



Killing for Company: The Story of a Man Addicted to Murder

By Brian Masters

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Drawing on the personal journals of mass murderer Dennis Nilsen, this recounting of the exploits of the mild mannered civil servant details how he strangled fifteen men over four years, kept their dead bodies as companions, and was undone by blocked plumbing. *PW*. Reprint.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

This brilliant psychological study of British serial killer Dennis Nilsen was, writes the author, an "oddity," because its subject was so "outlandish," so unheard-of in the annals of psychiatry: "Until, that is, Jeffrey Dahmer was arrested ... While in the immediate sense of personal impact Dahmer is unlike Nilsen, being diffident, quiet, polite, even a little dull, against Nilsen's extrovert loquacity and self-confidence, their crimes bear such close similarities of method, manner, and, yes, motive, as to ... mean that the Nilsen/Dahmer brand of florid necrophilia could at last be definable." Brian Masters, better known for his literary and historical works, has written a classic of true crime--a penetrating exploration of not just the crimes, but also the *mind* of a serial killer. Especially fascinating are excerpts from Nilsen's journals and a collection called "Sad Sketches: Monochrome Man" of drawings and handwritten prose and poetry about the victims. The book includes a postscript by a forensic psychiatrist and a bibliography.

From Publishers Weekly

Dennis Nilsen was arrested in February 1983 after the plumbing in his suburban London apartment was found to be clogged with body parts. "Are we talking about one body or two," a detective asked. Nilsen, a 35-year-old civil servant, replied: "Fifteen or sixteen, since 1978. I'll tell you everything." Besides confessing to the police, Nilsen wrote extensively to Masters from prison and offered him his journals. Using these sources and his considerable journalistic skill, the author (Moliere) fashions a stunning account of the largest mass murderer in British history. Nilsen is depicted as a lonely, articulate man who met men in pubs and cafes, invited them to his flat for drinks and killed them, fearing that they would leave the next day. Nilsen's trial was brief and expert testimony cast little light on the grisly events (Nilsen dismembered his victims, stuffing body parts under floorboards or boiling off flesh in a soup pot). Noting that the plea of insanity was not accepted either for Nilsen or for Jeffrey Dahmer, who was convicted of similar acts in the U.S. in 1992, Masters suggests that the current legal definitions of insanity need reworking. Photos not seen by PW. True Crime Book Club selection.

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From [Booklist](#)

A successor of sorts to Capote's *In Cold Blood*, this English psychological investigation was not published here for close to ten years or, chillingly, just two years after the Dahmer mass murders in Milwaukee. In a way, the account of Dennis Nilsen, now imprisoned for life for six murders and with most of the text related in "his own write," is gripping. Who can, after all, understand the impulses and motivations behind such slaughter? Masters comes close, by his friendliness with prisoner B62006 and his determination to uncover all the details. In a way, too, this smacks of tabloidism, the media's propensity to analyze and reanalyze sordid crimes. Well-written, well-documented, this book may nonetheless upset sensitive stomachs. *Barbara Jacobs*

Users Review

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Rosemarie Sanders:

The ability that you get from Killing for Company: The Story of a Man Addicted to Murder could be the more deep you excavating the information that hide in the words the more you get interested in reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Killing for Company: The Story of a Man Addicted

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Melissa Kim:

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Caroline Hagemann:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity here is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent the whole day to reading a publication. The book Killing for Company: The Story of a Man Addicted to Murder it is very good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book provides high quality.

Jennifer Evans:

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