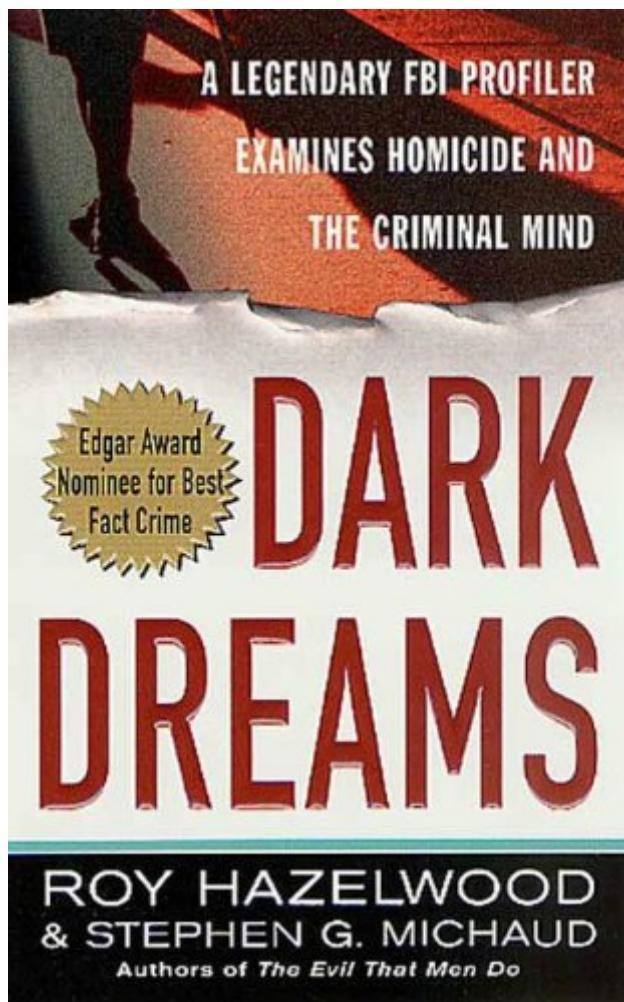


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Dark Dreams: A Legendary FBI Profiler Examines Homicide And The Criminal Mind



Synopsis

The Evil That Men Do introduced readers to the lifework and the techniques of FBI profiler Roy Hazelwood. Now, in Dark Dreams, Hazelwood-- writing with bestselling author Stephen G. Michaud-- will take the reader deep into the minds of his prey, the world's most dangerous sexual criminals, and reveal the extent to which these individuals permeate our society. Profiler Roy Hazelwood is one of the world's leading experts on the strangest and most dangerous of all aberrant offenders-- the sexual criminal. In Dark Dreams he reveals the twisted motive and thinking that go into the most reprehensible crimes. He also catalogs the innovative and remarkably effective techniques-- investigative approaches that he helped pioneer at the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit-- that allow law enforcement agents to construct psychological profiles of the offenders who commit these crimes. Hazelwood has helped track down some of the most violent and well-known criminals in modern history; in Dark Dreams he takes readers into his world-- a sinister world inhabited by scores of dangerous offenders for every Roy Hazelwood who would put them behind bars.* A young woman disappears from the convenience store where she works. Her skeletonized remains are found in a field, near a torture device. Who committed this heinous crime? And why?* A teenager's body is found hanging in a storm sewer. His clothes are neatly folded by the entrance and a stopwatch is found in his mouth. Is he the victim of a bizarre, ritualistic murder...or an elaborate masturbatory fantasy gone awry?* A married couple, driving with their toddler in the backseat, pick up a female hitchhiker. They kidnap her and for seven years keep her as a sexual slave. The wife agreed to this inhuman arrangement in exchange for having a second child. Who was to blame? As gruesome as the crimes are and as unsettling as the odds seem, Hazelwood proves that the right amount of determination and logic can bring even the most cunning and devious criminals to justice. Dark Dreams is a 2002 Edgar Award Nominee for Best Fact Crime.

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Customer Reviews

Roy Hazelwood is a colleague of well-known FBI profilers Robert Ressler and John Douglas. Like those two men, Hazelwood spent much of his FBI career working in the subterranean Behavioral Science Unit at the FBI's National Academy in Quantico, VA. Now retired and working in private practice, Hazelwood has written his second book on the topic of sexually violent criminals. As always, these books are not for the faint of heart, but for those who are fascinated with the criminal mind, there are few people who can speak with more authority or knowledge than Roy Hazelwood. Hazelwood's first book, *The Evil That Men Do*, was partially a biography, but this book focuses almost exclusively on various cases that he has been involved with. Chapters are devoted to serial rapists, revenge murders, profiling and equivocal deaths, among others. Hazelwood spent years instructing police and law enforcement professionals about sexual violence and those who commit such acts. Unsurprisingly, in this book he is as much a teacher as he is a storyteller, trying to bring the reader along down twisted, tortuous paths into the minds of sexual offenders. I feel that his approach is both a strength and a weakness. Sometimes this book reads like a PowerPoint presentation; the reader can literally see the bullet points. It can also be a very perfunctory book. I found myself often wanting more details or longer explanations. The truth is that most people read these kinds of books for entertainment rather than edification. While Hazelwood surely knows that, he decided to keep his approach free from sensationalism or extraneous detail. I respect him for that, but I honestly think the book suffers a bit from this sometimes dry and clinical approach.

I started reading about serial killers after the sniper deaths in Washington D.C. and Maryland. "Dark Dreams" is an interesting and horrifying look into the minds of serial killers, mostly American, although there is the obligatory chapter on Jack the Ripper. In a previously read book, "Serial Killers" by Joel Norris, the author attempted both a psychological and biological profile of these murderers

with emphasis on both nature and upbringing. Hazelwood and Michaud do not attempt to decipher the 'why' of serial killers in "Dark Dreams." They concentrate on the different types of 'how,' and what the 'how' reveals about the serial killer. For instance, one of the authors' major themes is the narcissism of serial killers. Many of them come to believe that they are too smart for the police to catch, and start taking unnecessary chances. Some even write taunting letters to the police, e.g. the Zodiac Killer, or commit a crime under the very noses of their pursuers. An example of the latter type of behavior was demonstrated by the stalker, Andrew Johnstone, who stole his victim's underwear out of a Salvation Army box that the police had under twenty-four hour surveillance. The authors point out that a safer method to obtain the same result would have been to steal his victim's bras off of her clothesline. A few other common characteristics of serial killers that the authors spend some time with are their ritualistic behavior, their employment of paid or compliant partners to 'practice' on, and their use of detective magazines as 'how to' manuals.

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