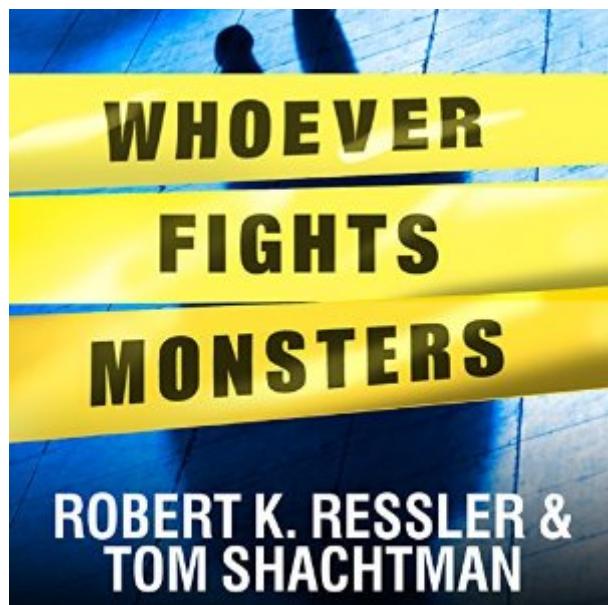


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Whoever Fights Monsters: My Twenty Years Tracking Serial Killers For The FBI



Synopsis

Face-to-face with some of America's most terrifying killers, FBI veteran and ex-Army CID colonel Robert Ressler learned from them how to identify the unknown monsters who walk among us - and put them behind bars. Now the man who coined the phrase "serial killer" and advised Thomas Harris on *The Silence of the Lambs* shows how he has tracked down some of the nation's most brutal murderers. Just as it happened in *The Silence of the Lambs*, Ressler uses the evidence at a crime scene to put together a psychological profile of the killers. From the victims they choose, to the way they kill, to the often grotesque souvenirs they take with them, Ressler unlocks the identities of these vicious killers for the police to capture. Join Ressler as he takes you on the hunt for America's most dangerous psychopaths. It is a terrifying journey you will not forget.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For those of you who are not big fans of serial killers and the people who catch them (or at least won't admit it publicly), Bob Ressler is the guy who invented the term "Serial Killer" and helped usher in a new understanding of repeat criminals and why they do what they do. The citizens of the U.S. owe a lot to Bob. So does Thomas Harris, who interviewed him extensively for *Manhunter* and *Silence of the Lambs*. Alas, truth is stranger than fiction, and the tales Ressler tells are positively awful. There's just one problem: we've heard all of this before. Where? That'd be "Mindhunter: Inside the FBI's Elite Serial Crime Unit," by John E. Douglas, a man I can only assume was Ressler's protégé. It's a bit murky as to their relationship (the two reference each other, but not often). The

parallels are unmistakable—it's interesting to read the opinions of two different people interviewing the same serial killer. For example, Douglas has a bit of a creepy admiration for Ed Kemper. Kemper had a diabolical mind that he put to good use, such that eventually he figured out why he was killing women: because he hated his mother. So Kemper did what every good serial killer would do in such a situation...he killed her too. His murders "finished," Kemper called the police and gave himself up. That little story is from Douglas' point of view. It almost makes Kemper out to be a sympathetic figure. A six-foot tall, 300 pound sympathetic figure, but sympathetic nonetheless. Ressler is not so kind. Ressler interviews Kemper alone at one point. Having finished the interview, Ressler rings for the guard...but nobody comes.

Robert K. Ressler left the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit twelve years ago to venture into private practice as a criminologist. He retired with thirty years of investigative experience (ten with the U.S. Army's CID and twenty with the FBI, many of them as director of the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP)). This book is one of his many attempts to speak from the belly of the monster that has devoured him...in fact the book that follows this one is actually called "I Have Lived in the Monster." "Out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou hearest my voice." (Jonah 2:2) So what does our modern-day prophet, Robert K. Ressler cry out of the belly of the beast? Credit for coining the phrase "serial killer" is commonly (and mistakenly) given to Ressler, one of the founding members of the FBI's elite Behavioral Science Unit. Along with his colleague John Douglas, Ressler also served as a model for the character 'Jack Crawford' in Thomas Harris's Hannibal Lecter trilogy. "Whoever Fights Monsters" is subtitled "My Twenty Years Tracking Serial Killers for the FBI" and if you read true crime books, you will recognize many of the monsters that Ressler describes and interviews. A miscellaneous look at the photo captions will give you an idea of whose minds he attempted to probe:^{*} "One of two blenders used by the Sacramento 'Vampire Killer'... to prepare human blood and organs for ingesting to 'stop his blood from turning to powder'"** "Tattoos on the arm of Richard Speck, which led to his arrest in the murders of eight women in Chicago in 1966"** "Photograph taken of the leg of a Brudos victim.

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