



Cannibal: The True Story Behind the Maneater of Rotenburg

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German native Armin Meiwes placed this ad in an internet chatroom catering to cannibals. He received 430 responses. Among them was Bernd Juergen Brandes, who arrived at Meiwes's isolated country home literally to be eaten alive. Escorted to the "slaughtering room"--equipped with meat hooks, a cage, and a butcher's table--Meiwes assisted Bernd in a gourmet candlelight dinner of his own cooked flesh. Meiwes then stabbed his victim in the throat--bringing the ghastly videotaped ordeal to an end.

From a childhood perverted by unhealthy obsessions to his notorious trial that ended in a stunning verdict, *Cannibal* discloses for the first time the true story of a real-life Hannibal Lecter and his victim. And with details never before divulged to the public, it takes readers step-by-step through the unspeakable crime that fascinated and revolted the world.

INCLUDES PHOTOS

Cannibal: The True Story Behind the Maneater of Rotenburg Details

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Author : Lois Jones

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From Reader Review Cannibal: The True Story Behind the Maneater of Rotenburg for online ebook

Ashley says

This book makes you question what you think about murder. It is a very good book for debate. Some people think the guy was a terrible monster who should have been killed, some think he is just a weird guy who did some stupid things (but nothing wrong). I would love to read this book in some sort of book club so I would have more people to talk about it with. I think the conversation could go on forever!

Emleigh says

I don't even know how to describe this book. It felt more like a super fucked up romance novel through half of it. It's not well-written, but that kind of makes it an even better read. It gets 4 stars because I just enjoyed the fuck out of it.

Leslie says

Poignant tale of a socially misunderstood cannibalistic mama's boy with good fashion sense and an appetite for sauteed human penis. Chockful of delicious recipes! Invite your friends!!

Not Now...Mommy's Reading says

This was one weird read in that I had no idea things like this existed. Oh yes, I am well aware that there are psychos who go about killing and indulging in the flesh of others - but that there are people who actually volunteer to be killed and eaten was news to me! How do you convict a man for murder when his victim was willing? You'll have to read this book to find out.

Diane says

Upfront warning: very graphic book.

This is a book about two consenting adults who came together to act out their most secret fantasies. But their fantasies were not run-of-the-mill fetishes - one man wanted to be eaten, and the other to eat.

The author covers the lives of both men before they met, and shows us how they came to find themselves in Armin's home, preparing for Bernd's death. As is often the case, both men functioned in society as 'normal', and those who knew them were deeply shocked at what eventually transpired.

Even the court case held my attention, and the German justice system is explained in an easy to understand

manner.

Some reviewers have criticised the author for speculating as to Bernd's thoughts during his final day ... but Bernd's last evening was captured on a 4-hour videotape (with his consent) by Armin. The video has not been made public (to my knowledge), but it was viewed by court officials, etc. Surely it would have conveyed a good deal about Bernd's last thoughts, and feelings, as he talked with Armin ... until he could no longer speak, of course.

In many ways, this was a book of sadness. Yes, it is graphic, 'cause the event was graphic. But I came away feeling a deep sorrow for all involved.

Just so you know, Armin was retried after this book was published, and the outcome was different. So, after you read the book, you may want to Google the court case, and be updated.

4 Stars = It gave me much food for thought.

Dayna says

I was intrigued when the story about this came up on the news, since it seems like if two consenting adults want to play out their own fantasy, it should be their own business. In this case, one man wanted to be eaten, and the other to eat...and although I sided with both of them in their civil rights, these two guys are by far the most messed up I have ever read about. The images from this book haunted me for weeks...it was terrible. And true. And full of way too much detail.

And I hope that no-one ever makes a movie about it. (Rob Zombie, stay away from this one, please, for all of our sake.)

Eva Leger says

I'm damn near at a complete loss as to what to say about this book. I'm going to do my best to do justice to what I'm thinking and if I jump back and forth and my review isn't exactly "in order" or easy to read, forgive me.

I have no idea where to start. I didn't set any expectations for *Cannibal*. I did think it would be the average t.c. book, maybe a little more disgusting. I had no idea, going in, whether this man actually did what the title implies or if he was stopped beforehand. I had no knowledge whatsoever about this man or this case when I started this book.

Lois Jones did a good job with the book IMO - she did better than I could have. There are many, many, many (feel free to add some more "many's" in if you'd like) VERY, VERY, VERY (ditto for the "VERY'S") graphic parts to this book. On this site and another one I read the reviews from a few people who felt it was too graphic. I agree and I don't. Part of me asks how in the world to take something like this and describe it in a non-graphic manner. Then the part of me that actually read these graphic details thinks that maybe she could have stepped it down a little. About this, I "liked" it and didn't.

Jones, in the beginning of the book, proposes to know an awful lot about what Armin and Bernd were thinking, what they felt like, exactly what they said, etc. and this sort of thing bothers me unless it's fact. A certain amount of speculation must go into a t.c. book - I'm aware of this - but *Cannibal* had a very large

amount of speculation with these things and this bothered me. I feel she should have saved her thoughts about these things, at least until after the court case where he was examined and talked to by the doctors. Honestly, I'm having a hard time explaining what I mean by that so you just have to read it to know what I mean I think. Sorry about that, usually I can articulate my thoughts better but this book has really twirled all my thoughts around and around and scattered them all.

A lot of times in a t.c. book my attention will wane during court case - not so with *Cannibal*. Even with all the details in the more than first half of the book, the court case is simply astounding. This is the type of book that can be read in a sitting if the time is there. I'm not going to give specific details of the court outcome - I hate spoilers - but I was told I'd be shocked..... and I was. I'm not sure 'shocked' does what I felt justice. For that matter, I'm not sure this review does my feeling justice.

My mind is still swirling with thoughts of the book and I don't think I'll ever in my life forget this book or this man. I told a friend and I mean this, I've read fictional books with zombies eating people as the main characters. *Cannibal* scared me more. *Cannibal* affected me more. *Cannibal* made me think more. They say truth is stranger than fiction and there is no greater testament to that statement than this book.

Love says

Very well written..loved her style. On Armin WOW, he is in need of some serious help. Who dreams of eating people at 6 years old. How screwed up was his homelife to even be thinking such thoughts as a child. This goes into a little of his homelife but not too deep. (I wanted to know more).

The man that let him kill and eat him another WOW. Who's life long dream is to eat their own "man member"? Sick! I was grossed out by this book so many times but I wanted to read right through. I found it very interesting. Even though I sure that makes me very morbid. The entire time I was reading it I wanted to know how he got caught. I also think it was crazy they did not find any mental illness....are you kidding me. So this guy is sane? If I read it right he is free some place to do this again. What a very crazy world we live in. A must read for true crime addicts. Her writing and the fact that she did so well with a disgusting story she deserves 5 stars.

Rebecca McNutt says

...Ewww. Cannibalism? I don't know who just wakes up and thinks to themselves, "eh, how's about I go eat some people?" but... what on earth goes through someone's mind when they do these horrific things?

Well, this book dives into a terrifying true crime story and attempts to discover that exact thing using psychology and the criminal's past to try and explain it. Not a bad true crime novel, slightly creepy though.

Jeannie says

Wow! I actually never knew there was a society of people out there who not only want to eat other people but be eaten themselves. I've heard of many different fetishes (and can we even call this a fetish?) seems to me it's a death wish. They both seemed like nice and normal, everyday men who were able to pass in society as such and they looked that way too. How shocking this was to all that knew them!

The author done a great job on her descriptions of what she believed occurred between these two men and being this was her first book I was impressed. I was very shocked at the verdict handed down in this case but

not surprised, the law seems to go with "what society feels is wrong, is right and vice-versa. Just MY opinion and that's what a review is about.

Lady ♥ Belleza says

This book was recommended to me by several people. I think all the hype is the reason I didn't love it. It fell short of my expectations. I would still recommend it but there were some parts of it I definitely didn't like. I'll get to those later. First the summary.

Armin Meiwes is definitely deranged, but what some people find even more deranged is that his victim wanted to be eaten. He answered an ad and traveled from Berlin to Rotenburg to meet Meiwes for the purpose of ending his life and his body being destroyed. He wanted his body gone but didn't want it to go to waste. Meiwes was eventually found out and brought to trial.

What I liked about this book was it covers the lives of both men, how they met and the reasons for their actions. I also liked that the procedures of the German justice system are explained to those who are not familiar with it. What I didn't like was it read like a novel. The thoughts and motivations of the killer, victim, and even spectators of the trial are given but Jones doesn't say how she got them, in other words there are facts but not much documentation.

However a search of the internet shows that the facts of the book are accurate and it was an interesting read, some have said the 'butchery parts' are a little hard to read. I didn't find that to be so, but then 'squeamish' is not a word that has ever been used to describe me. The book ends with Meiwes serving 8-½ yrs for manslaughter.

Update: According to BBC NEWS (9 May 2006) a judge ruled the sentence too lenient and ordered a retrial. In this trial he was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Kendra says

I liked this book and it is a fascinating story. However, I felt that the author was almost too gory in her details of the story. I realize it is a gruesome story, but I have read other true crimes that were just as gruesome of crimes, but that didn't make me nauseous. I would rather have the straight facts of what happened rather than hear about the blood, gore, and screaming. Just my opinion, but a very interesting case to say the least.

Dierdra McGill says

Any lover of True Crime books should really enjoy Cannibal. It is one of the better written true crime books I have ever read. There was an issue with the author saying what the victim was thinking and feeling in situations where he was alone and no way for the author to know any of this but it added to the story and I personally didn't mind this and at times was thankful for the insight.

There were parts of this book that some may have a hard time getting through as the book does get rather graphic at times but I have read much worse so for me it wasn't too bad.

The case was disturbing then again what true crime isn't at least a little disturbing. This was more unique tho so that made it much more interesting for me.

The only real complaint I had was that I wish the author had published the book later when Meiwes sentence was made to to life imprisonment. It would have given it more of an ending but that does not reflect my review or rank because that is the authors choice and it did happen after the book was written and published.

Evan says

Take a load off your weary carcass and rest your bones. Uncork a bottle of your favorite South African red Merlot and slice a warm portion of your choicest cut of dinner meat garnished with shallots and garlic and porcini. Relax, it's that special time of evening we like to call story time. Imagine me speaking to you in a Vincent-Price-like voice.

Imagine a land where Grimm's Fairy Tales had been penned centuries before; where in our own time, in that same vicinity in central Germany, a lad lived who'd loved the story of the witch fattening up Hansel and Gretel for dinner. Imagine this fatherless, friendless boy wanting to eat someone, to make take someone inside him so as to have a friend with him always, as a part of him, ensuring that he would never be lonely again. Imagine, no less, that this same contemporary lad lived next door to a real witch. A witch who told him tales about her power to will the deaths of others. Imagine, too, this same latter-day fellow living a youthful existence oppressed very much like "Aschenputtel" (Cinderella) of the famous Brothers Grimm tale, dressed in Old World garb and sent to school in humiliating disgrace and made to do menial chores all day under the autocratic and demanding will of a mentally unbalanced mother. Imagine that same lad upon the death of his mother, commemorating her and re-living her personality by dressing in her clothes and talking in her voice, to himself. Kind of like Norman Bates in *Psycho*.

Add a pinch of this and a pinch of that and behold the recipe that results: one majorly fucked-up dude. Whatever ingredients go into the making of a cannibal, the recipe seems to have been realized in the form of Armin Meiwes.

The Meiwes case seemed to prove to a lot of people that, no matter how twisted you *thought* things could get in this world there's plenty of room for them to raise the bizarre bar.

In case you hadn't heard of the case, which seems unlikely at this point, Meiwes was an early middle-aged, well-mannered, exemplary computer worker with social shyness but no outwardly alarming behavior or evident bent toward psychotic obsessions. Inwardly, he had a seething yearning harbored since childhood to slaughter and eat a willing human victim. The only times he spent with a healthy family in his childhood was in the company of neighbors when they slaughtered their livestock. He came to associate the slaughter act with love. When puberty hit, the cannibalistic desire merged with his sexual identity. He saw consumption as the ultimate sex act, a way of bonding with someone completely and profoundly and holding them inside himself forever.

And there was even a religious component, as author Lois Jones, points out: "Armin had been taught as a child in the Roman Catholic Church that transubstantiation takes place during communion; the bread and wine actually turn into Christ's body and blood."

By March 2001, Meiwes had become a regular contributor in gay forums and in the cannibal fetish subculture on the internet. Hundreds of people populated these sites to share fantasies about eating people

and/or having people eat them. Most of them seemed happy enough just imagining the acts. Meiwes wanted much more than that. He advertised for a willing victim. And, amazingly, he found several. Most of them even traveled to his house, but to his disappointment, they backed out of going through with the act. For most, role-play was all they wanted. Meiwes wanted reality.

One of his "victims," however, did not back out. And that was a respectable, well-liked, personable and physically healthy 44-year-old named Bernd-Jürgen Brandes. For some reason, Brandes harbored deep desires to have his penis and the rest of his body dismembered and eaten (while alive) and to be slaughtered like a pig.

Needless to say, this fetish seemed even more twisted than Meiwes'. Here were two men who met on the internet to meet each others' mutual needs. It was love at first...uhm...bite. (Sorry, couldn't resist)

Without going into the grisly details, let's just say that this macabre feast came to pass, and it resulted in a trial for which the German legal system was ill-prepared. For one thing, cannibalism was not a crime, and the definition of murder apparently does not include people who are more or less simply asking for assisted suicide.

So, the question is, is this a good book? On the whole, yes. Lois Jones tells the tale with dispatch (though is sometimes repetitive in making certain points) and with all the gory details you would expect. The killing itself is not without its moments of pitch-black humor (the wrong knife is used at first), and the palpable details of the acts will make you grit your teeth, if, that is, you haven't bailed from the book in complete revulsion.

I had mixed feelings about whether Jones' attempts at ironic black humor worked or simply made a sick story even more tasteless. In one instance, she writes: "[Meiwes] removed the whole calf muscle from the back of the lower legs and admired the cut. All those hours Brandes had spent cycling in the gym had paid off." Although informed by the facts, such a statement is clearly authorial intrusion for a laugh. It is hard not to notice Jones' attempt at humorous irony when mentioning that at the same time Brandes was having his wanker whacked off by Meiwes, Brandes' worried lover Rene was cutting slices of cheese to accompany his far more tame meal of goat-cheese salad.

The author seems unfazed at playing amateur psychologist throughout the story, and even admits at times to "imagining" the thoughts of the protagonists. How much of this artistic license (inserted for the sake of narrative flow, context and irony) you are willing to accept depends on your tolerance for unsourced assertions. It's healthy to cast a skeptical eye on some of the book's statements. There seems to be differences about the facts of the case as presented here and in documentaries I've seen and other written accounts online. There are factual contradictions within the book itself, as well as the kind of syntax or grammatical sloppiness that seem to be *de rigueur* in sensational books like this.

Oddly, Meiwes comes off more as a pathetic victim himself, rather than a monster. At least in this telling. In his first court trial, psychological experts actually deemed him sane.

Compared to many other sicko killers, Meiwes seems like one of the least monstrous. He had a weird fetish and a terrible upbringing. He was not a wild-eyed raving lunatic, but a meek, well-behaved, quiet, considerate, well spoken and intelligent man. And he honored consent. He never killed until someone actually wanted it. He always honored the wishes of would-be victims who asked to be released from his "slaughter room." Virtually no deranged serial killer would ever have done that. Meiwes was a cannibal first, and a killer by necessity.

So, yes, folks, this is some strong meat to chew on, and if true crime of the extreme variety piques your interest, then have at it.

...And some of them lived happily ever after...

(KevinR@Ky 2016)

♥ **Marlene** ♥ says

On Wednesday, July 04, 2007 I wrote about this book:

My God this book was so scary. I had to skip some parts and I hardly ever do that (about the butchering for instance).

Very well written. Such an unbelievable story this is.

My only negative thing is that Lois Jones pretended to know what was in Bernd's head at the time of his dying. On the other hand I understand she did that to make the book better, but for me that was not necessary. O that was such a hard part to. I gave it a 9 out of a 10 on bookcrossing
