



## Sexual Homicide: Patterns and Motives

*Robert K. Ressler , Ann Wolbert Burgess , John Edward Douglas*

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**Sexual Homicide: Patterns and Motives** Robert K. Ressler , Ann Wolbert Burgess , John Edward Douglas  
Who are the men committing the rising number of serial homicides in the U.S. -- and why do they kill? The increase in these violent crimes over the past decade has created an urgent need for more and better information about these men: their crime scene patterns, violent acts, and above all, their motivations for committing these shocking and repetitive murders.

This authoritative book represents the data, findings, and implications of a long-term F.B.I.-sponsored study of serial sex killers. Specially trained F.B.I. agents examined thirty-six convicted, incarcerated sexual murderers to build a valuable new bank of information which reveals the world of the serial sexual killer in both quantitative and qualitative detail. Data was obtained from official psychiatric and criminal records, court transcripts, and prison reports, as well as from extensive interviews with the offenders themselves.

Featured in this book is detailed information on the F.B.I.'s recently developed Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP) and a sample of an actual VICAP Crime Analysis Report Form.

## Sexual Homicide: Patterns and Motives Details

Date : Published June 1st 1995 by Free Press (first published 1993)

ISBN : 9780028740638

Author : Robert K. Ressler , Ann Wolbert Burgess , John Edward Douglas

Format : Paperback 256 pages

Genre : Crime, True Crime, Psychology, Nonfiction, Mystery

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# From Reader Review Sexual Homicide: Patterns and Motives for online ebook

## Mizuki says

This whole thing reads like textbook...

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## Tiffany says

I read this for a project when I was in school for my bachelors and I must tell you it makes you think. I mean I know the world has sick people but this book makes it very clear.

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## James says

Sexual Homicide: Paterns and Motives is an excellent source for any investigator or person in need of information on processes of the killers mind. The book looks at the psychology of the offenders as well as the physical aspects identifying different types of offenders.

If you use or like this book Crime Classification Manual: A Standard System for Investigating and Classifying Violent Crimes is a must have as well.

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## Petra CigareX says

**Rape: defences.** If you find this useful, please pass along the author's summary for trying to successfully defend yourself against rape. (The long version is in spoilers).

"The following discussion is an attempt to provide an overview of possible strategies for resisting rape. The observations and conclusions derive from our joint clinical experience, including extensive contact with victims and offenders as well as the detailed evaluation of more than three hundred offender files. This experience allows us to observe a large number of effective and ineffective responses to rape, sometimes with the same offender. While there is a conceptual and clinical foundation for the recommendations that follow, there is, at present, little supportive empirical evidence."

"Step 1. Firm verbal confrontation. Firmly tell the attacker to get away and leave you alone.

If step 1 is unsuccessful:

Step 2. Physical confrontation. Immediately take the offensive and attack the assaulter with moderate physical aggression (hit, kick, punch, etc.).

If step 2 is unsuccessful:

Step 3: Nonconfrontative Verbal Responses. Attempt to calm the assaulter and talk him down from his rage. Engage him in conversation, and make yourself a real person to him. Challenge his fantasy that you are the person

Lessons Learned for Response to Sexual Violence

he wants to harm. Set the stage for an escape attempt (e.g., try to talk him into taking you to a more populated area: "Let's go have a drink" etc.).

If step 3 is unsuccessful in neutralizing the violence:

Step 4: Violent confrontation. Use extreme aggression, and take any action within your means (kick, punch, bite, strike with rock, etc.) to incapacitate the assaulter and avoid rape or mortal physical injury.

In sum, knowledge may be the only weapon a victim has in a highly dangerous situation. As such, knowledge can provide a sense of power, as well as the confidence necessary to act rather than resign out of helplessness."

Long version of strategies of defence against rape. (view spoiler)

This is a text book with many references listed annoyingly at the end of every chapter. BUT it is also a 10+ star book. It doesn't matter how dry it is, it gives real information that is helpful and may save your life. Especially if you are a woman. I'm going to type up the information verbatim. Soon.

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## **Christine Marie says**

Definitely one to keep on the shelf for any professional in forensic psych work.

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## **Lightreads says**

A compilation of multi-authored journal articles from the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin and other sources, discussing various facets of sexual homicide and tracking the statistical results of a thirty-six person offender interview study. The book is intended for law enforcement officers and legal professionals, and the topics range from offender characteristics to crime classifications to post-offense behavior to recommended interview techniques, the role of the sketch artist in an investigation, and possible outcomes for secondary victims (family and friends).

And can I just say that of course it would be yesterday that I'd run into an old friend I spent a lot of time flirting with but haven't seen in a while, who knows me well enough to recognize my Bookport and ask, all engaged personal interest, "what are you reading?"

Anyway. A very general sort of book, with a lot of good information but not a terrible amount of depth. Douglas is the headliner, but the ego is notably absent. Two articles stood out; the first, written in 1985, adorably trumpets the wonder of modern technology; there's a computer at Quantico and a computer in DC, and they can send information back and forth between them. Aww!

The other is an article from The Journal of Interpersonal Violence, which draws on the offender interviews and other data to try and outline the optimal response to sexual assault. It's a deeply confused piece which seems as if it wants to be directed to victims but isn't, and offers up such useful advice for moments of extreme terror for your life as, "If he responds by immediately ceasing his aggressive/violent behavior and is willing to engage the victim in conversation, he is also likely to be an exploitative rapist and the victim should use verbal strategies. If the attacker continues to escalate aggression/violence, the victim should attempt to begin verbal dissuasive techniques."

It's not like it's a bad idea, delineating the occasions when resisting is a good strategy, and when it will only increase risk. In reality, these are determinations women do make on their own, sometimes with startling accuracy. But the presentation is hilariously inept.

A good book, but not terribly revealing. Starting point, not the meat of research.

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## **Betsy Ashton says**

I bought this for research, because I write about serial killers. I don't write about sexual killers, so I didn't know much about what makes them tick. This book lays out motives, psychological behavior, etc. of a series of rapists who murdered their victims. All of the killers were in prison and agreed to participate in the study.

The book is well written and well researched. It is dated, however, because it was printed in 1992. Thus, the crime scene investigation techniques, reliance on DNA analysis and other scientific advances aren't current. That said, the psychological studies are valid and most revealing.

If you aren't a writer or a researcher hooked on serial killers, this book isn't for you. If you do love these deviants, this books belongs on your shelf -- after you've read it.

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### **Nat says**

While the authors have done much for the field, they aren't without their professional faults, which includes their research. I'm left wondering what happened to the journal article that was submitted based on this book, after it was rejected by the reviewers?

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### **Sue says**

I read this book for a criminal investigative analysis class. Very interesting.

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### **Zach Fortier says**

I have used this as a reference for many cases I worked and to educate others. Ressler wrote the book on serial killers and understanding patterns. This book is a must in your library if you are a cop or want to be a cop, or perhaps just want to understand what is really going on at crime scenes and not watch police procedural cop shows that are no where near reality. I Highly recommend all of Ressler's works

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### **Bec says**

It was good but more of a textbook than a sit down and read it type of book, I also found I knew a lot of the information already from reading a lot of other true crime

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### **Daphne Stewart says**

#### **Informative**

Even though this book is over 20 years old it is very accurate and informative. I would highly recommend this to anyone interested in true crime or who works in the field.

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### **Rachel says**

My morbid infatuation with true crime and criminology has always been driven by a few key questions: who, how, and why. I have a few stand outs: intriguing individuals about whom I devour everything that I can find. I do not know what I am looking for, but I will know it when I see it. This book went a long way to sate my curiosity.

My first pleasant surprise was to find that the work is a novel length research article: perhaps my favorite nonfiction format. My first disappointment was to find that the study used only thirty eight participants. I was further disappointed that, after scouring the web on multiple occasions, I could find no external evaluations of the study. However, the authors are thorough in detailing their methods and clearly defining their terminology, so I was confident in the merits of the book. Boo hoo - it is what it is.

The work illustrates the development (up to adulthood) of sexually motivated serial murderers, then proceeds to explain how these factors correlate to their crimes, including preceding events and post disposal behaviors. The authors increase the book's accessibility with their inclusion of flow charts that convey cycles of behavior and life events that escalate, justify, and reinforce the perpetrator's belief that their acts are admissible.

The book deals with common misperceptions and biases about assailants' personalities, mental health, and motives in a way that I found progressive for a book published in 1988. The authors clarify in the above paragraph how these individuals are "made," and it is not via mental illness. They explicitly state that childhood sexual abuse is not a causative factor. They include a chapter in which they analyze their data to provide women with the safest methods of response to such an attack, taking into account different paths to which the altercation could lead. This chapter lays out the authors' intent to provide self defense strategies to women, while establishing that their goal is not to blame or burden victims.

In summation: Seek this work out if you want to know who, why, and how; if you do not require a book to be sensational from cover to cover; and if you are not satisfied by the answers that true crime books provide.

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### **C.E. Case says**

A seminal work for sure. Dry, but fascinating. Includes chapters on victimology and how to protect yourself against rape.

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### **Monzy S says**

Robert Ressler is my idol, he is a pioneer in behavioral analysis and criminal profiling and a very intelligent, fascinating man, great writer as well. The book is so interesting and educational!

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