



The Man Who Killed Boys: The John Wayne Gacy, Jr. Story

Clifford L. Linedecker

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A true story of mass murder in a Chicago suburb.

Successful businessman, community benefactor, good friend and neighbor-- and perverted mass murderer.

Over a period of three years, John Wayne Gacy, Jr. sexually tortured and murdered 33 boys. His friends and neighbors in his unassuming Illinois community never suspected a thing. Gacy was a Jekyll-and-Hyde figure, leading an outwardly normal life, but secretly brutalizing dozens of young men in a hidden lair, and concealing their bodies under the floorboards of his suburban home.

Through extensive personal interviews with those who knew Gacy, veteran true-crime scribe Clifford L. Linedecker takes us on a shocking ride through Gacy's life, delving deep into the man's troubled past, recounting his appalling series of murders, and recreating the drama of his trial-- which resulted in his execution by lethal injection in 1994. Gruesome and horrifying, *The Man Who Killed Boys* reveals stark terror set amid the daily lives of an ordinary community.

Documented with an 8-page photo archive

The Man Who Killed Boys: The John Wayne Gacy, Jr. Story Details

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From Reader Review *The Man Who Killed Boys: The John Wayne Gacy, Jr. Story* for online ebook

Joey Becker says

Whoa! Gacy was a nutjob!

Tania M says

Well written. Horrible story but this gives good chronology though no real attempt at analysis of reasons for his behaviour

Brenna says

A man born at the turn of last century marries, has three children (two daughters and one son), becomes an abusive alcoholic, and dies while his only son is in prison for having sexually assaulted a teenaged boy. And so went the life of John Wayne Gacy, Sr.

But it was the beginning of a life of turmoil for that imprisoned son, John Wayne Gacy, Jr.

J. W. Gacy, Jr. was known amongst his circle of friends as a shameless embellisher at best - a volatile pervert, at worst. Yet, none suspected that his true nature had allowed him to murder 33 young men. He had been a successful entrepreneur, one who had hosted large galas in his backyard (catered by Gacy himself), and who was personally thanked by Rosalynn Carter for his efforts in support of the Democratic party. How could he have killed so many?

How could no one else have suspected?

The clues all added up, in retrospect. Gacy was known to frequent gay bars while categorically denying his sexuality to most people, even going so far as to associate with violent homophobes and to verbally berate gays himself. Many had seen his temper blaze as destructive as wildfire before instantly dissipating and bringing back a placid, jovial Gacy who seemed oblivious to his own explosion. Some of the inexperienced boys he had hired for contracting work had vanished, as had many others in the surrounding area, with only the ex-con Gacy having knowledge of the boys' allegedly expressed desires to "get out of town." And then there was the perpetual smell of death lingering all around the Gacy homestead. That unmistakably foul, putrid, nauseating odour - strong enough to give neighbours cause to complain - emanating from the crawl space that singularly marked the death house.

How *could* no one else have suspected anything at all?

John Wayne Gacy, as presented in *The Man Who Killed Boys*, was a charmer, a social success story, who inspired many community residents to become leaders themselves. People looked up to Gacy, even though they were aware of his penchant for making his deeds seem larger-than-life. Neighbours knew that the 33-year-old man they grew to love must have been lying about much of his past, with his stories of being a

former Marine, former police officer, former Emergency Medical Technician, former fireman, former chef, and (with a definite pattern arising of past successes) former husband to the daughter of Kentucky Fried Chicken founder Colonel Harland Saunders. But none cared so much about his past than with the efforts he currently put forth with entertaining local politicians and sick children (as "Pogo The Clown," Gacy's alter ego with the grease-painted - and decidedly horrifying - grimace).

Author Clifford L. Linedecker compiles the life and crimes of John Wayne Gacy, Jr. up until his conviction. Unfortunately, he falls into the all-too-common trap of injecting commentary into a seemingly factual account. For instance, Linedecker focuses on Gacy's physical girth with loaded descriptions such as "the pug-faced killer" with "fat, ruddy cheeks" and "jowls that slumped wearily into a double chin." And there are portions of the narrative which deviate from the "facts" with obvious novelization, such as verbatim dialogue not on the record and with incidental descriptions of a person's reactions to words or surroundings (one young man "shivered as he stepped away from the apartment building", or a person's "words were forced out at a hoarse croak," as if the author - who was never in a position to make any such florid observation - had seen it all for himself). Such portraiture somewhat betrays the legitimacy of the writing, the uninvolved author having interjected too much of himself into the text.

Overall a fairly well-written book, although no new ground is broken with respect to media coverage given to the story. The most appealing aspect is that the basics of the criminal's life are compiled in a single volume as presented.

Jessica Applin says

Read this book in about 4 hours. Simply written, easy to digest. Wish there was more on the trial.

Karen says

This book was so good...I thought that I knew what there was to know about John Wayne Gacy, but I learned some things I wasn't aware of...and I was shocked about.

This book was in depth and well written and I look forward to reading another book by this author. Clifford L. Linedecker told a great deal of background about Gacy and even about a handful of his victims. He told the good as well as the bad and I really liked that.

I also learned a lot about how Chicago (parts of it) was back in the 70's. Things that I was also shocked to learn about. Kind of scary in fact and it makes me cringe wondering how bad it must be now!

If you like true crime books you need to pick this one up. Even if you think you know the story of Gacy you may learn some more things like I did.

Fishface says

A good read on one of the most horrible cases ever. This one focuses on what the neighbors saw, and tells us a little more about some of the victims, who in some of the books about Gacy are just names. I learned how

they might have happened to cross Gacy's path and what kind of people they were. Linedecker did a bang-up research job on this case considering that he was clearly writing an instant paperback that went to press before Gacy even got through his trial, and before all the victims had been found. I recommend this one.

Dawn Barber says

Read this back in the 90's. Horrific story - good writing.

Noran Miss Pumkin says

I just could not help myself--It happen in my relative backyard. Northwest IN, we often consider ourselves part of the Chicagoan area. This was the first really warped serial killer n our area in my life time. and I wanted to know more. The book did the usual job these books do. He was an evil vile man and the books does a good job covering that. Why 3 stars--these are printed to make money -- off the deaths of others...

Steve Parcell says

Very well written book about one of the USA's most prolific serial killers.

Like the more expansive details of the victims and their families and the complete nightmare they went through. The young men were usually streetwise and Gacy took advantage of this confidence. The death of Robert Piest was heartwrenching though as he seemed a normal all American boy who was just in the wrong place at the right time for Gacy to take. Not to say anyone else deserved it more but his death hit home with me.

Also conjured up the image of Brian Dennehey's excellent portrayal of Gacy in To Catch a Killer. I would have liked more about the Polish-American detective Joe Kozenczak (played superbly by Michael Riley in To Catch a Killer) who led the team who eventually caught Gacy after years of painstaking investigating.

However on the whole a very very good book.

Chris says

This is a very disturbing book to read based on how this man killed his victims. The remorse that he carried for his actions were nonexistent because of the number of victims found. It would be safe to say that if he had not be caught, Mr. Gacy would have continued to kill innocent young boys.

The structure of the story is easy to follow in the beginning, but as you read on the author has a habit of dropping single names at certain points and then following up with their details later on. This makes it hard to follow at times because you have to thumb back to find the reference he was talking about, or vice versa,

he may give detail of the person and then name drop later on, sometimes with just a last name.

The flaws in the book is that not all the victims of Mr. Gacy are in this book but only a few, perhaps due to the time the book was written and not updated. It was stated online that many of the later victims weren't identified for at least another 8 years after his initial arrest in 1978.

The names of the victims listed in the book are also different from those listed online, especially the wiki entry on John Gacy.

If you love true crime stories, this is one book that will leave you feeling sick for how the victims were killed. The method used is sickening and heart wrenching.

The book does not cover the last parts of Mr. Gacy life, but ends still in the trial but does not elaborate on the ending.

Kristan Youngblood says

Very powerful book if you are the type of person that enjoys True Crime. Note it is rather graphic in nature.

Billiam says

Meh.

Tammy Rowe says

This book is really interesting. It outlines Gacy's life, and shows that *anyone* could be a serial killer, even your neighbor or friend, and you might never know it. What a sick man!

Andy Ringbloom says

Eww what's that smell?

Jenny says

I like true crime novels...not afraid to admit it. ;) I guess I take after my mom more than I thought!
