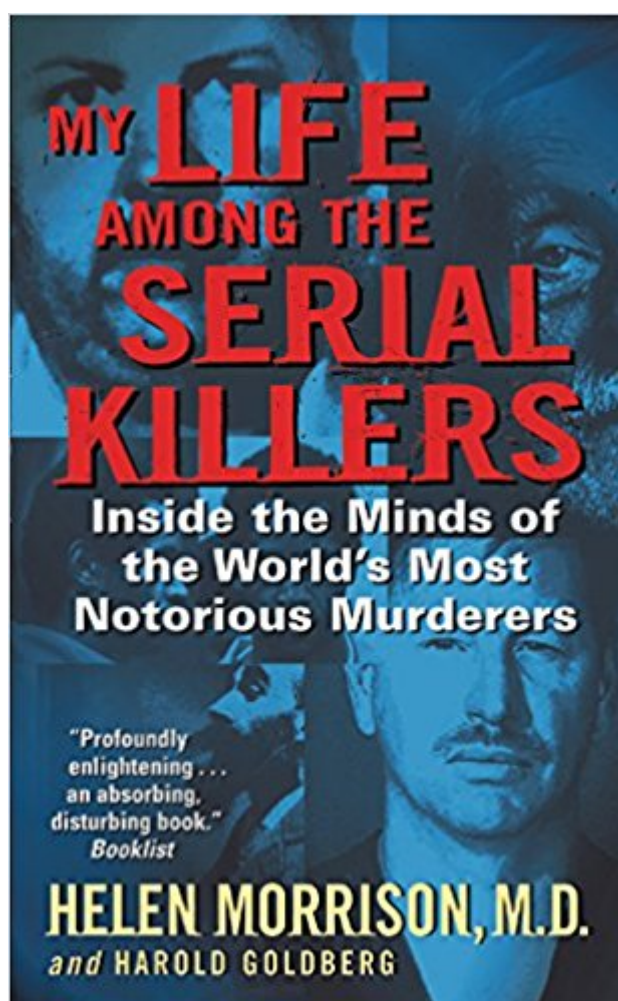


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# My Life Among The Serial Killers: Inside The Minds Of The World's Most Notorious Murderers



## Synopsis

Over the course of twenty-five years, Dr. Helen Morrison has profiled more than eighty serial killers around the world. What she learned about them will shatter every assumption you've ever had about the most notorious criminals known to man. Judging by appearances, Dr. Helen Morrison has an ordinary life in the suburbs of a major city. She has a physician husband, two children, and a thriving psychiatric clinic. But her life is much more than that. She is one of the country's leading experts on serial killers, and has spent as many as four hundred hours alone in a room with depraved murderers, digging deep into killers' psyches in ways no profiler before ever has. In *My Life Among the Serial Killers*, Dr. Morrison relates how she profiled the Mad Biter, Richard Otto Macek, who chewed on his victims' body parts, stalked Dr. Morrison, then believed she was his wife. She did the last interview with Ed Gein, who was the inspiration for Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho*. John Wayne Gacy, the clown-obsessed killer of young men, sent her crazed Christmas cards and gave her his paintings as presents. Then there was Atlanta child killer Wayne Williams; rapist turned murderer Bobby Joe Long; England's Fred and Rosemary West, who killed girls and women in their "House of Horrors"; and Brazil's deadliest killer of children, Marcelo Costa de Andrade. Dr. Morrison has received hundreds of letters from killers, read their diaries and journals, evaluated crime scenes, testified at their trials, and studied photos of the gruesome carnage. She has interviewed the families of the victims -- and the spouses and parents of the killers -- to gain a deeper understanding of the killer's environment and the public persona he adopts. She has also studied serial killers throughout history and shows how this is not a recent phenomenon with psychological autopsies of the fifteenth-century French war hero Gilles de Rais, the sixteenth-century Hungarian Countess Bathory, H. H. Holmes of the late nineteenth century, and Albert Fish of the Roaring Twenties. Through it all, Dr. Morrison has been on a mission to discover the reasons why serial killers are compelled to murder, how they choose their victims, and what we can do to prevent their crimes in the future. Her provocative conclusions will stun you.

## Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Avon (January 25, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060524081

ISBN-13: 978-0060524081

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.8 x 6.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.1 out of 5 stars 98 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #577,953 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #241 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Social Scientists & Psychologists](#) #255 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Forensic Psychology](#) #265 in [Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Forensic Psychology](#)

## Customer Reviews

With serial killers a hot topic in the wake of Charlize Theron's Oscar-winning performance in *Monster*, forensic psychiatrist Morrison's memoir of working with more than 80 serial killers couldn't be more timely. The author's countless hours of interviews with John Wayne Gacy and others of his ilk have led her to a controversial conclusion: she believes there's a serial killer gene ("He is a serial killer when he is a fetus, even as soon as sperm meets egg to create the genes of a new person"). Unfortunately, she offers little in support of this deterministic view, and she will offend some readers with an implied exoneration of criminals whom she describes as "completely unaware of the process leading up to murder," despite the detailed planning and preparation displayed by many of them. And even readers who are willing to have an open mind about Morrison's theories are likely to find some aspects of her report a little creepy, as when she discusses a treasured trophy she keeps in her basement: "I place John Gacy's brain back in the box because my kids are calling for me upstairs." Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In her role as consultant to a variety of law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, forensic psychiatrist Morrison has interviewed and studied such notables as John Wayne Gacy, Ed Gein, and Wayne Williams, along with many other, less well known but equally horrific serial killers. Her memoir is not what you might call pleasant reading; it is relentlessly unpleasant, as a matter of fact, as Morrison describes these men and women and their crimes in precise, often graphic detail. At the same time, however, it is a profoundly enlightening book. Morrison provides startling insights into what factors breed serial killers, and she avoids the broad generalizations that make other books of the topic seem slick and superficial. Still, Morrison recognizes that experts have only the sketchiest understanding of what makes a person commit murder repeatedly. This is an absorbing, disturbing book that makes it clear just how much we have yet to learn. David Pitt Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of

this title.

unexpected, but good.

She fills in some of the missing parts. A very interesting read. Perhaps the author will one day write in more detail about her extensive interviews

It's a very interesting book. I've always wanted to look inside the minds of serial killers, but she did it for me.

good book if you like serial killer novels.

This book offers real insights into the minds of serial killers, what motivates them, what triggers them, and how they see themselves. There are some nuggets here that may help law enforcement officials identify or profile serial killers, if they can overlook the irritating arrogance and perceived self-importance of the presentation. The book is not well written, despite being authored by a highly educated medical doctor who teamed with a talented writer. It's natural to ask why is this so. Is it possible the arrogance that flows through the book carried through the writing process, that the writer was forced to be merely a scrivener. The book has that sort of feel to it, and if so, that's a shame. Because there is substance to this book. It's just too much a shame one has to wade through so much of the how great I am packaging to get to it.

Very interesting book.

This book was so bad that it could not even be considered laughable. I eventually had to just quit reading after it became that there is no way the author is an educated professional (let alone a published forensic psychiatrist). To be honest, I was a short way into the book before I began to wonder if the author was even a high school graduate. I am not a psychiatrist, but even as a layman I was able to determine that 'Ms Morrison' (if that *IS* her real name), has managed to learn a smattering of psychological/psychiatric terms but has no real grasp of their meaning... Save your money

Mundane description of dialog with psychos. Why bother?

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