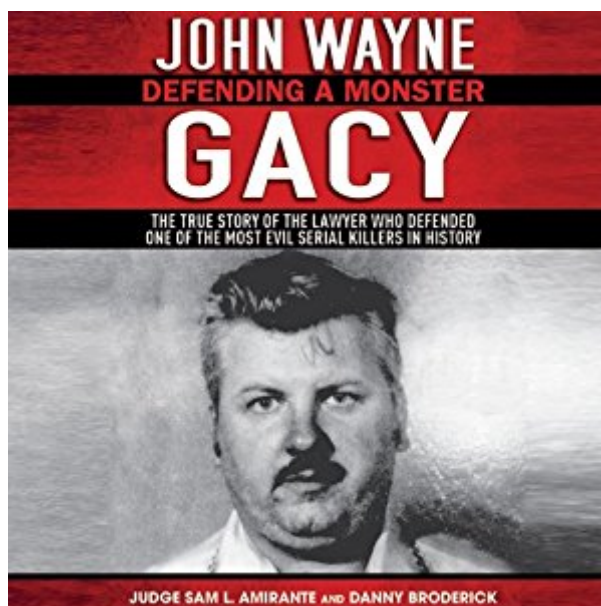


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John Wayne Gacy: Defending A Monster



Synopsis

For the first time Gacy's lawyer and confidant tells his chilling tale of how he defended an American serial killer. "Sam, could you do me a favor?" Thus begins a story that has now become part of America's true-crime hall of fame. It is a gory, grotesque tale befitting a Stephen King novel. It is also a David and Goliath saga - the story of a young lawyer fresh from the public defender's office whose first client in private practice turns out to be the worst serial killer in our nation's history. This is a gripping true crime narrative that reenacts the gruesome killings and the famous trial that shocked a nation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a very interesting account of the Gacy trial from written by one of his defense attorneys. I've often wondered how and why people can defend people like Gacy (and Bundy, and Gein, and so on) and this made me think about how important the right to a fair trial is, regardless of the accused or the crime.

This book offers incredible insight to the workings of attorneys working to defend a client they know is guilty. Their only option is to try to convince the jury that their client was insane at the time he committed these crimes. Ameranti and Motta do a superb job trying to convince the jury that their client is insane. To readers who have read "Killer Clown" by Terry Sullivan, you will find extraordinary coverage of the "other side" of the stories that Sullivan leaves blank simply because Sullivan's versions do not cover Gacy's side of the story. One example is when Ameranti shows up

at Gacy's house after the 2nd search warrant, Sullivan simply states that Ameranti is told "not too politely to leave", where you will find in Amirante's book an f- word laden exchange between the cops and Sam. This is just one example of many that makes this book a perfect complement to "Killer Clown" and also sheds light in the mysterious workings of the mind of John Wayne Gacy. The Catholic Ameranti is able to bring out the Satan that was inside the mind of Gacy. This book is well worth the read for True Crime fans and also how Satan does his work, silently and with guile right under the noses of a teeming metropolis like Chicago. Where will he strike next ? Ameranti leaves that question open ?

John Wayne Gacy: Defending a Monster by Judge Sam L Amirarte and Danny Broderick

John Wayne Gacy has been called many things: The Monster. The Killer Clown. Evil Incarnate. And the chilling truth is that in a short time between 1972 and 1978, Gacy murdered a minimum of thirty-three young men. The victims were sexual prospects and were buried beneath the house in Norwood Park Township, Chicago, IL. Some were dumped in a nearby river when Gacy ran out of space. The focus of this book is to look beyond the monster and see who Gacy the man really was. At no point do Judge Amirarte and Mr. Broderick deny that Gacy was a terrible murderer. The whole process started with Gacy calling Amirarte to complain that the police were harassing him. A few days later Gacy stumbled in late to a visit with his lawyers, asked for alcohol, gulped about sixteen ounces, then proceeded to confess to horror. Gacy was a mess; disheveled, dirty, and drunken but his story was too cold and awful to be fake. He stated that since he had been judge, jury, and executioner of others so often, he would now be his own judge, jury, and executioner. For hours the horror story unfolded from Gacy's lips. It was watching Jekyll turn into Hyde. John Wayne Gacy was a successful businessman, a high-ranking member of the Jaycees, a registered clown who entertained sick children at hospitals, a good husband and father. He was also depraved, sexually confused - refusing to claim homosexuality although it was his basic choice; and without conscience or mercy. Judge Amirarte and Broderick had the unenviable task of seeing that Gacy received a fair trial. It is one thing to call a man a monster; it is quite another to realize that the monster is a man, with rights under the Constitution. The Lawyers for the Defense played the only hand they had - not guilty by reason of insanity. This book explores the attempt to understand what makes a man become a monster as Gacy did. How can a man be an upstanding, respected member of the community who is also the area serial killer? How can a man go from talking normal to a disjointed ramble of a confession to total detachment from the world? These were the questions that needed to be answered and you may judge for yourself

as to whether they were. The Defense believed that Gacy was insane. He was determined to always be the center of attention. He had photos taken with First Lady Roslyn Carter. He was highly active in his community. He could however turn in seconds to a cold, distant person who seemed to be not in control of his actions. He had nights of somnambulism, an empty-eyed, shamle-about-the-house sort of guy. Self promoting and hard working, he gained respect and ran his business as a remodeler and handyman well enough to live well. He was always ready to lend a hand, and always ready to do almost any work for a little extra money. But the monster lurking within was never far away from the surface. But if this man was truly insane, then the laws protecting the insane needed to shield him from deeds committed while seriously mentally ill. That was Judge Amirarte and Mr. Broderick's claim and plea. By getting Gacy into a Mental Hospital would stop the killings and perhaps study of the man's persona would allow Doctors to recognize the next Gacy before people died. It was a good try, but all for naught. Ultimately, Gacy was found competent to stand trial. He was found guilty on thirty-three murders and sentenced to death. On May 10, 1994 Gacy was executed by lethal injection at Statesville Correction Center in Illinois. The question still remains. Was Gacy really competent to stand trial or was the outrage over the thirty-three plus victims so great that an example had to be made? We will never truly know.

Call me crazy, but I enjoy books about serial killers. Anything that delves into abnormal psychology, really. This book was okay, not written in legalese, but did not delve into the motivations behind Gacy's pathology enough to suit my taste. More about the machinations of the attorneys on either side. Don't know that I'd recommend to anyone who wants to know what made Gacy such a sick person.

I wouldn't say that I liked the book it was interesting to read. I only wanted to find out about his childhood to adult to find out what made him do what he did. The book is well written by his lawyer with the whole court case and I found out what I wanted to know. There are many black/white pictures in the book. No young teenager should read this book. To think that this all started with a phone call to a friend by asking "Sam, could you do me a favor?"

I only read about 4 chapters before I gave up. Could not get into it. Boring.

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