



Vampire: The Richard Chase Murders

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By the time Richard Trenton Chase graduated high school, everyone knew he was strange. But no one had any idea how bizarre he'd become, or what dark impulses were flowing through his troubled brain. The transformation from the outwardly strange young man to the diabolical killer he ultimately became, was gradual and would not become known until it was too late. First it was the killing of small animals and birds, and the drinking of their blood. However, when these sacrifices failed to satiate his needs, Richard Chase would seek out the highest form of life, and the city of Sacramento, California would react in horror to the hideous murders and mutilations committed by his hands. For those living in the quiet neighborhoods where the murders occurred, it was nothing less than a time of terror until the fiend was captured.

Vampire: The Richard Chase Murders (with 23 photos), is an in-depth look into the life and disturbed mind of a killer, his family, and his many victims, the living as well as the dead. Within these pages you'll discover what it was like for the police, and what a difficult job they had finding a killer they knew wouldn't stop until he was apprehended. It was a race against time, in a series of murders that would stun even the most hardened investigators. It is the story of a city under siege, held captive by the man whose appetite for blood could not be sated.

Vampire: The Richard Chase Murders Details

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From Reader Review Vampire: The Richard Chase Murders for online ebook

Nicola Mansfield says

I knew very little about this case before reading the book. I read a lot of true crime but some cases make me sick and this one I knew enough about to make me think I didn't want the depth of a book to tell me more. However, I am very glad to have read it. Mr. Sullivan has done an excellent job with a very sensitive subject matter. Some reviews have called the book graphic, or, specifically, the writing graphic, but that's not exactly the situation and especially why I appreciated the author's tact. Yes, the data is graphic but 1) there are no crime scene photos and 2) the graphic details are simply listed information taken directly from police or court documents. The author hasn't taken any creative license in that area. Sullivan has done an exceptional job of providing direct quotes from various sources and weaving them together with his own sparse narrative that concentrates heavily on the victims, both dead and living. Sullivan also makes his main discussion throughout the text to be the difference between mental insanity and legal insanity. There is never any question that Richard Chase was mentally insane, but the question his trial brought to the surface was that a person can be insane and legally culpable at the same time. An absolutely horrendous case for everyone involved: first and foremost the victims and their families, but also those involved in the investigation, Chase's own family and even Chase himself, that he wasn't locked up in a psychiatric ward, when they first had him and he, himself, knew he was sick, years before he killed anyone. The book is short but thorough; anything longer than this would have been sensationalism. Great read!

Hanan says

Short and graphic read.

Kathy says

Vampire The Richard Chase Murders

This was a good read. It was a quick and easy read and the author did a great job in telling the story of this sick twisted human being....

Brenda Shelton says

An Intriguing Case

I can't say I had any empathy for Richard Chase, only his family who had to endure his psychotic behavior and the innocent people he preyed upon. Suicide was too good for him.

Sophie HT says

Could have been a GREAT book but lacked detail. Not a book for a True Crime fan but maybe a gentle intro for a newbie!

Gnomepartay says

Disturbing. A nice well rounded review on the facts of the case using news papers and information gathered about the family.

Katherine McCarthy says

Mentally deranged, sadistic, a bloodsucker and a cannibal, this diabolical killer held the city of Sacramento in fear during his spree in the late 70's. Fortunately, his reign of terror was relatively short lived. Unfortunately, the savage cruelty he showed his innocent victims is something I don't imagine anyone from that area will ever forget.

I think the author did a fantastic job of pulling this story together. Although only 109 pages, you finish the book feeling you know everything you need to know about the tragedy. Its very concise and not a word is wasted. There's lots of background information about him and his family dynamic that may or may not have impacted his mental condition, excerpts from arresting officers, exact wording from the actual case files, and even more. Every true crime fan's dream read.

I'm most impressed and absolutely will be reading more by this author.

Kathy says

This was a good read. It was a quick and easy read and the author did a great job in telling the story of this sick twisted human being....

Amber says

Read this as research for a Criminal Justice/Psychology paper on serial killers. Sure did help and was definitely interesting, but seriously disturbing!!

Autumn says

I received this book to give an honest review.

Whoa is all I can literally say about this. This is a crazy true story on a man named Richard Chase. He literally killed a few people and drank their blood on top of that started eating them. Like who in their right mind would do that? Someone crazy is all I have to say.

Richard would seem to be just a normal person normally. But if you looked into his life you knew something was wrong. When someone is paranoid, staying up all hours of the night, knocking holes in the wall something is wrong. If it is not drugs then it is something mental. This story is filled with information on how it all seemed to start, the background of Richard, how detectives were able to capture him before he could go on and kill more people. It also shows us how mental illness was described by doctors in this case. I honestly think that he had a mental illness now what it is I don't know exactly.

There are pictures within the book so you really get a feel as to where things took place and what things looked like back in the day. It is crazy weird. If you like true crime stories then I say get this one. Even though it is gory when told just imagine what those that put him behind bars saw and think. The author did good on his research and knew just how to write it all to where it sounds good when told.

Shauni says

A short but interesting gruesome story about the Vampire of Sacramento, Richard Chase. I have read a bit about him in another book and his case definitely caught my attention. It's obvious that Richard Chase had some serious mental illness but he was legally sane. The book is well written and it seems that the author knows what he is writing about. It surprises me that he is not more "famous" or should I say infamous because his crimes are wild.

Cheri says

This was a page turner. I am definitely going to keep this author on my radar! I highly recommend this true crime book.

Meaghan says

A short but very thorough account of Richard Chase's life and crimes. The writing is extremely graphic, but that's to be expected given the nature of the murders Chase committed. I thought the author did a good job of showing how, batshit crazy though Chase may have been, he was not insane under the legal standard. (Which, to me, speaks volumes about our need to broaden our application of insanity, but that's neither here nor there.) Anyone who wants to learn about this particularly gruesome serial slayer could not go wrong with his book.

Jlsimon says

This was a great short read.

The research and information were excellent.

You don't get so much information about the victims, but you get a really good view of what was going on with Richard Chase, the investigation, the medical analysis, and the trial.

Kevin Sullivan is a good read for the avid true crime reader. Please be advised some of his work is described graphically. Beyond that I would recommend this book to most individuals who enjoy this genre. Word to the wise, individuals who enjoy works that include a lot of detail and connection to the victims and families like the works of Ann Rule may be disappointed. I usually do prefer to get a connection, but even without one in a short like this you don't expect it.

Carla Harris says

This is a true crime story for the ages.

What we have here is a story that Morgan, Garcia , Rossi and the gang of Criminal Minds would trickle with jest.

It is gruesome and chilling hole on to your hats be sure re e your doors are looked before you set down to read this one.

Terri says

In the 1970s, Richard Chase's murders terrorized Sacramento. They were brutal, gruesome and random. The only thing they had in common was a VERY small geographic region. Mr. Chase was clearly delusional and drank the blood of some of his victims (hence the moniker of 'Vampire'. The biggest question I found while reading the book, is how clearly the definition of mental illness versus LEGAL insanity played out in his case. It was well researched and presented and a very interesting read.

Anne Cupero says

This was a short story, AT BEST. This was not a great story, there was no real attempt at research.
