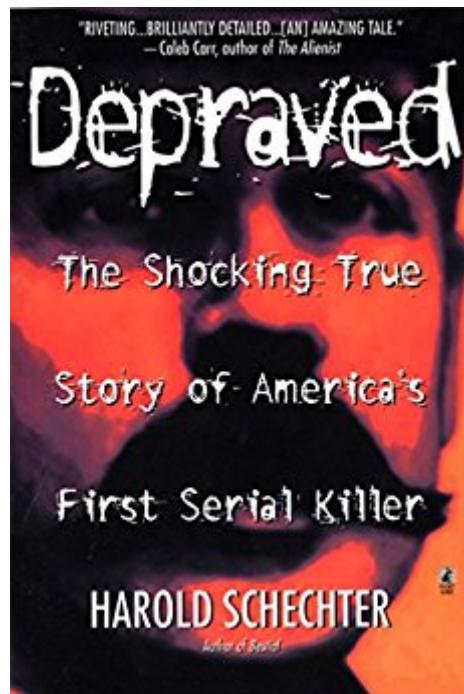


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# Depraved



## **Synopsis**

The heinous bloodlust of Dr. H.H. Holmes is notorious -- but only Harold Schechter's *Depraved* tells the complete story of the killer whose evil acts of torture and murder flourished within miles of the Chicago World's Fair. "Destined to be a true crime classic" (Flint Journal, MI), this authoritative account chronicles the methods and madness of a monster who slipped easily into a bright, affluent Midwestern suburb, where no one suspected the dapper, charming Holmes -- who alternately posed as doctor, druggist, and inventor to snare his prey -- was the architect of a labyrinthine "Castle of Horrors." Holmes admitted to twenty-seven murders by the time his madhouse of trapdoors, asphyxiation devices, body chutes, and acid vats was exposed. The seminal profile of a homegrown madman in the era of Jack the Ripper, *Depraved* is also a mesmerizing tale of true detection long before the age of technological wizardry.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 3699 KB

Print Length: 364 pages

Publisher: Pocket Books (June 30, 2008)

Publication Date: June 30, 2008

Language: English

ASIN: B0036QVPJ0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #68,679 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #98 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime > Serial Killers #166 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime > Serial Killers #242 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime > Murder & Mayhem

## **Customer Reviews**

Brilliant read!!!Harold Schechter is my favorite author these days and this book is why. He talks about the serial killer H. H. Holmes and details what this monster did. Even though I knew who the killer was - I'd watched a documentary with Harold Schechter explaining what Holmes had

manufactured, so I knew, I thought, everything about him - I was STILL constantly surprised by the revelations of this book! That is all because of the details that Schechter tediously supplied. Yet the read was not filled with meaningless clutter; every detailed added something to the overall tale. Holmes was, of course, a serial killer with an appetite for pretty women and money. He built a haphazard castle to carry out his deeds with as little outside knowledge as possible. The building served its horrific purpose. But the book covers more than just the gore. It covers Holmes's upbringing and defines what makes a psychopath. I cannot clearly define how Schechter makes the reader understand the gravity of serial murder, but he always does. You are magnetically pulled back to bygone eras as you delve into the lives and minds of the long deceased and often forgotten VICTIMS of serial murderers. Though you know who the killer is and what he will do, Schechter walks you through the moments of sobriety on the evening of the murder where, more often than you'd think, the killer and his victim share their last dinner together. You understand the loss of the parents that search for their lost child - no matter their child's age. And then you see the callousness of the killer who may greet the loved ones of those he just murdered. It is a study of humanity, the study of serial murder. It is a look into the unthinkable. And if you can stare the unthinkable in the face like the many police profilers of our day, then you may be able to prevent its proliferation in the future. A must read for any true crime enthusiast!!!

I guess most of us have known someone who, like H. H. Holmes, was a practiced and believable liar. Herman Webster Mudgett (Holmes) is America's first serial killer, as described in Harold Schechter's *Depraved*. Mr. Schleicher portrays Holmes as a brilliant demon, and Holmes agrees he is a devil. The book is well written. I felt as if I were a fly on the wall during Holmes's trial.

Like others who've commented here, I was interested in learning more about H.H. Holmes after reading *Devil in the White City* and this book was listed as a reference book so I was excited that it was available for Kindle. Although I read it cover-to-cover, this book has some challenges. The writing is lukewarm for me. There's a lot of "...and that was the last time anyone saw her alive!" type of thing. A bit overdone. It's definitely long winded in parts and especially in those parts, there are a LOT of editing issues. I found a lot of errors in the book, which may be from the translation from paper to digital. It seems like someone just used OCR to translate the text, so it was inaccurate quite a bit. One thing that comes to mind is that there are a LOT of instances where the word should be "him" but is "time" instead. And lots of sentences that repeat -- where it feels like there was some re-writing and the author forgot to delete the first draft. Over all, it's a good overview of H.H. Holmes,

his crimes, and his victims. It's a lot of great info, but just a little rough getting to it.

A true psychopath before we even had the word. Charming, suave, smooth, murderer - must read for lovers of true crime.

It took about 20 pages to determine that this is mostly just the old rumors etc., instead of actual fact. Never let sensationalism get in the way of truth.

I bought this book after reading the Devil in the White City to learn more about H.H. Holmes. I found the writing to be pretty good, but there were a lot of distracting typos. Some of Schechter's point of views were a little out there but overall it was a good read.

When I was in college I read this book. I end up reading it about once a year. I have read other books about H.H. Holmes but this is a favorite. Harold Schechter is a fantastic author and I have read many of his books. If you are interested in true crime or want more than the "romance" of H.H. Holmes' story. This is the book for you.

I loved this book. I hear about H.H. Holmes in a different book. IT had a small blurb. I sought out more info and this seemed like the best book. I could not put this book down. It was a great book, filled with information on Holmes and his murders. I would have liked to have a little more info on his murder castle though. But, that would be my only complaint if I had one. The rest of the book makes up for it.

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