



# MURDER, AT THE END OF THE DAY AND NIGHT

A Study of Criminal Homicide Offenders,  
Victims, and Circumstances

*By*

R. BARRI FLOWERS



CHARLES C. THOMAS

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*Dedicated to victims of the terrorist attack on the United States on September 11, 2001, as well as the victims of anthrax biological terrorism to follow.*

• • •

*And to the memory of Sharon Tate, Marilyn Sheppard, Elizabeth Short, and Nicole Brown Simpson.*



## PREFACE

**M**urder is the most serious crime in society for victims, offenders, and the general public. The number of murders in the United States has been on the decline as fewer people, particularly youth, are involved in lethal gun violence, the leading cause of criminal homicide. This notwithstanding, tens of thousands of people are involved in murder offenses as victims and perpetrators every year in this country.

Certain types of homicides have become all too common, such as those involving intimates, family, juveniles, and youth gangs, as well as stranger homicides and drug- or alcohol-related homicides. However, in recent years, there has been a surge in school shootings, workplace homicides, hate violence, and deadly terrorists attacks in the United States. This has resulted in a greater focus on homicidal behavior, its antecedents, and ways to recognize the warning signs of at-risk victims and offenders, and preventative measures. It has also led to increased efforts by lawmakers to create and pass tough crime legislation, and improved federal, state, and local law enforcement response to murder and other violent crimes.

*MURDER, AT THE END OF THE DAY AND NIGHT: A Study of Criminal Homicide Offenders, Victims, and Circumstances* offers a comprehensive exploration of the crime of murder in American society. The book breaks new ground in homicide studies in examining issues generally ignored or neglected among researchers such as workplace homicides, bias-related homicides, and terrorist perpetrated homicides. Particular attention is also given to school killings, intimate killings, intrafamilial homicides, gang homicides, sexual killers, serial murderers, mass murder, suicide, and theories on murder and violence.

The book is written as a textbook and for assigned reading for both undergraduate and graduate students in the following disciplines: criminal justice, criminology, law, police studies, corrections, violence in society, terrorism, firearms and violence, hate crimes, domestic violence, gender and crime, gender studies, racial and ethnic studies, African American studies, Hispanic studies, urban studies, substance abuse, alcohol and drugs, child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, school violence, youth gangs, sociology, social science, psychology, and related disciplines.

Additionally, the timely and detailed material is appropriate for professionals in law, law enforcement, government, corrections, delinquency, family violence, intimate partner violence, substance abuse, social services, child welfare, education, race relations, medicine, psychology, sociology, psychiatry, and other occupations with an interest in homicide and its impact on individuals and society. Researchers and fellow criminologists and social scientists should also benefit from the wealth of information, findings, and references on murder and violent crime afforded them within this text.

I would like to offer thanks to Charles C Thomas for recognizing the importance of undertaking this project in contributing to the body of work in the study of murder, murderers, and victims, as well as correlates and theories of homicidal and violent behavior.

Finally, my task would not be complete if I did not offer my profound gratitude to my wife of more than twenty years for her tireless devotion to me and my writings, and the professionalism to which she has used her own secretarial skills superbly to transform my often complicated and unkempt manuscripts into polished works of art. Thank you, H. Loraine (Sleeping Beautiful).

R.B.F.

## INTRODUCTION

In the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist hijackings of four airliners that resulted in the deaths of thousands of people and brought down the twin towers of the World Trade Center and seriously damaged the Pentagon, the dynamics of murder in the United States has been given new attention in criminological and sociological studies.

However, while such instances of mass murder are horrifying and deserve exploration, in reality, these types of killings (including recent deadly school shootings and workplace homicides) represent only a fraction of overall homicides in this country. Far more common are intimate partner homicides, intrafamilial murders, youth homicides, sexual homicides, single victim-single offender homicides, and those influenced by drug and alcohol abuse and related offending. As such, it is important to keep a proper perspective in the study of homicidal behavior, while at the same time, seeking to understand the differences, similarities, and patterns of criminal homicide.

*MURDER, AT THE END OF THE DAY AND NIGHT* is a multifaceted probe of murder offenses, offenders, victims, and characteristics of homicide in American society. Within this context, the focus will be on examining the nature and causes of murder, the relationship between firearms and lethal violence, the criminal justice system and homicide offenders, different types of murders and murderers, antecedents and correlates to homicidal and violent behavior, and a theoretical basis for murder.

The book is divided into six parts. Part I examines the dynamics of murder including its nature; guns, substance abuse, and murder; and murder offending and the criminal justice system. Part II explores domestic murder such as intimate homicide, infanticide, parricide, and other family involved homicides.

Part III discusses interpersonal and societal murder crimes including workplace homicides, bias-motivated homicides, and terrorism and murder. Part IV focuses on youth and murder including youth gangs and homicide and school killings.



Part V examines particular categories of killers including sexual killers, serial killers, mass murderers, and self-killers. Part VI explores theories on murder.

Tables and figures accompany the text throughout the book to illustrate major points. A complete index is also provided for simple access to information and material found in the text.

# CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Preface</i> .....	.vii
<i>Introduction</i> .....	.ix
<i>Tables</i> .....	.xiii
<i>Figures</i> .....	.xv

## **PART I: THE DYNAMICS OF MURDER**

1. THE NATURE OF MURDER .....	.5
2. FIREARMS, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, AND MURDER .....	.20
3. MURDER AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM .....	.33

## **PART II: DOMESTIC MURDER**

4. INTIMATE HOMICIDE .....	.51
5. INFANTICIDE .....	.64
6. PARRICIDE .....	.72
7. OTHER INTRAFAMILIAL HOMICIDE .....	.80

## **PART III: INTERPERSONAL AND SOCIETAL MURDER**

8. WORKPLACE HOMICIDE .....	.93
9. BIAS-MOTIVATED HOMICIDE .....	.105
10. TERRORISM AND MURDER .....	.115

## **PART IV: YOUTH AND MURDER**

11. YOUTH GANGS AND HOMICIDE .....	.129
12. SCHOOL KILLINGS .....	.142

**PART V: TYPES OF KILLERS**

13. SEXUAL KILLERS .....	159
14. SERIAL KILLERS .....	170
15. MASS MURDERERS .....	180
16. SELF-KILLERS .....	187

**PART VI: EXPLANATIONS FOR MURDER**

17. CRIMINAL HOMICIDE THEORIES .....	205
<i>References</i> .....	219
<i>Index</i> .....	234

## TABLES

		<i>Page</i>
Table 1.1	Murder Offenders, by Age, Sex, and Race, 1999 .....	9
Table 1.2	Murder Victims, by Age, Sex, and Race, 1999 .....	10
Table 1.3	Murder Circumstances, by Offense and Firearms, 1999 ....	11
Table 1.4	Murder Victims, by Types of Weapons Used, 1997-1999 ...	12
Table 1.5	Victim/Offender Relationship, by Age, 1999 .....	13
Table 1.6	Victim/Offender Relationship, by Sex and Race, 1999 .....	14
Table 1.7	Lifetime Victimization Rate of Murder (5 Year) .....	15
Table 2.1	Murder Circumstances Involving Firearms, by Offense, 1999 .....	22
Table 2.2	Ten-Year Arrest Trends for Drug Abuse Violations and Alcohol-Related Offenses, 1990-1999 .....	27
Table 3.1	Number and Rate of Arrests for Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter, by Geographic Region, 1999 .....	38
Table 3.2	Estimated Number of Sentenced Prisoners Under State Jurisdiction for Homicide Offenses, by Gender, Race, and Hispanic Origin, 1998 .....	42
Table 3.3	Total Growth of Sentenced Prisoners Under State Jurisdiction, by Offense, Race, and Hispanic Origin, 1990-1998 .....	44
Table 3.4	Criminal History Profile of Prisoners Under Sentence of Death, by Race and Hispanic Origin, 1999 .....	45
Table 3.5	Prisoners Under Sentence of Death Who Were Executed or Received Other Dispositions, by Race and Hispanic Origin, 1977-1999 .....	46
Table 4.1	Intimate Partner Homicide, by Gender, 1976-1999 .....	53
Table 7.1	Child Fatality Victims by Sex and Age, 1997 .....	81
Table 7.2	Perpetrators of Child Fatalities by Sex and Age, 1997 ....	83
Table 8.1	Workplace Violence Victimization, 1992-1996 .....	94
Table 8.2	Characteristics of Persons Committing Workplace Violence, 1992-1996 .....	95
Table 8.3	Characteristics of Workplace Violence Victims, 1992-1996 ...	96

	<i>Page</i>
Table 8.4	Occupations of Victims of Workplace Violence, 1992-1996 .....97
Table 8.5	Workplace Homicides, by Victim Characteristics, 1997-1998 .....101
Table 9.1	Number of Hate Crime Incidents, Offenses, Victims, and Known Offenders, by Bias Motivation, 1999 .....107
Table 9.2	Bias-Motivated Offenses, 1999 .....108
Table 9.3	Number of Offenses, Victims, and Known Offenders, by Offense, 1999 .....109
Table 10.1	Casualties Resulting from International Terrorism Involving U.S. Citizens, by Type of Casualty, 1981-1999 ....119
Table 10.2	Terrorist Incidents, by Type of Incident and Target, United States, 1982-1997 .....120
Table 10.3	Known Terrorist Organizations .....121
Table 12.1	School Crimes of Violence, by Type of Crime, 1995 ....145
Table 12.2	School Crimes Against Students 12 to 18 Years Old, by Type of Crime and Student Characteristics, 1998 ....146
Table 12.3	Nonfatal Crimes Against Teachers at School, by Type of Crime and Teacher Characteristics, 1994-1998 .....148
Table 12.4	Percentage of Students, Grades 9 through 12, Who Reported Having Been in a Physical Fight on School Property in the Last 12 Months, by Student Characteristics, 1993, 1995, and 1997 .....149
Table 12.5	Percentage of Students, Grades 9 through 12, Who Reported Carrying a Weapon on School Property During the Past 30 Days, by Student Characteristics, 1997 .....151
Table 12.6	Percentage of Students 12 to 18 Years of Age, Reporting the Presence of Street Gangs at School During the Past Six Months, by Student Characteristics, 1989-1999 .....152
Table 13.1	Sexual Murder Circumstances, by Sex of Victim, 1998 ....161
Table 13.2	Characteristics of Sexual Assault Murderers, 1976-1994 ....162
Table 13.3	Characteristics of Sexual Assault Murder Victims, 1976-1994 .....164
Table 16.1	Suicide Rate, by Age, Sex, and Race, United States, 1997 .....190

## FIGURES

		<i>Page</i>
Figure 1.1	Ten-Year Murder Trends, 1990-1999 .....	8
Figure 1.2	Murder Victim-Offender Relationship, 1999 .....	13
Figure 2.1	Murders in the United States, by Type of Weapon Used, 1999 .....	21
Figure 2.2	Ten-Year Arrest Trends for Murder and Weapons Offenses, 1990-1999 .....	23
Figure 2.3	Firearm-Related Homicides and Nonfatal Injuries From Assaults, 1993-1997 .....	24
Figure 3.1	Clearance Rates for Murder, by Population, 1999 .....	34
Figure 3.2	Clearance Rates for Murder, by Geographic Region, 1999 .....	36
Figure 3.3	Persons Arrested for Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter, by Age, 1999 .....	36
Figure 3.4	Persons Arrested for Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter, by Sex, 1999 .....	37
Figure 3.5	Persons Arrested for Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter, by Race, 1999 .....	39
Figure 3.6	Ten-Year Arrest Trends for Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter, 1990-1999 .....	39
Figure 3.7	Ten-Year Arrest Trends for Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter, by Gender, 1990-1999 .....	41
Figure 3.8	Law Enforcement Officers Killed While on Duty, by Geographic Region, 2000 .....	43
Figure 3.9	Sentenced Federal Prisoners Convicted of Homicide, 1990-1999 .....	43
Figure 3.10	Juveniles in Residential Placement on October 29, 1997, for Criminal Homicide, by Race and Ethnicity .....	47
Figure 4.1	Victims of Intimate Partner Homicides, by Gender, 1999 .....	52
Figure 4.2	Intimate Partner Homicides, by Gender, 1976-1999 .....	54

	<i>Page</i>
Figure 4.3	Female Intimate Partner Homicide Victims, by Type of Relationship to Killer, 1976-1996 .....55
Figure 4.4	Male Intimate Partner Homicide Victims, by Type of Relationship to Killer, 1976-1996 .....55
Figure 8.1	Weapons Used in Workplace Homicides, 1992-1996 ....99
Figure 8.2	Victims of Workplace Homicide, by Type of Offender Attack, 1998 .....102
Figure 8.3	Victims of Workplace Homicide, by Type of Circumstance, 1998 .....102
Figure 9.1	Total Known Offenders of Bias Crimes, by Race, 1999 ....111
Figure 11.1	Youth Gang Homicide Trends from 408 American Cities, 1991-1996 .....131
Figure 11.2	Youth Gang Homicide Trends, 1996-1998 .....132
Figure 11.3	Racial and Ethnic Breakdown of Youth Gangs in the United States .....135
Figure 12.1	Murders of Students at School and of Youths 5 to 19 Years of Age Away From School, 1997-1998 .....144
Figure 12.2	Percentage of Students, Grades 9-12, Reporting Drugs Were Made Available to Them on School Property During the Past 12 Months, by Sex, 1997 .....154
Figure 13.1	Sex-Related Homicides, 1994-1999 .....161
Figure 16.1	Trends in Suicide Rate, United States, 1980-1997 .....189
Figure 16.2	Trends in Suicide Rate For Persons Age 10-19, 1980-1997 .....191
Figure 16.3	Suicide Methods in the United States .....195
Figure 16.4	Suicide Methods, by Gender .....196
Figure 16.5	Firearm-Related Suicides, 1993-1997 .....197
Figure 16.6	Firearm Involved Suicide Attempts, 1993-1997 .....197

**MURDER, AT THE END  
OF THE DAY AND NIGHT**





**Part I**

**THE DYNAMICS OF MURDER**



## Chapter 1

### THE NATURE OF MURDER

**M**urder is considered the most serious and violent criminal offense in society. Tens of thousands of people are murdered in the United States annually. The crime of murder is most often perpetrated by offenders using firearms, but can also occur through numerous other methods such as fists, hands, knives, poison, bombs, bats, and suffocation. Murder victims and offenders come from all walks of life, but certain groups and individuals are at higher risk for involvement than others, such as family members, intimates, youth, gang members, work associates, minorities, and those residing in high crime areas. Recent years have seen a decline in the homicide rate, due in part to tougher gun control laws, a drop in youth gun violence, and a general decrease in overall crimes, particularly violent crime. However, a number of recent school shootings, mass killings, and deadly terrorist attacks illustrate the continual threat and concern with homicidal behavior.

#### WHAT IS MURDER?

In general, murder refers to the criminal or unlawful taking of a life. However, the term is often used interchangeably with homicide, which is defined as the killing of a person by another. Additionally, there are a number of types and subtypes of each.

The term *murder* originated sometime before the twelfth century in part from “Middle English *murther* . . . Old English *morthor* [and] . . . Middle English *murdre*,” to mean “the crime of unlawfully killing a person especially with malice aforethought.”<sup>1</sup> *The World Book Encyclopedia* defines murder as “when one person intentionally kills another without legal justification or excuse.”<sup>2</sup> Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter are combined in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program administered by the Federal Bureau of