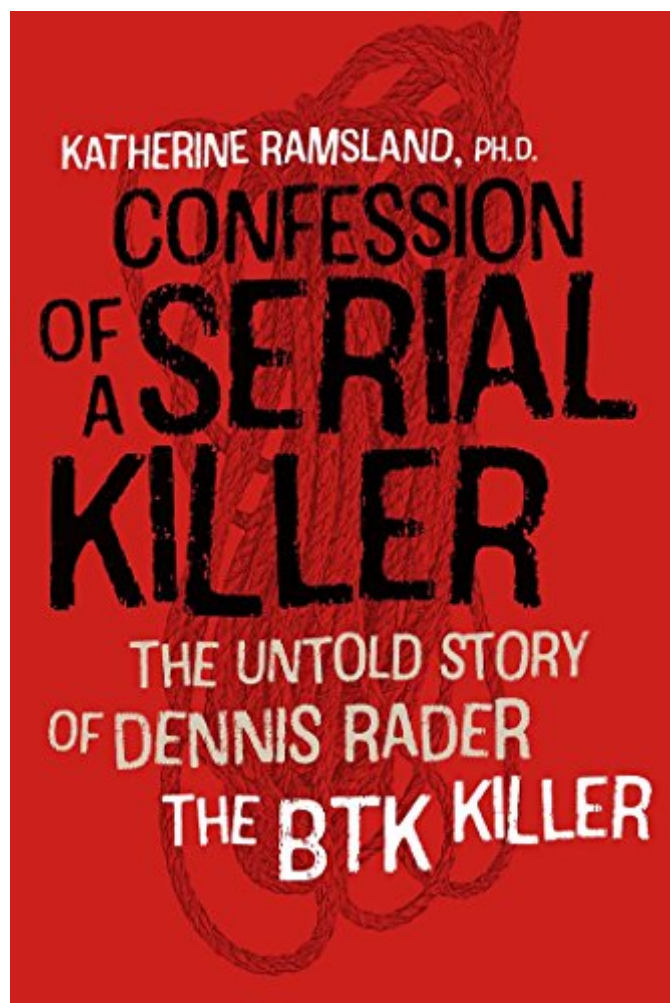


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Confession Of A Serial Killer: The Untold Story Of Dennis Rader, The BTK Killer



Synopsis

In 1974, Dennis Lynn Rader stalked and murdered a family of four in Wichita, Kansas. Since adolescence, he had read about serial killers and imagined becoming one. Soon after killing the family, he murdered a young woman and then another, until he had ten victims. He named himself "B.T.K." (bind, torture, kill) and wrote notes that terrorized the city. He remained on the loose for thirty years. No one who knew him guessed his dark secret. He nearly got away with his crimes, but in 2004, he began to play risky games with the police. He made a mistake. When he was arrested, Rader's family, friends, and coworkers were shocked to discover that B.T.K. had been among them, going to work, raising his children, and acting normal. This case stands out both for the brutal treatment of victims and for the ordinary public face that Rader, a church council president, had shown to the outside world. Through jailhouse visits, telephone calls, and written correspondence, Katherine Ramsland worked with Rader himself to analyze the layers of his psyche. Using his drawings, letters, interviews, and Rader's unique codes, she presents in meticulous detail the childhood roots and development of one man's motivation to stalk, torture, and kill. She reveals aspects of the dark motivations of this most famous of living serial killers that have never before been revealed. In this book Katherine Ramsland presents an intelligent, original, and rare glimpse into the making of a serial killer and the potential darkness that lives next door.

Book Information

File Size: 12124 KB

Print Length: 280 pages

Publisher: ForeEdge (September 6, 2016)

Publication Date: August 23, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01DWHSKA4

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #10,212 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #2 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > Midwest #22 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks >

Customer Reviews

When it comes to books about serial killers and bizarre true crimes, I have read more than my fair share. I have read many theories on how a person develops into a serial killer, always looking for further understanding, or some sort of explanation that I hadn't heard before. I can honestly say that Katherine Ramsland's book: "Confession of a Serial Killer: The Untold Story of Dennis Rader- The BTK Killer" has achieved the great feat of giving readers something more. The book is largely told through Rader himself through an exchange of letters and interviews with Ramsland. This makes for highly compelling reading. Hearing it straight from the horse's mouth is always best. Rader digs back and details the many events in his childhood that were likely the beginning of his developing into a serial killer. He explains how he operated, the things he did, and all sorts of various tidbits along the way. He also tells you his account of all the murders and a large variety of details involved in the pre-kill stages, the murder itself, and the aftermath. He attempts to divulge what was going on in his mind at the time and many of his observations in retrospect about his thought process seem very likely to have been part of his motivation. He seems to be genuine in much of what he tells. Of course, you never know how much of the stuff a serial killer tells you is actual fact, but it does seem like he is at a point where he has nothing to lose and may as well just tell the true story. Ramsland notes how Rader's narcissism and grandiose mindset may have contributed to various things he explains, but overall Rader doesn't seem to shy away from much of anything, including the embarrassment and shame that came with much of what he did.

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