

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



# 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.

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**MURDER, AT THE END  
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**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