

The Night Stalker: The Life and Crimes of Richard Ramirez

By Philip Carlo



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Based on hours of interviews with Ramirez on California's Death Row, a chilling account of the crimes of the "Night Stalker" follows Ramirez's criminal odyssey, from his first brush with the law, to his Los Angeles murder spree, to the investigation that brought him to justice. 200,000 first printing.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Research is the strong suit of this book about darkly handsome Richard Ramirez, who terrorized Los Angeles for 14 months in 1984-85 with his penchant for breaking into homes dressed all in black, where he fiercely assaulted, sodomized, robbed, and (in 13 cases) murdered his victims. Carlo spent more than 100 hours interviewing Ramirez on death row, more than a month in El Paso, Texas, talking to Ramirez's family and friends, and another month hanging out with the two detectives who solved the case. He made visits to all 19 crime scenes in the middle of the night. His narrative maintains a steady focus on Ramirez, drawing no conclusions about his Satanism or his mental pathology and simply letting his appalling deeds and words speak for themselves. The trial and post-trial sections are long but interesting, covering Ramirez's rage attacks and his many "groupies" (one of them a juror!), especially Doreen Lloyd, whom he married in September 1996. (This reviewer found Philip Carlo's book much better than Clifford L. Linedecker's *Night Stalker*.)

From Publishers Weekly

Richard Ramirez, a Mexican American from El Paso, committed perhaps 14 murders in the Los Angeles area during 1984 and 1985 and wounded several people. While robbery was one of his motives, his main objective, according to Carlo (Stolen Flowers), was to achieve power over the women in the houses he entered, to rape, torture and humiliate them. He saw himself as committing his crimes in the service of Satan and expressed contempt for conventional morality. Stubborn and with a vicious temper, he insisted on being represented by two young lawyers who had never been involved in a capital case. Found guilty in 1989, Ramirez was given 19 death sentences plus six years for each of 33 other charges. Carlo speculates on the psyche of this chilling killer and introduces an intriguing supporting cast, from the prosecutor, who saw the case as good versus evil, to the alternate juror who "fell in love with" the defendant. An exceptionally well-told true-crime tale. Photos not seen by PW.

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From Library Journal

Every decade someone makes headlines for the infamous crime he committed in California. In the 1980s, it was the Night Stalker, who terrorized Los Angeles and San Francisco from 1984 to 1985. This is the story of Richard Ramirez's random killings and his belief in Satan. Carlo, who is an expert on Satanic cults and child sexual abuse, interviewed Ramirez while researching this book. In the first three sections, he discusses Ramirez's life, crimes, and capture. The last part, which takes up half of the book, describes the long-drawn-out trial. Because Ramirez's crimes were grisly and sadistic, this book is certainly not for the squeamish. Ramirez is currently on death row at San Quentin and despite his hideous crimes still draws women, from avowed Satanists and a legion of crime groupies to a juror who fell in love with the killer she had helped convict. Despite the author's overemphasis on the trial, this book will provide true crime readers a chilling inside perspective of a serial killer.? Michael Sawyer, Clinton P.L., Ia.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Orlando Hernandez:

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Katrina White:

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Ida Johnson:

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