



## **The Riverman: Ted Bundy and I Hunt for the Green River Killer**

*Robert D. Keppel*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online ➔](#)

# **The Riverman: Ted Bundy and I Hunt for the Green River Killer**

*Robert D. Keppel*

**The Riverman: Ted Bundy and I Hunt for the Green River Killer** Robert D. Keppel

*After a search of over twenty years, one of America's most elusive serial killers was finally apprehended. Now, read the true story of one man's attempt to get inside se mind of the Green River Killer*

July 15, 1982: 3 woman's strangled body was filed, caught on the pilings of Washington state's Green River. Before long, the "Green River Killer" would be suspected in at least forty-nine more homicides, with no end in sight. Then the authorities received an unbelievable letter from the infamous serial killer Ted Bundy -- then on Florida's death row -- offering to help catch the Green River Killer. But he would only talk to one man: Robert Keppel, the former homicide detective who had helped track Bundy's cross-county killing spree.

Now these conversations are revealed, in which Bundy speculates about the motive and methods of the Green River Killer -- and reveals his *own* twisted secrets as well. Now, as never before, we look into the face of evil...and into the heart of a killer.

## **The Riverman: Ted Bundy and I Hunt for the Green River Killer Details**

Date : Published June 15th 2010 by Pocket Star (first published 1989)

ISBN :

Author : Robert D. Keppel

Format : Kindle Edition 624 pages

Genre : Crime, True Crime, Nonfiction, Mystery



[Download The Riverman: Ted Bundy and I Hunt for the Green River ...pdf](#)



[Read Online The Riverman: Ted Bundy and I Hunt for the Green Rive ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Riverman: Ted Bundy and I Hunt for the Green River Killer  
Robert D. Keppel**

---

## **From Reader Review The Riverman: Ted Bundy and I Hunt for the Green River Killer for online ebook**

### **Ted says**

Strange book. It's really about Bundy, not the Green River Killer. And the author also includes all kinds of extraneous material, such as a chapter on the Wayne Williams case. In other words, the book is poorly edited.

The interviews with Bundy were somewhat interesting. However, the author failed to deliver on Bundy's confession. After hyping the confession for hundreds of pages, we just get a few scanty details in a rushed interview a few days before Bundy's execution.

I would only read this if you just can't get enough of Bundy.

---

### **Tamara says**

Oh, how I love trashy serial killer true crime. Although, with all the shame I have buying these, Borders might as well stack them next to the porno mags. Robert Keppel has a bit of a superiority complex, but I would too if I was working with Ted Bundy. Note: This book should have been titled "All You Ever Wanted to Know about the Primitive Filing Systems of Pre-Computerized Crime Fighting".

---

### **Blagica says**

its fair to mention that this book was recommended to me by a friend and I am grateful that is how much i enjoyed it. I didn't enjoy it because the subject matter was easy breezy, I enjoyed it because the way it was written i couldn't put it down.

Every now and again, a true crime book appears that delivers even more than it promises, and Robert Keppel's remarkable book belongs in that category.

Before I praise it too highly, I should state that despite the title, this book is most definitely not a retelling of Ted Bundy's career as a murderer. Keppel was a detective in King County, Washington in 1974 when Bundy first came to the attention of law enforcement. Accordingly, Keppel focuses on some of Bundy's earliest known murders: the Lake Sammamish victims and the young women who ended up at body dump sites near Issaquah and on Taylor Mountain. But Keppel gives very little attention to Bundy's crimes in other western states; Bundy's escape from jail in Colorado; or his final crime spree in Florida. So for those of us who know little or nothing about Bundy's monstrous murders, this book almost serves to confuse rather than enlighten. But this criticism is tempered by the wealth of information that Keppel does give us.

---

### **Jen Bailey Bergen says**

While a bit repetitive at times, this book is not just a record of the hunt for Gary Ridgeway (aka "The Green River Killer"). Bob Keppel is a giant in his field, and much has been made of his contribution to Dave Reichert's "Riverman" case. That is, of course, what this book is about. True crime junkies already know all about Keppel's multi-year conversations with Bundy; in these pages we delve super deep into Bundy's madness as Keppel relates, at times, straight transcripts of these discussions.

This book is also something of an autobiography of Bob Keppel's career, too. Catching the Bundy case in Washington state and the inventions borne out of that necessity (such as streamlined cross-referenced tip sheets), consulting on the Atlanta Child Murders/Wayne Williams cases, contributing to the creation of VICAP and HITS, and so on. The George Russell (Seattle) and Michigan Child murders are covered, as well.

There is much more information in this book than I expected, and it is clearly not a cold, clinical treatment of a horrible subject. At times Keppel's frustration comes through very clearly (referring to Bundy as a "chickenshit", for example), and his frustrations were not just about the murderers he worked so hard to catch. Keppel goes to great lengths to explain the organizational difficulties presented to homicide investigators in the dawn of the information age, as well as the political nightmares involved with funding task forces and his fight to keep the VICAP system out of the FBI's hands, eventually rebuilding with a northwestern system called HITS.

To sum up: If you're a true crime fan, you will have a general knowledge of the ways in which the two main cases presented in this book (Bundy and Ridgeway) intertwined throughout the eighties. This book gives the specifics.

---

### **Marcella Wigg says**

I have mixed feelings about this book. On the one hand, the premise of the book and content related to that premise is absolutely fascinating: what insights can one serial killer provide about another? As he sat on death row in Florida, Ted Bundy fashioned himself into an amateur profiler as a means to spare his life by making himself valuable for something. When the Green River Killer began to make headlines in his home state of Washington, Bundy wrote to the police and offered to provide his analysis of the killer and how he could be captured. Interested in Bundy's potential insights but also in learning more about his thought processes than he let on, Keppel visited Bundy multiple times, interviewing him about what he thought the Green River Killer was like and learning about his own deviance in the process.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Bundy could basically only project himself onto the Green River Killer case, and some of his claims for that case were based more on his own behavior and motives than the reality of the situation. Bundy viewed himself as superior to the Green River Killer and enjoyed looking at crime scene photos. But he and Ridgway were similar enough that he did offer some insights into the Green River case that police had not previously deduced.

All of this is fascinating psychology to read. But the presentation seriously reduces the quality of the book. Long portions of the book, including the full list of Ridgway's victims and the circumstances in which they were found, is presented very dryly, like it would be in the indictment. Some of Bundy's interviews read like transcripts. One positive aspect about Ann Rule's books on the Green River and Ted Killer cases is that she focuses on the victims, too, and this is not the book for that. However, I did come away with a lot of insights on these Washington state cases that happened not too far from me.

Perhaps the most shocking aspect of the book was just how much evidence police had on Ridgway by the end of the 80s. Multiple people had identified him, his truck, and one even tracked down his home address to the Green River Task Force. One woman reported in 1984 that he had assaulted her by choking in 1982, and she thought he had every intention to kill her. His ex-wife identified multiple locations the two had visited together during their marriage and these all matched Green River dump sites. He had also choked her and had a history of violence, including an unprovoked stabbing of a six year old when he was a teenager, apparently just for fun. Yet he seemed to pass a polygraph and had no trophies in his home, so he wasn't arrested until a DNA link was made in 2001. It's mind-blowing the amount of circumstantial evidence there was against Ridgway in this case twenty years before his arrest.

---

### **Traci says**

Highly recommended for anyone who has ever wondered how a serial killer thinks.

---

### **Samantha says**

To tell the truth, I never would have even picked up this book if the name "Ted Bundy" hadn't been in the subtitle. My morbid curiosity about Ted Bundy - his crimes and the motivations behind them - made me buy this one.

Bob Keppel, the detective who, as he says, "cut his teeth" on the Ted Bundy case, writes a very interesting book which, at times, gets bogged down in the details of a police investigation.

The premise of this book is this: there is a serial killer preying on young women in the Seattle area. Sound familiar?

That's what Keppel thought, too. And one day he gets a letter in the mail from a surprising penpal: Ted Bundy, writing from death row in Florida offering to provide some insight into the search for the killer he refers to as "The Riverman."

Keppel, along with the lead detective on the Green River Killer case, Dave Reichert, decides to go to Florida to interview Bundy, hoping not only to get the promised information, but also some insights into Bundy's own crimes - the ones he refused to confess to until he had no other choice.

The accounts of Keppel's and Reichert's interviews with Bundy are absolutely riveting - I couldn't put the book down despite the fact that I felt horrified, terrified, and more than a little creeped out at the same time.

Turns out, Bundy's predictions about "The Riverman" were startlingly accurate. Know why he knew so much about the killer who was later discovered to be the unassuming truck painter Gary Ridgway? Because he had been there - he understood the thoughts and feelings of a man who preyed on young women. Bundy could describe why Ridgway chose the dump sites he did, why he chose the victims he did, how he could go undetected for so long. **BUNDY WAS THE EXPERT, FIRST-HAND.**

The book focuses mostly on Bundy, actually. Two-thirds of the book involves the investigation into Bundy's crimes, the interviews with Bundy regarding the Green River Killer, and his last-minute confessions hours

before his execution. The rest of the book is about the eventual arrest of Gary Ridgway in 2001, who had been murdering prostitutes without being caught since the 70s. Ridgway eventually confessed to murdering 48 women officially, though he claimed he killed over 60.

What struck me the most about this book is the sheer lack of emotion displayed by both Bundy and Ridgway as they confessed to the brutal murders of young women. Any emotion they showed was either contrived for the benefit of the interviewers or was anger at themselves for making the mistakes that eventually got them caught. Remorse for the victims? No way.

But I guess it takes a special kind of person to be a cold-blooded killer.

Fascinating read.

---

### **Stephanie says**

Not exactly what I expected from the title of the book but it was still good.

The majority of the book talks about Bundy as a serial killer, his victims & his interviews with Detective Keppel. If you know about Bundy already, this was a big recap of him as a killer, what he did, how/what he thought, how he "got" his victims & the victims themselves. He takes you into the mind of a serial killer during his interviews while sitting on death row in Fl. It was creepy reading what came out of Bundy's mouth & how accurate he was about what said in regards to the "Riverman". Detective Keppel kept my attention thought the book. It was interesting to read how certain things came about because of this case in the way police "view/profile" serial killers & how they find them now.

Although you do not actually "get" to Ridgway until pg 439, you are informed of the murders. I thought this way going to be more in depth about Ridgway & his spree, i.e. who is victims were, when/where/how they each happened, how they tracked him, arrested him, his confessions, etc. Although all this was present, I just didn't realize that it was such a smaller part of the book.

If you read true crime, you know about Bundy... I don't think the book needed to include so much of his background in order to talk about or explain Ridgway. It made it seem like a book about Bundy, not Ridgway as the title "The Riverman" suggests. But this is just mho.

---

### **Mike says**

I don't have the discipline to be a serial killer and I certainly don't have the drive and obsession to catch one. Be glad people like Robert Keppel are applying their considerable talents to stop them.

Keppel combines memoir, procedural textbook, history and evolution of serial murder investigative techniques and interviews with Bundy and Ridgway with very little ego. He focuses on the facts and not how awesome he is. (I'm looking at you, John Douglas.)

Obsessive, detailed, dense. If you only read one book on the topic of serial killers, choose this the one.

---

## Katherine Addison says

This book makes a fascinating counterpoint to Ann Rule's bookends, *The Stranger Beside Me: Ted Bundy The Shocking Inside Story* and *Green River, Running Red: The Real Story of the Green River Killer--America's Deadliest Serial Murderer*. It charts Keppel's path from the investigation of Ted Bundy's murders (which I've had to tag "the ted murders" instead of by geographical location as I usually do, since Bundy ranged from Washington State to Florida) to the investigation of the Green River murders . . . to the bizarre suggestion by Ted Bundy that he could be an invaluable resource in efforts to find the Green River Killer. And to the apprehension in 2003, more than ten years after Bundy failed in his efforts to beat the electric chair, of Gary Ridgway, and the ways in which Bundy's predictions do and don't match up with reality.

Keppel recognizes easily that Bundy is projecting himself onto the GRK, at the same time that he's driven mad with jealousy that somebody else is hunting on *his* territory. The simplest evidence of this is the way that Bundy keeps insisting that the GRK must be a Tacoma native, as Bundy was himself. Bundy keeps trying to swap himself in when he talks about the GRK (arguably, the only way that a person utterly lacking in empathy ever *could* proceed under those circumstances), and it's fascinating when he's right and equally fascinating when he's wrong, especially because the point on which Bundy was most consistently wrong was his assessment of the GRK's intelligence. Bundy was very smart (though never as smart as he thought he was) and he prided himself hubristically on his intelligence, so it's not surprising that he attributed the same intelligence to the GRK. But the interesting thing is that Ridgway *isn't* as smart as Bundy. In her book, Rule argues that the reason he went uncaught for so long was that he was such a loser, nobody could take him seriously as a serial killer. I wouldn't go quite that far (I think her own loathing of him may have colored her assessment, *FOR WHICH I DO NOT BLAME HER*), but I think Ridgway *did* survive uncaught as long as he did because he didn't have Bundy's prideful self-conception of himself as the most intelligent guy in the room. He was cunning, but he never tried to get "smart." And, horrible and counter-intuitive as it is to put it this way, he was a much more stable personality than Bundy. Bundy fell the fuck apart once he was on the run; his murders in Florida just became wilder and wilder and more unlike the careful, carefully thought out attacks he made on his victims in Washington State, and I think the very intelligence he prided himself on, that weird semi-accurate self-awareness that he shows in his interviews with Keppel--because he can never see himself *entirely* accurately, can never see the pits he's digging for himself to fall into --is part of what unbalanced him and made him need more and more and more, *more* murder and *more* violence and *more* of what he was able to recognize was depravity. (It's interesting that his last murder was a child, and his probable first murder--the one he refused almost hysterically to confess to--was also a child.) Whereas Ridgway, without that relentless over-clocking, was able to murder and walk away and murder again and eventually back off almost entirely. He never stopped killing between 1984 and 2001, but he slowed way, way down. If serial killers are addicted to murder, as Keppel and Bundy and Ridgway all suggest, in remarkably different phrasings, Ridgway was able to control his addiction; Bundy was not.

I've been struggling with how to describe this book in comparison with Rule. They're *very* different; one way to put it would be that Keppel writes like a cop and Rule doesn't, except that Rule *was* a cop, so however she writes is how a cop writes. A stereotyping way would be that Keppel writes like a man and Rule writes like a woman. Keppel tells Bundy, as part of the endless intricate *pas de deux* that the two of them dance, that he's not interested in the "why"--*why* Bundy was a serial killer--and while that's not *actually* true, since Keppel is intensely interested in why serial killers do what they do, the hunt, the kill, the afterparty--which, jeez, is a horrible metaphor, but both Bundy and Ridgway revisited their victims' corpses, partly for reasons of necrophilia (Ridgway admits to this without much apparent agonizing, but Bundy tied himself up in thirteen

different kinds of hell-drenched knots over it: again, intelligence and self-awareness are not necessarily your friend if you're going to go in for this sort of thing) and partly for reasons of *possession*. They were both far more closely attuned to the places they left their victims' bodies than they were to their victims themselves. Which only makes sense; they only knew their victims for a matter of hours at the outside, but their relationships with those *places* stretched out over years. In 2003, Ridgway couldn't identify most of his victims from photographs, but he could lead detectives to *exactly* where he put them, and this despite the fact that the victims hadn't changed in the last 20 years and the land most certainly had. Keppel says that no one ever had any luck searching for Bundy's unfound victims, even when Bundy had described the location very precisely, and I wonder if it's because Bundy was lying, as he very well may have been, or if the land had changed in ways that the searchers couldn't adjust for but Bundy himself would have been able to. Moot point. Ridgway, with no investment in his own intelligence, took the plea bargain; Bundy, trying to prove he was the smartest man in the room, kept holding back the information until there was no leverage left in it.

Okay. Long tangent. What I was saying is, Keppel's interested in *why*, but he's interested in the *why* of serial killers as a class. He's not interested in Theodore Robert Bundy or Gary Leon Ridgway. And while he's outraged and grieved by the murders of these forty-eight plus young women, he doesn't have any interest in the sort of biographical detective work that Rule does. He's content with name, age, race, time and place last seen, when determinable, and the umbrella category of "working in prostitution." Other details are haphazard and mostly chosen because the irony makes them immediately memorable: Cheryl Wims, who was murdered on her 18th birthday; Cindy Smith, who'd moved back from California the day she disappeared in order to turn her life around; et cetera. And this is 100% okay because he's not writing the same kind of book Rule is. Rule's writing the *story* of the Green River murders, and that *must* include the stories of the victims. Keppel is writing about how he learned about catching serial killers through his work on the Ted murders and the Green River murders, and through his extraordinary interviews with Ted Bundy, as Bundy tried to teach him how to ask questions that would enable Bundy to answer him. (This is what *The Silence of the Lambs* looks like in real life. No Anthony Hopkins, no pretty FBI rookie. A middle-aged cop and Ted Bundy, whose manipulations were pathetic and terrifying at the same time and who wasn't, at the end, holding all four aces the way he thought he was. Hannibal Lecter is never pathetic, even in captivity, and there's part of me that says that makes him a horrifyingly irresponsible romanticization of men like Bundy and Ridgway.)

Very different perspective from Rule, but equally an excellent book.

---

### **Lucila Rodriguez says**

Este es un muy interesante libro. Recuerdan en el libro de Thomas Harris, *El Silencio de los Inocentes*, (o la famosa película del mismo nombre) cuando la aspirante a detective, Clarissa Sterling (Jodie Foster) fue enviada a entrevistar al infame asesino en serie/psiquiatra de renombre Hannibal Lecter, quien cumplía condena perpetua en una prisión para los enfermos mentales, para que les ayuden a capturar a un escurrídizo asesino en serie. Bueno, esto era ficción. En la vida real, el autor, Bob Keppel, quien por años estuvo pisando los talones de TED, el asesino en serie que aterrorizaba Washington por los años '73 y 74, y D. Reichert, quien a comienzos de los 80s era la cabeza de la fuerza especial para atrapar al Asesino del Rio Verde (Green River Killer) y por el año 84 estaba muy lejos de lograrlo, visitan a uno de los más notorios asesinos en serie: Ted Bundy.

Fue el mismo Bundy quien los invita, asegurando que él podría ayudarles, ya que quien más experto en esos temas que el propio Bundy.

Keppel no pudo capturar a Bundy, pues cuando éste se ubicó entre los siete principales sospechosos, ya había salido del estado de Washington y continuó con su serie de crímenes hasta ser capturado por un poliña de

tránsito. La idea de visitarlo, no solo era para que proporcione ideas de cómo piensa un asesino en serie, sino para finalmente aclarar si tomó parte o no en varios asesinatos en los que era sospechoso y la ubicación de varias víctimas cuyos restos nunca fueron ubicados.

Es interesante la descripción del autor sobre el lenguaje corporal de Bundy al mostrarle fotos de escenas de crímenes o al narrarle los hechos de un crimen. Realmente parecía mucho más que emocionado. Cuando especulaba sobre las acciones del Riverman (asesino del Río Verde) muchas veces parecía estar contando sobre sus experiencias personales.

Keppel debió visitarlo hasta en tres oportunidades, la última, a horas de su ejecución, para poder conocer detalles de algunos de sus crímenes, como todo lo sucedido con Georgeann Hawkins. Sin embargo Bundy solo quería demostrar todo lo que aún no había confesado y esperaba hacerlo para dar "alivio a los familiares de sus víctimas" todo esto en busca de un nuevo aplazamiento de su ejecución. Un sucio truco, que no le resultó. Y se llevó a la tumba muchos secretos incluso el número total de víctimas.

Keppel transcribe al pie de la letra lo que Bundy dice, con interjecciones, y faltas gramaticales, o repeticiones y redundancias, y hace una interpretación de lo dicho, y también explica el motivo de las preguntas. Esto es importante, pues no se pierde nada en la interpretación. Pero puede resultar aburrido leer lo mismo varias veces.

Finalmente, en el 2003 el Riverman es capturado (gracias al DNA) y éste en forma callosa, confiesa sus crímenes, con lujo de detalles y sin el más mínimo remordimiento.

Frases célebres: -No puedo hablar sobre eso, es muy duro para mí (Bundy al preguntársele sobre el cuerpo de una de sus víctimas)

- Hay crímenes de los que un asesino en serie no habla y no admitirá nunca, por que son muy cercanos (Bundy)

-Que no hayan nuevas víctimas no significa que haya parado, solo que la policía no ha encontrado los cuerpos aún, o está en otra ciudad, o está preso. Un asesino en serie no va a cambiar. Tendría que volver a nacer (entre risas) (Bundy, cuando le preguntaron porque ya no encontraron mas cuerpos atribuidos al Green River j\Killer, puede un asesino en serie parar de matar?)

---

## **Kelly says**

7/30/13 I feel a bit gypped. I'm on page 150 (out of 475 pages), and only the first 100 pages were about Ted Bundy. There's been nothing about the Green River Killer yet. The title should be more all-inclusive to describe the entirety of the content; more accurately, it should have been called "Bob Keppel Helps Others Hunt Serial Killers." This is not to say that it's a bad book, just that the title and cover are misleading. I just finished reading Ann Rule's The Stranger Beside Me: Ted Bundy The Shocking Inside Story, and was intrigued enough to feel hungry for more of the same. I also read The Search for the Green River Killer a couple of years ago, and was equally as fascinated. I thought this author would offer an awesome perspective that combined the two cases, but it's more of an autobiography of Keppel's contributions to various serial killer investigations. So far he's covered Ted Bundy, the Atlanta Child Killer, and the Michigan Child Murders. It's interesting enough, but a bit dry.

8/7/13 I'm now on page 342, and wanted to add an update to the above comments. I guess I spoke too soon :P On page 159, the author gets into the Green River murders, and on page 198 is where Ted Bundy begins "helping" with the investigation. It then becomes mostly Ted's thoughts and exact wording, as he speaks with the author and Dave Reichert (the investigator portrayed by Tom Cavanagh in the Lifetime movie) about the unknown killer's possible habits and motivations. Ted himself is very annoying, as he is exceptionally repetitive and rambling and egotistical. It's still interesting, though, to read a quoted conversation between a serial killer and two detectives who are discussing another serial killer. The book was published in 1995, at a

time when the Green River Killer was still unidentified; Gary Ridgeway wasn't arrested until 2001 (though he was considered as a suspect well before that time). Will update again when I finish the book.

8/16/13 WHEW, I'm finally finished! I think I lost interest somewhere along the way, but was determined to read the whole thing. My main takeaway from the book is that Ted Bundy is very talented at speaking a whole lot of words while saying a whole lot of nothing. He rambles on and on and on, never quite answering questions directly or offering any significant information. He stroked his own ego by "helping" Bob Keppel understand the inner workings of the Green River Killer (which probably did zilch in helping them actually catch the guy many years later), and he greatly enjoyed immersing himself in the crimes of another killer like himself. Like I said above, I found him annoying. Keppel, meanwhile, exhibited a bit of arrogance himself while detailing what he thought other investigators did wrong in various cases. Most of it bordered on boring, but there was some interesting stuff thrown into the mix, so not a total waste. I think that readers who are fascinated by Ted Bundy, who already know a lot about him and want to learn and experience something extra and different, will enjoy this. But for other readers, I would definitely recommend starting with Ann Rule's book, as it describes his killing period from start to finish. This one really doesn't do that, nor does it give much information on the Green River Killer.

---

### **Jen Stelling says**

One of the most thoughtful true crime books I have ever read. Compelling stor(ies) from Robert Keppel, who has held many positions in Washington State law enforcement and is now an academic. Keppel was involved with the development of VICAP and investigated or assisted with the investigations of Bundy's Wash State victims and with the years-long hunt for the Green River killer. Unlike some authors, Keppel is not awed by the monstrous people with whom has conversed. Interesting perspectives on the difficulties of investigating related crimes across state boundaries and the strides that were made in the 1980s and 1990s towards reducing duplication of effort and facilitating information sharing.

---

### **Prakriti says**

I was between a host of other books when I got my hands upon a stack of some twenty true crime books. The Riverman jumped out of the lot at me. The subtitle killed any doubts left "Ted Bundy and I hunt for the Green River Killer". This sounded like one of those Japanese monster vs monster premises. Moreover, at a point of time, Ted Bundy used to be my "favorite" serial killer. How could I resist?

It was a red herring though. This book is neither about The Riverman (the Green River Killer), nor about the central premise of Silence of the lambs, of one serial killer helping law enforcement to catch another. No attempt was made in that direction, also Bob Keppel and Ted Bundy did not catch (or hunt for) the Green River Killer. They had a conversation lasting weeks wherein they try to create a psychological profile of the Green River killer which was eventually not used.

That is not a bad thing however, and the book is a very different kind of monster than marketing surmised it to be. This book, in essence is memoirs of Robert D. Keppel, the cop who found himself chasing serial killers again and again after his first success, Ted Bundy.

Keppel is an academic (associate professor for criminal justice), he writes books for investigators. As such

the tone of the book is essentially passing on experiences by Keppel in understanding and pursuit of serial killers. Undoubtedly this makes the book a goldmine of information for anyone in law enforcement who ever deals with killers, either in understanding motivations or trapping future killers.

But the academic tone of the book put me off, as a lay reader, for vast stretches. Keppel is a strange man. He is obsessed by Bundy, as he would be, and this obsession shows in the way his interviews with Keppel have been published in the book. Entire reams of his discussions, repetitions, irrelevancy, et al have been printed. I can understand how valuable Keppel would consider each of those words to be, but to the lay reader, they are boring. The transition between practitioner to academic is also quite evident in the over the top modesty with which Keppel cakes this book. "I was stunned to receive a call from the Chief of Police", "I could not believe that I was being called into a national conference to understand serial killers" (you just caught the biggest serial killer to have operated in America in ages, why would you be surprised to be called into a national conference?). Lines like the above feature on every alternate page, and it is frankly exhausting to work through Keppel's insecurities.

One comes off the book disgusted with Bundy (and that's brilliant to come from a book where the author has been obsessed by Bundy for more than twenty years. There is an involuntary admiration for Bundy's methods that come across but nowhere does it seem to eulogize him. I think that is a great tight rope walk to have gotten through.)

I would still say that the book is an excellent read for anyone interested in serial killers. However, the usual reasons one is interested in a serial killer yarn, the thrill from the gratuitous kills are noticeably absent in this book, the tone is decidedly academic, and it is one hell of a thick tome to finish.

---

### **Hollyn says**

I think it would have been possible for this book to be 100 pages shorter.

It was definitely an interesting read. Very interesting. I learned new things.

I feel that this was a bit of a information overload. Many times I found the author repeating the same sentence over and over again.

The first portion of the book was a recap on Ted Bundy's crimes that spanned through Washington to Florida.

Different cases were also described in extent in portions of the book.

I walked away feeling a bit depressed. Possibly because of the contents of Ted's final interview with Bob Keppel or just the glaring finality of Ted's ordeal, it was almost pathetic.

I found Keppel's contempt for Ted to be disheartening and increasingly annoying. His dislike for the FBI was also obvious.

During sections of the chapters in which the crimes of Wayne B. Williams is discussed, Keppel mentions the FBI to be more of a nuisance than assistance.

After reading MindHunter by John Douglas, I find Bob Keppel's side of things to be less professional.

After the Riverman discussions with Ted had ceased, the author decided to throw in a few random chapters about the VICAP and HITS programs. I found this to be sensationally boring, as these things had been

discussed previously in the book, and essentially didn't have anything to do with the case at hand. These chapters led to the stories of other crimes that were helped along with these VICAP and HITS programs. After this abrupt interjection, the story continued along with Bundy's interviews. I found this to be an unnecessary break.

Basically, this book, unlike Ted Bundy, was not organized.

---