



Deviant: The Shocking True Story of Ed Gein, the Original Psycho

By Harold Schechter



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The truth behind the twisted crimes that inspired the films *Psycho*, *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre*, and *The Silence of the Lambs*...

From “America’s principal chronicler of its greatest psychopathic killers” (*The Boston Book Review*) comes the definitive account of Ed Gein, a mild-mannered Wisconsin farmhand who stunned an unsuspecting nation—and redefined the meaning of the word “psycho.” The year was 1957. The place was an ordinary farmhouse in America’s heartland, filled with extraordinary evidence of unthinkable depravity. The man behind the massacre was a slight, unassuming Midwesterner with a strange smile—and even stranger attachment to his domineering mother. After her death and a failed attempt to dig up his mother’s body from the local cemetery, Gein turned to other grave robberies and, ultimately, multiple murders. Driven to commit gruesome and bizarre acts beyond all imagining, Ed Gein remains one of the most deranged minds in the annals of American homicide. This is his story—recounted in fascinating and chilling detail by Harold Schechter, one of the most acclaimed true-crime storytellers of our time.



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Editorial Review

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Harold Schechter is a historian: he takes old files and yellowed newspaper clippings, and brings their stories to life. *Deviant* is about everyone's favorite ghoul, Ed Gein--whose crimes inspired the writers of *Psycho*, *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, and *The Silence of the Lambs*. Schechter deftly evokes the small-town 1950s Wisconsin setting--not pretty farms and cheese factories, but infertile soil and a bleak, hardscrabble existence. The details of Gein's "death house" are perhaps well known by now, but the murderer's quietly crazy, almost gentle personality comes forth in this book as never before. As Gary Kadet wrote, in *The Boston Book Review*, "Schechter is a dogged researcher [who backs up] every bizarre detail and curious twist in this and his other books ... More importantly, he nimbly avoids miring his writing and our reading with minutiae or researched overstatement, which means that although he can occasionally be dry, he is never boring."

Also recommended: Schechter's books about Albert Fish (*Deranged*) and Herman Mudgett a.k.a. Dr. H. H. Holmes (*Depraved*).

Review

"Top-drawer true crime."

-- "Booklist"

About the Author

Harold Schechter is a professor of American literature and culture. Renowned for his true-crime writing, he is the author of the nonfiction books *Fatal*, *Fiend*, *Bestial*, *Deviant*, *Deranged*, *Depraved*, and, with David Everitt, *The A to Z Encyclopedia of Serial Killers*. He is also the author of *Nevermore* and *The Hum Bug*, the acclaimed historical novels featuring Edgar Allan Poe. He lives in New York State.

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