



Hunting The Ultimate Kill: The Horrifying Story of the Speed Freak Killers (The Serial Killer Books Book 2)

Jack Rosewood

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You don't want to miss this story about one of the worst serial killer duos in American history.

California has spawned some of America's most notorious serial killers—The “Grim Sleeper” Lonnie Franklin Junior, the “Night Stalker” Richard Ramirez, and Randy Kraft are just three of the Golden State's most notable—which has brought the state some unwanted and some would say unwarranted attention. For its part, California is the most populous state in the U.S., so it would stand to reason that it would have more than its fair share of serial killers. But the state does seem to breed its own special blend of sociopaths.

Far from the glitz and glamour of Los Angeles or the scenic backdrops of the Bay Area, two men embarked on a vicious campaign in California's Central Valley that left at least twenty people dead. The two men—Wesley Shermantine and Loren Herzog—became collectively known by law enforcement as the “Speed Freak Killers” because the duo were almost always under the influence of the drug crystal methamphetamine when they committed several strings of murders during the 1980s and '90s. Herzog and Shermantine were known to be avid outdoorsmen who hunted and fished for various game, but when the two men were high on meth, they focused their attention on hunting the ultimate game—humans.

Open the pages of the following book and learn the complete story of the Speed Freak Killers, Wesley Shermantine and Loren Herzog. You will learn about the early lives of the two men and how they evolved from local toughs into one of the most efficiently dangerous serial killer pairs in American history. The Speed Freak Killers' odyssey of murder continued for nearly twenty years and in many ways continues on until the present. So open the book if you dare to learn about one of the most notorious serial killer tandems ever known.

Hunting The Ultimate Kill: The Horrifying Story of the Speed Freak Killers (The Serial Killer Books Book 2) Details

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From Reader Review Hunting The Ultimate Kill: The Horrifying Story of the Speed Freak Killers (The Serial Killer Books Book 2) for online ebook

claire jones says

A Fascinating Read

The story of two killers that, to be honest, I've never heard of. This tells the tale of two friends with a most unsavoury bond. As Mr. Rosewood shows, it is rare, but not unheard of, to have a serial killer pairing. This story is so recent, there is still information to be revealed about the pair! Another fascinating read for lovers of true crime

Grady says

‘Among all the known serial killers in history, the Speed Freak Killers may go down as one of the worst of all time.’

Florida author Jack Rosewood inherited his fascination for heinous crimes from his father, a journalist covering major grim crimes such as Ted Bundy. He is fascinated with serial killers – their development psychologically, their preparation for their life of crime, and the details of how they made their bloody black marks on the world. Jack moves from his usual collection of intensive studies of serial killers to explore two crazed men who under the influence of crystal meth committed murders of at least twenty people – crimes that are likely discoveries for the reader – even the Jack Rosewood reader!

As usual Jack opens with an introduction explaining the decision to place this gruesome story before us: ‘In the criminal world, which is full of sociopathic and sadistic predators, the serial killer is considered by many to be the “apex” predator. The apex predator sits at the top of the predatory killing chain. The serial killer assesses when the situation is right to strike and take its prey. Anyone—no matter the age, race, or gender—is subject to the whims of a serial killer, and unfortunately, anyone can become a victim at any time. And that is what makes serial killers so frightening in modern times—despite the protection that modern civilization affords us, we can still become victims of crimes, and although rare, we can become the victim of a serial killer. And what happens when the apex predator is multiplied? What happens when a serial killer decides to bring a friend along for the fun of the kill? Generally speaking, the mayhem and misery is exponentially increased. For nearly twenty years, from the mid-1980s until the late 1990s, the Central Valley region of California was ravaged by a pair of serial killers known as the “Speed Freak Killers” who dished out their own brand of misery for kicks and thrills. The two killers, Loren Herzog and Wesley Shermantine, were childhood friends who shared many of the same hobbies, including hiking, fishing, hunting, and killing people. In many ways, the case of the Speed Freak Killers is not unlike that of other serial killer pairings and groups. Shermantine and Herzog definitely had their share of individual problems, but probably neither would have become a serial killer if it were not for the other. The two men fed off of each other’s negative energies which led to a long series of murders. Most experts believe their sprees resulted in the deaths of at least twenty people, possibly as many as seventy. But that is not the entire story. Shermantine and Herzog differed from other serial killer pairs and groups, because they murdered over such a long period of time, thereby amassing a kill count much greater than most of their predecessors. The

story of the Speed Freak Killers is truly frightening, not just for the despicable and deplorable acts that Loren Herzog and Wesley Shermantine inflicted on scores of innocent people, but also because there was nothing spectacular about either man that stood out and warned others that they were “serial killers.” This book chronicles the case of the Speed Freak Killers as completely as possible. Since there are still aspects of their cases being litigated, the final chapter may not be written for several more years. With that said, this book presents most of the information from their cases—interviews with those involved including the killers, their victims’ families, and the law enforcement personnel who brought them to justice, as well as court reports and other legal information—in a concise, chronological manner that is easy to follow...Whatever caused their future troubles, by the time the two men graduated from high school during the mid-1980s, they were well on their way to becoming drug addicted thugs who enjoyed intimidating and bullying people in San Joaquin County, California. The thrills that Shermantine and Herzog got from snorting meth and beating people were not enough for them, though. The two men began an odyssey of murder and mayhem across California’s Central Valley that lasted for two decades. Over the course of their long murder sprees, the two men experimented with different methods of killing. Sometimes, they killed their victims and left them at the murder scenes. In other instances, usually involving young women or girls, they abducted their victims for sadistic torture sessions before murdering them and dumping them down wells and mine shafts. While Herzog and Shermantine brutally murdered people in the Central Valley, they both attempted to maintain normal façades of being responsible family men. Their facades, though, were typical of many psychopaths and sociopaths who are able to put on one mask for society, while slipping behind another as they carry out their antisocial acts...etc’

And that is just from the introduction – the ‘meat’ of the book (pardon the pun) is tough to read, but the book is so thoroughly investigated with every aspect of the history and psychology of serial killers explored that this becomes one of Jack Rosewood’s finest books – and that is saying a lot!

Phil Fernandez says

I live in the area in which these serial killers operated, and I remember when all of this was going down. I personally know two of the families of people who were killed by these guys. I found the story interesting, and I learned a handful of supposed facts that I wasn't previously aware of.

That said, the reason I say supposed facts is because I also spotted at least three "facts" in this book that are factually untrue. Some of the names given in scenarios were wrong, and many of the locations were also wrong. So I wonder what else was also factually untrue in this book. The writing style and grammar were also poor in my opinion.

Beth Shuler says

Wow!!! Speechless!!! Very good read...

As always Jack Rosewood has a way of putting words together and no matter how crazy it is, it seems to make sense!! I must admit I had no clue what to expect with this book. Having two killers and both using meth, I just knew it was going to be a crazy ride!

I just don't understand why it took so long. I mean there was suspension of at least one of them from the very

beginning. I feel if the police would of tried a little harder these crazy behind serial killers wouldn't of gotten away with most of these! The sad part is that still to this day a lot of families still haven't even been able to bury the ones they love!

I def recommend that if you have a strong stomach and love trying to understand killers, then this book is for you!!! Even though you still will have some questions Jack does an excellent job trying to clear up and answer what he can!!

PunkRockLibrarian says

I received this #Audible #audiobook in exchange for an honest review via #LibraryThing.

Wow...the demented behavior of these people is truly astounding. As someone that has strong empathy, it's hard to imagine those with little to no empathy for others. It's truly heartbreaking for those murdered, as well as their families that have to endure knowing (sometimes not knowing) what happened to their loved one.

I also couldn't fathom finding out that my HUSBAND was a serial killer/rapist...how utterly disgusting. Moreover, having the public as well as government agencies not believing that you knew nothing after YEARS of being with a serial killer must be the cherry on top. I really hope that the wives/ex-wives were truly ignorant of their spouses extra-curricular activities...otherwise, they will have to live with the fact that they knew and did NOTHING...which is just as bad.

For those interested in the psychology, history and criminal justice involved with serial killers, I highly recommend this book!

#punkrocklibrarian

Robin Morgan says

Jack Rosewood has done it again, he's here with another journalistic expose of sadistic serial killers, and this time it's a pair who came to be known as the "Speed Freak Killers."

To begin with, and to better comprehend what brought the "Speed Freak Killers", Wesley Shermantine and Loren Herzog to do their heinous acts you need to first know about the illegal drug they both had been using, crystal methamphetamine.

While taking the drug for the first time a person to feel some pleasure, by causing them to have an incorrect feeling of happiness, a rush of self-confidence, cause them to be abnormally active and full of energy, etc.; it slowly begins to play havoc with the individual's life, and ultimately ending in death.

These two individuals, Herzog and Shermantine, had a history of being passionate sportsmen who loved fishing and stalking different game. However, once they were on Meth their prey were no longer simply trophy animals, they went after the definitive prey that of individuals, like you or me; and wound up committing numerous groupings of murders from the 1980's into the 1990's.

As usual, Mr. Rosewood doesn't simply talk about the individual[s] and the murders they've committed, he

dwells into their past and their childhoods. And for these two their stories go back to the days they were simply local toughs. Their habitual desire to murder people spanned almost twenty years, and while they're no longer around; they've been replaced by other crackheads unknowing doing the same thing for which they've become notorious for.

For having given his readers an insightful look into the lives of these two murderous individuals, I've given Mr. Rosewood 5 STARS.

Gayle Pace says

MY THOUGHTS

This book isn't for the weak of heart or the squeemish. You will have to open your eyes and face the reality of it all. If you believe these types of things don't happen to good people, then don't read. But for those true crime lovers this book will take you to lengths you may have never been. No matter how you look at it, killers of any kind are of the worst in society. Serial Killers go above and beyond. This book, Speed Freak Killers is at the top of the list. This story is different from other serial killers. These killings took place over a long span of time. No one knows exactly how many killings took place, but with any serial killer, who really knows how many murders were committed? Maybe not even the serial killer himself. This book is about Loren Herzog and Wesley Shermantine. I liked the fact that there wasn't that very common repetition of details. That in itself can be quite boring. True crime books can make you stop and think. What goes on inside of the minds of these killers? What led them to become the evil of all evil? Mr. Rosewood gives you that look inside the deep crevices that hold the evil. The book takes you step by step as the lives of these two men go on. The men weren't unusual to other people. They were just another two men in society. Nothing outwardly different that attracted attention. No one even thought they could be serial killers. But does anyone really know anyone else? Sometimes NOT! IT wasn't just the evil coming out of those minds. This was deeply enhanced by the fact they were on meth, (speed), hence the name, Speed Freak. That takes the evil to a all different level. Both were hunters, not just of animals, but of the ultimate hunt - PEOPLE! These two men were somewhat different from other serial killers. There weren't the usual clues being left, the specific timing of the killings. These men killed when they felt like it. No set time frame, such as a particular day or date. This made it much more difficult for the officials to identify them, to come together with a plan on how to catch them. When these two men first started their killing spree, it was just a kill to them, but then that wasn't enough. It progressed to taking the people, raping, torturing and then killing. The hunt wasn't enough for them. They craved more, much more. This went on and on for many years. They never seemed to make that mistake so they were never caught, until.... The day came when they made that mistake. They didn't go after a stranger.

The book will have you thinking about people you know. Could someone you know be like these two men? It could happen! Oh sure, we say there isn't any way but....think about it. This story isn't over. It may not be for years to come since it is still in litigation. There is so much information in this book, not just of the killers but of their families, the victims, and the authorities. We get a great deal of information into all of the aspects of the time period during the lives of these two men.

I'm a huge fan of true crime and have read a lot of books about the killers. I have to say this one goes on the top. IT was a ride that was impossible to get off. I always want to know more about the minds of those who find the need to kill. This book puts you in the hunt, not for the ultimate kill, but to find the ones who ARE

needing that ultimate kill.

I received a copy of this book from the author and decided to review it.

April says

Hunting the Ultimate Kill: The Horrifying Story of the Speed Freak Killers

The Serial Killer Books, Book 2

By: Jack Rosewood

Jack Rosewood steps up his true crime telling by focusing on a pair of serial killers known as "The Speed Freak Killers." These maybe some of the worst. Wesley Shermantine and Loren Herzog grew up together, killed together, but in the end one turned on the other. A good recounting except for the repetition of their "moniker." Since they were the only ones focused on in this book. Interesting ending!

The narration was well done. The characters were well portrayed. Kevin Kollins does well with this genre.

I was given this free review copy audiobook at my request and have voluntarily left this review.

Píaras Cíonnaíth says

"In the criminal world, which is full of sociopathic and sadistic predators, the serial killer is considered by many to be the "apex" predator. The apex predator sits at the top of the predatory killing chain. The serial killer assesses when the situation is right to strike and take its prey. Anyone— no matter the age, race, or gender— is subject to the whims of a serial killer, and unfortunately, anyone can become a victim at any time." This description opens yet another of Jack Rosewood's chilling crime reads.

It's another great read that's really hard to put down. It's an insightful and graphically detailed account of some of the most horrific serial killers. In fact, while reading yet another of Jack Rosewood's books I just had to keep turning the pages yet again. Not necessarily because it's all that enjoyable in any way, shape or form, to delve a little too deeply into the malefic minds of such murderous people, but because I sincerely believe that most people are fascinated in one way or another by serial killers. Perhaps it's the human morbid fascination with death. I'm not exactly sure. However, maybe it just astounds the average person as to how depraved other individuals can be.

Even if you are a seasoned campaigner of true crime, Hunting The Ultimate Kill: The Horrifying Story of the Speed Freak Killers will surely raise more than a few hairs on the back of your neck. It was a first-class read and the author gave a perspective to these horrific crimes that was both fascinating and intriguing. This was one of the better true crime books that I have read recently.

I would highly recommend this read to all fans of the true-crime genre. I'm also a big fan of Jack Rosewood so it's another 5 Stars from me. Well done again!

Julie Haigh says

Gripping reading.

This was a fast moving, easy read, I really whizzed through it. It tells about two serial killers I'd never heard of before and I hadn't heard of any of their victims. With true crime books, the same killers do tend to recur again and again: The Yorkshire Ripper, Harold Shipman, Ted Bundy etc. but here's something a bit different, something you've probably not read about before.

It's a study of two childhood friends who not only stuck together through thick and thin-but ended up killing together. They lived seemingly normal family lives: Both Herzog and Shermantine were married and had children. Their killing reign lasted over twenty years without detection.

I really enjoy true crime books-it might seem a bit of a grim subject but I find it fascinating regarding the types of clues killers can leave without realising, and how the police find these. It's also amazing how cadaver dogs can sniff out human remains. I also found it very interesting reading about when DNA profiling was first used in criminology and where it actually originated from. Gripping reading as the final case against them unfolds. I was reading long into the early hours.

Bonnie Kernene says

Another great crime book from Jack Rosewood. This time it is about Wesley Shermantine and Loren Herzog, the "Speed Freak Killers". Now, I had heard of them but did not know much about them. This book tells all, including the interesting fact that they grew up together. That is something I had not heard of with serial killer duos except for those who were family related. These two were freaks indeed. Their kills heinous and sadistic, as were these two anyway. The book is straight and to the point, no fluff needed here. It is fast and easy to read. I read it in a few hours in one sitting. I just could not put it down. I highly recommend it, and impatiently wait for Jack Rosewood's next book.

Judith Sentyz says

Another Winner

This book is another winner from Mr. Rosewood. I had never heard of these two serial killers until this book. Mr. Rosewood's style shows much research, his books are easy to understand and this one is just another example of his attention to details. In my opinion, they keep getting better.

Bonnie Dale Keck says

Kindle Unlimited but got on a freebie day. I've read quite a few {listed most at bottom, available ku, per book, collections, etc, see amazon page}, overall not for the weak of heart or soft of mind, some almost graphic, all of them can be disturbing. like Dexter on steroids with no conscience.

California has spawned some of America's most notorious serial killers—The “Grim Sleeper” Lonnie Franklin Junior, the “Night Stalker” Richard Ramirez, and Randy Kraft are just three of the Golden State's most notable—which has brought the state some unwanted and some would say unwarranted attention. For its part, California is the most populous state in the U.S., so it would stand to reason that it would have more than its fair share of serial killers. But the state does seem to breed its own special blend of sociopaths. Far from the glitz and glamour of Los Angeles or the scenic backdrops of the Bay Area, two men embarked on a vicious campaign in California's Central Valley that left at least twenty people dead. The two men—Wesley Shermantine and Loren Herzog—became collectively known by law enforcement as the “Speed Freak Killers” because the duo were almost always under the influence of the drug crystal methamphetamine when they committed several strings of murders during the 1980s and '90s. Herzog and Shermantine were known to be avid outdoorsmen who hunted and fished for various game, but when the two men were high on meth, they focused their attention on hunting the ultimate game—humans.

The Big Book of Serial Killers: 150 Serial Killer Files of the World's Worst Murderers
The Serial Killer Books: 15 Famous Serial Killers True Crime Stories That Shocked The World
True Crime Stories Volume 4: 12 Shocking True Crime Murder Cases
True Crime Stories Volume 3: 12 Shocking True Crime Murder Cases
True Crime Stories Volume 2: 12 Shocking True Crime Murder Cases
True Crime Stories Volume 7: 12 Shocking True Crime Murder Cases
True Crime Stories: A Prequel: 4 Shocking True Crime Cases
True Crime Stories: 12 Shocking True Crime Murder Cases
True Crime Stories: 3 True Crime Books Collection (True Crime Novels Anthology)

Ashley Hedden says

Hunting the Ultimate Kill: The Horrifying Story of the Speed Freak Killers by Jack Rosewood was a great read by the author. It followed two of the worst serial killers in American History. Wesley Shermantine and Loren Herzog were known as the "Speed Freak Killers". This book chronicled their lives and murders.

Lisa says

This book was amazingly repetitive. So much so, that I was getting frustrated every time the words "The Speed Freak Killers" came up. Had I been playing a drinking game then I would have been passed out drunk. Don't believe the 5 star reviews, as this was truly painful to read.
