



## **The Devil's Dozen: How Cutting-Edge Forensics Took Down 12 Notorious Serial Killers**

*Katherine Ramsland*

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**The Devil's Dozen: How Cutting-Edge Forensics Took Down 12 Notorious Serial Killers** Katherine Ramsland

**A forensics expert follows the historic evolution of CSI through a century of serial killers.**

"Katherine Ramsland has brilliantly captured the insights and drama of some fascinating cases" (Dr. Henry Lee) in her previous bestselling books. Now she examines the case histories of twelve of the most notorious serial killers of the last one hundred years, and answers the questions: What clues did they leave behind? How were they eventually caught? How was each twist and turn of their crimes matched by the equally compelling weapons of science and logic?

From exploring the nineteenth century's earliest investigative tools to remarkable twenty-first century CSI advances, *The Devil's Dozen* provides a fascinating window into the world of those who kill-and those who dedicate their lives to bringing them to justice.

## **The Devil's Dozen: How Cutting-Edge Forensics Took Down 12 Notorious Serial Killers Details**

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Author : Katherine Ramsland

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# **From Reader Review The Devil's Dozen: How Cutting-Edge Forensics Took Down 12 Notorious Serial Killers for online ebook**

**Kelly H. (Maybedog) says**

**From reviewers:**

**Noelle says:**

"These stories are better than fiction, so let's hope for some real-life sequels." really????? let's hope for more serial killers to systematically target and attack, rape, and murder primarily women and children so we have some new fun stuff to read? REALLY? way to end your already boring book on such an inexplicably sour note, lady.

**Karen says:**

"These stories are better than fiction, so let's hope for some real-life sequels."

while I agree that true life crime stories are better than fictional ones and I do enjoy reading them I am not hoping that more people are murdered so that I'll have something to read.

**J.A. White says:**

What really annoyed me about this book was the way the author talked about rape and kept using euphemisms instead of calling a rape a rape, had this book been from the 70s I might not have been that annoyed by it but it's from 2009. I also did not like when referring to a Russian case it was said that after interviewing several homosexuals the person in charge of the investigation had a sound picture of an underworld of sex and violence without explaining what said violence had to do with homosexuality.

**I say:**

Wow. I have no other words.

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**Kristianna Mays says**

I have been enjoying this book a lot, as a true crime buff this was right up my alley. What did bother me was the misinformation about Karla Homolka and her younger sisters involvement in the crimes. I also did not like a lot of the verbage used to describe sex workers and mentally disabled individuals.

I think she could have cleared those things up a bit and did some more research and it would have been worthy of 5 stars.

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**J. A. White says**

This book does contain some interesting tidbits of information but some of the cases really seemed to have little to do with the changes that were supposedly linked to them.

What really annoyed me about this book was the way the author talked about rape and kept using euphemisms instead of calling a rape a rape, had this book been from the 70s I might not have been that annoyed by it but it's from 2009. I also did not like when referring to a Russian case it was said that after interviewing several homosexuals the person in charge of the investigation had a sound picture of an underworld of sex and violence without explaining what said violence had to do with homosexuality.

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### **noelle says**

save yourself the trouble and just read the final overview chapter. i'm unsure how the author could take such an easy (in that it's inherently interesting, imo) subject and make it so boring. the only thing it really has going for it is that its major focus is primarily on more obscure killers.

also: "These stories are better than fiction, so let's hope for some real-life sequels." really????? let's hope for more serial killers to systematically target and attack, rape, and murder primarily women and children so we have some new fun stuff to read? REALLY? way to end your already boring book on such an inexplicably sour note, lady.

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### **Kathrynn says**

I was very disappointed at how the chapters were organized and without sugarcoating my main pet peeve I'm going to just say it.

This book was horribly written.

I can't think of a worse way the information could have been presented. Ugh!

Did the author even read what she wrote? Did anyone read it to see if what was written made sense? If I were a gambling person, I'd bet "No."

Each chapter should have begun with a breakdown of the date and city/country, names of officers involved, names and nicknames of killer. Often, I had to flip through the chapter to determine this. The information jumped around and often I had to piece what should have been laid out methodically together to determine what the heck the author said. Sometimes, I couldn't and just moved on. The author would mix things up and left me wondering if she was copying and pasting notes (out of sequence).

I gave up on finishing this over 3/4s into the book.

On a positive note, it appeared the chapters were in chronological order. The early killings to the more recent. Woo-hoo!

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### **Judi says**

the one thing I liked the most about this book was that the author profiled men I had little or no knowledge of; so it wasn't rehashing the same stuff. I read a review where the writer had stated that the author wished for more material and I was very interested in this, but when I got to it, I didn't read it the same way. I think the author was talking about the forensic technology, that she hoped for continuing break-throughs. That's how I interpreted it.

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### **joolz says**

A fascinating book for those interested in the evolution of murder investigation. The book takes 12 cases from around the world and shows how each was a key case in moving investigation methods forward. From handwriting analysis, DNA profiling to analysing computer usage, each case is important in itself for breaking new ground and improving scientific knowledge.

Recommended for those interested in crime, forensics or psychology.

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### **Michelle says**

It was interesting to read about the scientific advances that led to these criminals being caught and there was a decent sized overview of each killer that was mentioned without getting into too much detail. Interesting to read about the Pickton case, as I wasn't aware it was the most expensive case in the world, and of course is still ongoing so therefore the price will be even higher.

Overall it wasn't a bad read if you're interested in true crime.

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### **Fishface says**

This book includes capsule reviews of many cases you've read about before but also has a couple I, the True Crime Queen, have never heard about before in my life. Focuses completely on the cutting-edge forensic techniques used to beard serial killers in their lairs. This is my first Katherine Ramsland and I was quite pleased in spite of the fact that most of the cases in here were strictly review for me.

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### **Audiaa says**

This book was mostly a historical summary of 12 serial killer cases. The murders were briefly described as well as how the criminals were ultimately identified and in some cases tried and convicted. I don't think that much described in this book was actually "cutting edge" though some of it might have been at the time. I didn't really learn anything new about forensics, and I don't know that much to begin with. Some of the techniques, esp. DNA testing, were described awkwardly as if by someone who didn't really understand them. Mostly this book was about the shock value of the cases and the often arrogance of the criminals

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believing that they would not be caught.

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### **Lisa says**

A look at how 'cutting edge' forensics apparently took down 12 serial killers - each chapter has an overview of both the killers and their crimes, the investigations and what tools were used to break the case, from letter tracing to DNA and from psychological profiling to brain fingerprinting.

More like a Channel 5 documentary than an in-depth look, I would have liked a little more depth regarding each investigation - instead of following developments and leads we skipped lightly over the details until we got to the point the author wanted to talk about, which she then dispatched rather quickly. Some of these tools didn't seem that cutting edge to me with the way they were described a little fuzzy, and I didn't feel that some of the cases illustrated what the author was trying to achieve, sometimes showing instead the incompetence or bad management of the law enforcement side (particularly when it came to Robinson and 'the sting', which he would have got away with if he hadn't been persuaded to seek treatment for some injuries).

That said, I did get lots of suggestions for further reading which got this book a further point.

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### **Ivy says**

5 stars

Interesting novel. Liked that we were able to see how forensics was used to catch serial killers. Explained really well.

Can't wait to read more of this author's books!!!!

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### **Tanya W says**

This is appropriately named... "Devil's Dozen". These serial killers are horrible, devilish individuals. The stories are interesting, and the forensic techniques that have put them away are great. I have an appreciation for the people involved in these tedious investigations... their persistence, care, and genuine wish to help the victims and their families is admirable. I'm also very thankful for the ongoing progress in forensic tools that may continue to aid in the prosecution of criminals.

Some of these stories are so horrifying that I don't know how I could live day to day without keeping it in perspective... the chance of being harmed by one of these people is so very small. I want to feel safe in this world, and it's so sad to know that there are some apparently normal, nice people who are not at all as they seem. I don't know what else to say... these people are just horrific... the makings of all our collective worst nightmares.

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### **Karen says**

While I found this an interesting and enjoyable read I do have a slight problem with a comment made by the author at the end of the book

"These stories are better than fiction, so let's hope for some real-life sequels."

while I agree that true life crime stories are better than fictional ones and I do enjoy reading them I am not hoping that more people are murdered so that I'll have something to read.

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### **Angela says**

If I could of gave this book Zero stars I would have. I only made It to page 20 or so when the Author made a huge mistake. She wrote that Karla homolka's middle Sister Lori had some how been involved in killing the youngest sister tammy lynn homolka which is completely Untrue!! I figured if the author could make a huge mistake that early on in the book, That there would be other complete fabrications later on. With that being said I do NOT recommend this book. if you want to read a true crime book pick one that actually tells the truth.

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