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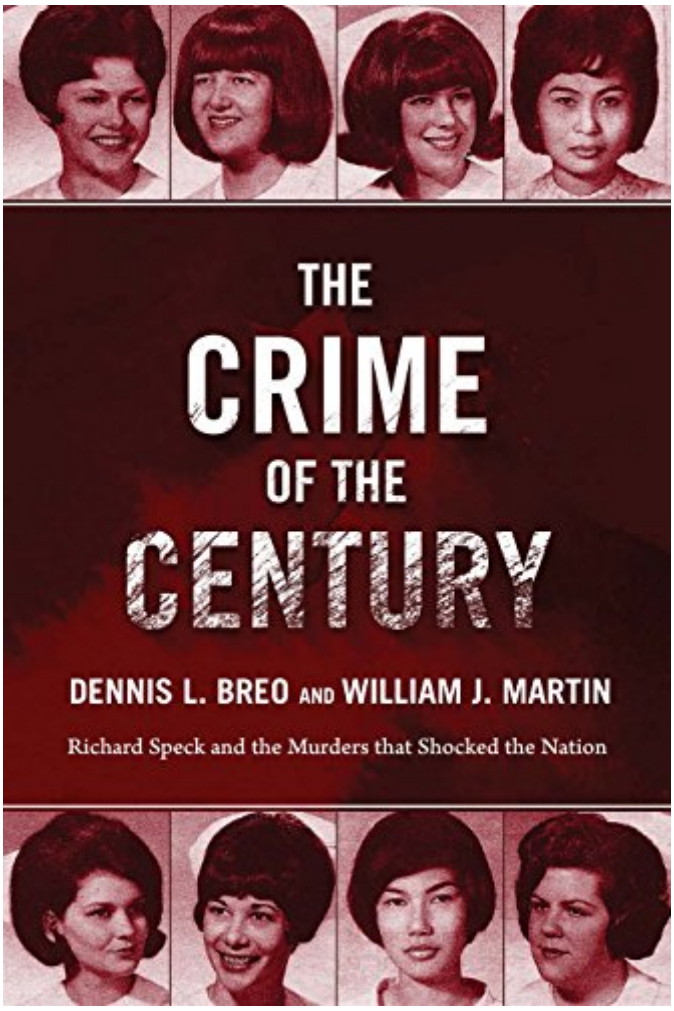
The Crime Of The Century: Richard Speck And The Murders That Shocked A Nation



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Synopsis

The Ã¢â ¬Å“riveting behind-the-scenes storyÃ¢â ¬Â• of the infamous rampage that killed eight student nurses in Chicago (Vincent Bugliosi). Ã Â On the night of July 14th, 1966, drifter Richard Benjamin Speck broke into a Chicago dormitory that housed eight student nurses. One by one, Speck raped, strangled, and stabbed them to death in a sadistic sexual frenzy. Miraculously, one victim, Corazon Amurao, survived by hiding under the bed during the long, nightmarish ordeal. By morning Speck had changed the landscape of American crime. Ã Â Now, award-winning Chicago journalist Dennis L. Brea and prosecuting attorney William J. Martin reveal the never-before told story of one of the most appalling mass murders in historyÃ¢â ¬â •from the killerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s twisted upbringing to the lives and deaths of his innocent victims to the massive manhunt and investigation and the trial that held the country spellbound. Meticulously researched with scores of interviews, including that of SpeckÃ¢â ¬â„¢s lone survivor, TheCrime of the Century is Ã¢â ¬Å“the richly detailed and riveting behind-the scenes story of the crime that murdered American innocence and ushered in the era of mass murderÃ¢â ¬Â• (Vincent Bugliosi, author of Helter Skelter). Ã Â

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Customer Reviews

This is an excellent book, and a first-class collaboration between Dennis Breo and William J. Martin. Mr. Martin was the Assistant State's Attorney who prosecuted the case, and one of the things I found refreshing is that in contrast to Vincent Bugliosi's "Helter Skelter," which is another great book about a horrific crime, Mr. Martin is written about in the third person, so there is none of the "I spoke to..." and so on.One of my disappointments in reading this book, and on re-reading it more recently, is that we gain very little knowledge of the eight women who were murdered. There is a lot of information about the murder (whose name I will not mention) and,a decent amount of information concerning Corazon, the only survivor of that night of terror who hid under a bed, and who was instrumental in the conviction of the killer.Fortunately, on the 50th anniversary of the crime, the Chicago Tribune ran a great story with recently discovered photos, and which fleshed out who Nina, Mary Ann, Gloria, Patricia, Pamela, Suzanne, Valentina and Merlita were as young women pursuing nursing careers in the mid-1960's. The brother of Nina Schmale, and family and friends of the other nurses who lost their lives have started a Facebook page, Our Nurses Memorial Association. Please check it out if you want to know more about these young student nurses. They deserve to be remembered. Their murderer has had enough attention.

I was only twelve and living in South Dakota when the murders occurred. Unlike other places where news originated, Chicago was part of my world. I heard very little of the details, except that some monster named Richard Speck was responsible. That man and his image from the newspaper featured prominently in my adolescent dreams. I always wondered what really happened. So, when I saw The Crime of the Century, I knew it was a book I needed to read. And I am so glad I did! While this book is anything but light reading and is meticulous in its detail, I could not put it down. The professional and personal struggles of the law enforcement and judicial officials was very enlightening. And the strength of the survivor and the anguish of the victim's families helped to completed a story that haunted me for so many years. I recommend this book for the respectful treatment of the victims, without giving undo celebrity to the murderer.

I lived in the heart of all this but never knew all the results of this crime. I found this book well written and informative. I never knew what happened to Speck after everything was settled in court or any of the lives of the families of all the victims.

Well written, factual account of a horrible crime including details unknown to even those who

remember the trial. On a par with Truman Capote's In Cold Blood. Proves there is evil in the world.

Riveting behind the scenes look at how the prosecution assembled, presented, and won their case.

I enjoyed the book, very informative. Of particular interest as I am a nurse, and I lived through those times.

This book was so great. I can not believe what this man Richard Speck got away with. Police in Chicago did a great job

A very thorough and informative story on the murders of 8 student nurses by Richard Speck. I thought I knew quite a bit about this case, but this book managed to teach me a few things I wasn't aware of. I'd highly recommend this to True Crime buffs.

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