



I'm Not Guilty: The Development of the Violent Mind: The Case of Ted Bundy

Al Carlisle

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Ted Bundy, the notorious serial killer, was responsible for over thirty brutal homicides of young women in the early 1970s. Imprisoned for almost 15 years before his execution in the Florida electric chair in 1989, Bundy was interviewed for hundreds of hours by psychologists, journalists, and law enforcement professionals. He offered insight into the thoughts and methods of other serial killers of the time—but almost never spoke about his own crimes.

Dr. Al Carlisle evaluated Bundy for the Utah court when he was first arrested in 1975 and conducted extensive interviews with him after that. Carlisle has painstakingly reconstructed the life of Ted Bundy through conversations with his friends, family, neighbors, lovers, investigators, and surviving victims—and with the killer himself. I'M NOT GUILTY finally answers the questions about Bundy's own crimes through a fictional dialogue between Carlisle and Bundy on the day before his execution, and sheds light on the development of the violent mind.

I'm Not Guilty: The Development of the Violent Mind: The Case of Ted Bundy Details

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Ginger says

I bought this book after attending a panel "discussion" with Dr. Carlisle at Comic Con. He evaluated Ted Bundy when he was in prison and later Bundy called him and Dr. Carlisle recorded the conversation. He played that for us and it was eerie to think I was actually hearing the voice of the evil man whose cellar I'd gone into on a haunted tour of SLC.

It was an interesting format for a book. The Goodreads listing shows it's a novel, but my copy of the book didn't say that. The first section of the book is factual information about Bundy. The second section is a fictional interview between the author and Bundy, imagined based on conversations he actually had with him. (Part of me thinks this is weird, but another part of me remembers that I did this exact thing for a few college assignments because I didn't want to actually interview someone and I did quite well on those papers.)

Somebody should probably tell Dr. Carlisle to fix the spelling error on the front of his book when the next edition comes out.

Tiger Gray says

The majority of this book is made up of a fictionalized interview with Ted Bundy. I find such speculation inappropriate at best, skirting unethical at worst, considering the author is a psychologist. If he's such an expert on the man, it would behoove him to present the information in a straightforward fashion instead of indulging in this sort of wankery.

Frank Errington says

Review Copy

As a rule, I review fiction, generally horror fiction, but as we all know rules are made to be broken. I'm Not Guilty: The Case of Ted Bundy (The Development of the Violent Mind Book 1) is the exception to the rule.

The book, through various interviews with Ted Bundy, and then distilled into a mock interview format, takes the reader through the time leading up to his first murder right through his last.

The author, Dr. Al Carlisle, was a psychologist who was involved in the 90-day evaluation of Bundy after his conviction for the 1974 attempted abduction of Carol DaRonch.

What follows is an amazing story of a man who was able to get a college degree, begin law school, and maintain mostly normal relationships, all while killing numerous co-eds over a number of years.

In the end, after reading I'm Not Guilty, I would have to say I'm likely to be a much less trusting individual.

You just never know.

I'm Not Guilty: The Case of Ted Bundy (The Development of the Violent Mind Book 1) is published by Genius Book Publishing in both paperback and Kindle formats and is available now.

If you enjoy non-fiction with a bent toward horror, I can certainly recommend I'm Not Guilty: The Case of Ted Bundy (The Development of the Violent Mind Book 1).

Shelley says

Dr. Carlisle does a wonderful job of showing us how a 'normal' boy could become a serial killer. The use of fantasy in Bundy's life was key. Fantasy is a common element in the lives of many serial killers I have read about. In Bundy's case it progressed from daydreams of being a hero rescuing pretty girls to fantasies of a far darker nature when frustration and loneliness continued. Bundy does not escape accountability for his crimes - he chose the route he took. The book it's based on Dr. Carlisle's evaluation of Bundy in Utah and his many years in the field. It's fascinating reading!

Molly says

I have always been fascinated by serial killers. Ted Bundy is one of them. I had a chance to listen to Al Carlisle lecture at Life The Universe and Everything conference in Utah. I was able to hear Ted's voice from the time he called Al after he escaped the first time from Colorado. This book was fascinating. It was well researched and well written.

Steven Booth says

I'm Not Guilty is an examination of what goes into turning a normal child into a serial killer. The first part is a hypothetical conversation between the author and Ted Bundy, the subject of the book. Dr. Carlisle knew, met with, and interviewed Bundy extensively. If anyone is qualified to capture his voice, Carlisle is.

The second part is an examination of all the facts known about Bundy, without speculation. There is some repeated information, which can be confusing in this format.

The second edition of I'm Not Guilty will be released in April 2014. It is a revisioning of the format to intersperse the factual information with the hypothetical conversation. The effect is a much more intense and comprehensible read, with no perception of repeated information.

Genius Book Publishing is working on a way to offer discounted copies of I'm Not Guilty Second Edition to readers who bought the first edition. Updates will be posted as the release date nears.

Blogging Mama101 says

I really enjoyed the unique format of this book. Many true crime novels are written from either a clinical or speculative perspective, Al Carlisle marries these two genres.

The first section of the book is both background information and a series of recorded interviews with Ted Bundy himself.

This then segues into an extensive fictional interview where the author speculates on Bundy's involvement in additional crimes.

We cannot know for sure if this section is a work of pure fiction, or whether there is some basis upon 'off the record' conversations, but what we do know is that the author was able to meet with and study Bundy first hand, and build as strong a sense as anyone of the killer's psychological state of mind. As anyone who has read anything about Bundy knows, he was a master of deception - at presenting a face & persona to the world at complete odds to his true self. Many believe he took a great many more secrets to the grave than he was ever accountable for in his life. Al Carlisle's fictional interview gives scope to some of those.

A very interested read, from someone who probed the mind of one of the most prolific and disturbingly 'capable' serial killers of our time.

Tamatha Baker says

A good read with a bit of insight into the mind of a killer

I gave this book 4 stars only because I wish he was more open in the second part where he lays out what Bundy may have said. It was like reading fiction while your thinking did he actually say any of this. The rest of the book was good it gave you a Drs look into Bundy.

Baitul Javid says

Sucks you in

This book is so important. RIP AL CARLISLE. You were truly great. This book needs more attention by the public, psychology students, and more.

Passenger B. says

This is another re-read that I initially was deeply impressed with (sadly, I knew very little about the case and was confused as to what the term "speculative interview" actually meant originally...), so it's a very tough one to rate simply because the main focus of the book being on said "speculative interview," which the author concedes was in part based on a combination of different interviews he had conducted with **Bundy**, yet he embellished it with his own liberal interpretations, filling in the blanks or adding his own theories into the mix.

This is how **Bundy** suddenly became responsible for the **Burr** disappearance (HIGHLY unlikely!), the murder of **Susan Davis** and **Elizabeth Perry** (or possibly the **Wick/Trumbull** one) despite never having confessed to it in any *actual* interview himself or - his favorite - by referring to himself in third person. I'm sure that to **Carlisle** this may have been a "fun" project, mental exercise or challenging his own understanding of the **Bundy** case on top of SK psychology in general but...as a source book or research material it is - to be quite frank - rather useless.

I will however not dismiss the value it has as infotainment literature as there are enough proven and known facts in the book that are easily verifiable too.

Only, if you are a new researcher this is definitely not the book to start out with, you need to have a firm grasp of the timeline and psyche of the killer in order not to let this "speculative interview" confuse you and accept fiction as facts.

What I missed most in this book was an actual interpretation of the interviews that did happen. How did the author evaluate the information provided to him by **Bundy**, what was his diagnosis of the man, was there nothing but manipulation on his part or were there times when **Bundy** seemed to be genuine, perhaps even genuinely trying to understand himself by talking to the author.

So at the end of this book far more questions remain than were actually answered, in fact I have several new ones. I am curious as to whether **Carlisle** addressed the obvious issues with this book in *Violent Mind: The 1976 Psychological Assessment of Ted Bundy* and am indeed very much looking forward to reading it in the near future!

Erika8579 says

Fascinating

I've read many books on serial killers, psychology, and specifically on Ted Bundy. This was a different style than the others. Uniquely well-written and deeply intriguing. I loved getting to know the inner workings of the psychopathic mind. If you like true crime, books regarding the vilest among us, this is just a fascinating read. Immensely enjoyed it.

Nerdish Mum says

Review to follow.

Pamela Simone says

Interesting Read

I liked the first part because it clarified some details of Bundy's life.

The last part of the book, while interesting, sound scripted because it is. It seems more conjecture than fact. I understand it was pieced together from other interviews. It just shows that Bundy did what he did best, play the chameleon.

Annie Wright says

I don't really understand why more than half the book was a hypothetical conversation between the author and Ted Bundy.

K.R. Patterson says

Loved this. The only thing I would fault it on is that I wanted to know more.
