

# **Mindhunter: Inside the FBI's Elite Serial Crime Unit Study Guide**

**Mindhunter: Inside the FBI's Elite Serial Crime Unit by  
John E. Douglas**

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## Plot Summary

This non-fiction autobiographical book, published in 1995, tells the story of John Douglas over his twenty-five year career as a mind hunter in the FBI's serial crime unit through his retirement in 1995. John Douglas co-authors "Mindhunter" and the book's content is based on his twenty-five year career with the FBI's Investigative Support Unit. Douglas organizes and manages the unit from its beginning in 1980 to his retirement in 1995. Mindhunter is the story of his life and experiences profiling criminals. The co-author Mark Olshaker brings his experiences as a novelist and filmmaker who produces the PBS Nova program "Mind of a Serial Killer." In John Douglas' own words he presents the real story of the evil that the dragon represents as he confronts it throughout his career.

This book is his story of twenty-five years in the pursuit of criminal justice. He seems to be a good man but is obsessed with his task to the apparent loss of a happy home life. The topic makes the book not all that pleasant to read despite its value. Hard truths are presented in an effort to face the experience of man at its most despicable level. Truths that Douglas presents make one shudder but admire the FBI's persistent commitment exhibited in the serial crime unit. Mindhunter is a valuable book, yet painful to read because of its brutal honesty.

Mindhunter is comprised of 384 pages of non-fiction historical accounting of Douglas' life and career. The book has a Prologue, nineteen chapters, inserted photographs and an Index. Prologue and early chapters discuss his recuperation from emotional breakdown and describe his personal life before the FBI. Douglas profiles criminals interspersed with philosophical comments and theories he develops through those experiences. Final chapters summarize thoughts and reflections after his retirement from the FBI. Chapter titles are descriptive like, "I Must be in Hell," "The Heart of Darkness" and "Who Killed the All-American Girl?" The Index is particularly useful to research or look up one or another criminal or concept. Photographs of the Douglas family and other agents provide a pleasant offset to photos of the criminals they apprehend or interview. The book is an easy read of the experiences Douglas has as an agent although the content and its harsh, clinical reality is not always easy to read. The language is simple and straightforward and the concepts are readily understandable.



# Prologue through Chapter 5

## Prologue through Chapter 5 Summary and Analysis

John Douglas presents in his own words the real story of the evil that the dragon represents as he confronts it throughout his career. This book is his story of twenty-five years in the pursuit of criminal justice. He seems to be a good man but is obsessed with his task to the apparent loss of a happy home life. The topic makes the book not all that pleasant to read despite its value. Hard truths are presented in an effort to face the experience of man at its most despicable level. Truths that Douglas presents make one shudder but admire the FBI's persistent commitment exhibited in the serial crime unit.

Prologue: I Must Be in Hell describes the author's imagination being tortured by all the killers, rapists and child molesters he has put away. He knows they have a need to manipulate and dominate their victims to show their total control and he is at their mercy. John Douglas begs God to die quickly if he is alive or be released from hell if he is already dead. Douglas is in hospital recuperating for a month after an emotional/physical breakdown at 38 years old. Two agents find him convulsing in his hotel room. He has a brain hemorrhage from high fever and is expected to die or be blind and vegetative when he comes out of a coma. His unit chief, Roger Depue meets with his wife Pam and father Jack who fly out to his hospital in Seattle. He has viral encephalitis from stress and a weakened condition but is lucky to be alive. Douglas tells FBI Director Webster he does not think he can shoot any more but Webster replies he wants his mind. Douglas has a melancholic Christmas with children Erika and Lauren, family and friends at home, recuperating in a wheelchair trying to remember. He returns to work in May 1984.

In Chapter 1, Inside the Mind of a Killer, Douglas compares the criminal to a lion stalking the weakest individual out of a group for his prey. He must see the victim through the same eyes the criminal sees his prey. In a shopping mall full of children, Douglas must identify the one child most vulnerable and likely to be an intended victim of a hunting criminal. The FBI Investigative Support Unit profiles and analyzes crime scenes to answer that question. The unknown subject, or UNSUB is the focus of the investigation to determine who perpetrates the crime. Investigators try to determine what is inside minds of each UNSUB. Douglas reflects on the irony of the coexistence of advances in solving crime with a decrease in murder cases solved by serial killers. Serial killers are not driven by logical motives and can be caught only by learning to think how they do. The FBI Investigative Support Unit at Quantico assists local police and prosecutors to catch and prosecute criminals by research and specialized experience. Mystery writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes is a model profiler. FBI agent Roy Hazelwood asks three questions including what happens, why it happens as it does and who commits the crime while Douglas claims the profiler's task is to think of the crime's entire story.



Chapter 2, My Mother's Name Was Holmes indicates Douglas is almost named after her. John and his older sister Arlene are born in Brooklyn but raised in Hempstead where his father Jack presides over a local union. John is a mediocre student but gets along well, likes animals and telling stories. He wants to be a veterinarian so he spends summers on a farm to learn about animals and build up his physical strength to become a football player and bouncer at a bar. Cornell rejects his veterinary application but he is accepted by a college program in Montana where he gets in legal trouble for underage drinking. When Selective Service shows interest in him, John joins the Air Force and is assigned as clerk typist outside Clovis, New Mexico. The office next door needs an enlisted man to run Special Services athletics and Douglas is transferred. He receives education costs for night school. While in service he graduates and begins a master's program in industrial psychology. In 1970 he is referred to the FBI where he is hired in November.

Chapter 3, Betting on Raindrops rolling down the window is a metaphor for bettors that wager on anything because they are "bettors." The expression states the fundamental notion that bank robbers and other criminals cannot be stopped since criminal activity is what they do because they are who they are. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover orders Douglas to report December 14, 1970 for fourteen weeks of training. He is twenty-five and his all-white male classmates are twenty-nine to thirty-five. FBI agents learn "shoot to kill" and are trained in criminal law, fingerprint analysis, violent and white-collar crime, arrests and many other subjects. Douglas answers 100% on his written test but is scored 99% since Mr. Hoover says no one is perfect. Douglas is assigned to Detroit's Reactive Crimes Unit that chases military deserters from the Vietnam War. Douglas looks for behavioral clues to make a criminal stand out from others that eventually lead him to the concept of signature as distinct from modus operandi.

Chapter 4, Between Two Worlds describes the early years of Douglas career in which for the first time he experiences one of his most terrifying experiences of almost being shot to death. He meets his future wife Pam Modica in a bar on her twenty-first birthday. He is five years older than her and wants to marry her. She spends a year in England as an exchange student but when she returns at Christmas in 1971, he proposes and she accepts. They plan to marry in June and John is assigned to Milwaukee in his second year where he manages recruiting. Pam teaches for the school system in Milwaukee where the new couple lives for the first five years of their married life. Douglas works bank robberies and develops a "signature" approach to link crimes together. He gets experience on the Menominee Indian reservation with exposure to murder-scene investigations. He also fathers their first child, finishes a master degree in psychology and is sent to Quantico for a two-week course by Howard Teten and Pat Mullany in behavioral sciences.

Chapter 5 Behavioral Science or BS describes Douglas' return in 1975 to Quantico after five years in field assignments. The Behavioral Science Unit (BSU) under Hoover is considered "BS" with little relevance to catching criminals. Teten focuses on crime scene evidence to learn about criminal behavior and motives and Mullany successfully manages several public hostage situations. Douglas meets with BSU chief Jack Pfaff for assignment as FBI National Academy program counselor. In Milwaukee Douglas trains



business and bank executives on kidnapping and extortion. He learns of bizarre murder cases in Quantico and learns of the case of Edward Gein in Plainfield, Wisconsin that intrigues him and FBI agent status gives him access to sealed files. Douglas returns to Quantico in late 1976 for temporary duty assignment (TDY) at FBI National Academy. In January 1977 he replaces Pat Mullany in Behavioral Science at Quantico.



# Chapter 6, Taking the Show on the Road

## Chapter 6, Taking the Show on the Road Summary and Analysis

John Douglas describes the inception, initiation, authorization and funding of a prison study that is the core of criminal-investigative analysis in the modern age. Behavioral Science Unit in June 1977 has nine special agents primarily teaching a course in Applied Criminal Psychology developed in 1972 by Howard Teten. The course uses research and teaching from academic psychology that has limited value to law enforcement or crime detection. Hoover discourages "profiling" to solve crimes. Teten and Mullany do casual personality profiles but commit none of them in writing to avoid embarrassing the FBI if a profile is wrong. Police officers are given help on request but get no formal profile training.

When Douglas arrives at BSU his training is provided through "road schools" with Bob Ressler. They spend two weeks on the road teaching "war stories" and case hearsay to local police departments or academies and then move on to the next, through the United States. Instructors often teach about cases that conflict with the real life experience of their students who work a case. Douglas is thirty-two but looks younger teaching veteran police ten or more years older. He adds credibility and avoids embarrassment in front of his class by screening students for anyone who works the case to tell their hands on experience. In addition Douglas suggests speaking directly to criminals for better insight to teach. Bob agrees and asks resident FBI agent John Conway to contact the California penal system.

Conway gets permission from prison officials to interview Ed Kemper at the California State Medical Facility in Vacaville. Kemper is convicted on eight counts of first-degree murder and serves multiple life sentences. His case is taught at the National Academy without any direct contact. At fourteen Kemper shoots and stabs his grandmother and grandfather because he "wondered how it would feel to shoot Grandma." This double murder earns him a "personality trait disturbance, passive-aggressive type" diagnosis and commitment to hospital for the criminally insane. He is released in 1969 at twenty-one. In 1972 and 1973 he commits eight more murders detailed by the author. Kemper is disappointed by their lack of impact and calls the Santa Cruz Police to admit he is the Coed Killer. He waits at a phone booth for the police to pick him up. Kemper agrees to meet Douglas, Conway and Ressler for a prison interview. The author finds him friendly, charming and articulate with a good sense of humor. Douglas is puzzled that a man like Kemper can coldly butcher several young women. Douglas claims understanding a serial killer takes meeting and interacting with him and studying the brutality of his work. He compares understanding a serial killer to understanding Picasso and his paintings.

On their road school trips Douglas and Ressler do prison interviews of any criminal killers in the area. FBI badges get them into many prisons with no appointment, which works out better. This informal research interviews six convicted criminals including



Arthur Bremmer, "Squeaky" Fromme and Charles Manson. Although Manson does not kill anyone himself he coerces his gang to commit the infamous Tate-LaBianca murders and is the most notorious and frightening convict in the world. Douglas details his crimes and compares his childhood and upbringing to Kemper's. They finish ten prison interviews and have requests for fifty more before formalizing a program with Dr. Ann Burgess and securing \$400,000 in grant funds from the National Institute of Justice. Burgess prepares a fifty-seven page interview instrument to use in the analysis of forty felon interviews.





# Chapter 7, The Heart of Darkness

## Chapter 7, The Heart of Darkness Summary and Analysis

The author recounts the prison interviews and data-gathering of the prison inmate study. John Douglas wonders why convicted felons agree to speak with federal agents. He assumes some are bothered by their crimes and talking may help, others like being around cops and FBI agents, some want attention or are bored while others want to relive gruesome fantasies. A published article about study goals lists four questions as an outline of inquiry. They include questions of motive and warning signs, methods to inhibit action, victim response coping strategy and treatment implications. Douglas suggests cases be studied in advance.

William Heirens is the first felon Bob Ressler and John Douglas interview for the Criminal Personality Research Project. He confesses and is convicted and imprisoned in 1946 where he is a model prisoner in Statesville Prison, Joliet, Illinois. He is the state's first prisoner to complete college in prison. Heirens claims George Murmans lives inside him but leaves a note that he cannot control himself. In 1966, Richard Speck kills eight student nurses in a South Chicago townhouse. He serves consecutive life sentences and claims "I'm not a serial killer." Douglas agrees Speck is a "mass murderer" who kills more than twice in the same act and a "serial killer" kills repeatedly with emotional cooling-off between crimes. Speck is surprised by one of his robbery victims and turns into a frenzied rapist and murderer as roommates return home. Jerry Brudos is a shoe fetishist who becomes deadly from compulsions and a punishing, domineering mother. He is born in 1939 and by sixteen steals women's shoes and underwear. He assaults a girl and undergoes therapy at a state hospital in Salem, Oregon. In 1968 he kills an encyclopedia salesgirl who comes to his door by mistake. He cuts off her foot to put in high heeled shoes locked in his freezer and throws her body in the river. He kills three more before being captured and confessing. Monte Ralph Rissell rapes and murders five women in Alexander, Virginia while a teenager. When he receives a letter from his girlfriend breaking up with him Monte abducts a prostitute with a gun. The triggering event or stressor is the girlfriend breakup. Monte Rissell's case provides insight in victim reactions to rape. General rape advice is difficult to offer because the individual rapist may react negatively to power, anger, pleasure, inadequacy or escape. Victim behavior also impacts rape. Rissell is annoyed by a first victim's escape attempt and a second victim's questions, he releases a third to care for her father but has firm intentions to drown the fourth and stab the final victim based on his fantasies. David Berkowitz's story encourages Rissell's fantasies. Called "Son of Sam" Berkowitz is considered an assassin rather than serial killer. He kills six young people and wounds many more between July 1976 and July 1977. Berkowitz discovers he is adopted in the Army. He finds his biological mother living with his sister but they reject him. He gets a .44-caliber handgun to hunt at night. He stalks lover's lane and

shoots into the passenger side. He terrorizes the city because he is angry his mother and other women make him feel inadequate.

The interview study is completed by 1983 with thirty-six individuals and 118 victims. The conclusions are published in a book titled, "Sexual Homicide: Patterns and Motives." Douglas admits the study raises more questions than it answers. The task remains to learn more by studying faster than the successful killers who learn more by killing.



# Chapter 8 through Chapter 10

## Chapter 8 through Chapter 10 Summary and Analysis

This subsection describes significant features of criminals that are developed through Douglas' profiling expertise. Chapter 8 The Killer Will Have a Speech Impediment describes a local crime that Douglas is not officially asked to help out with. An elderly woman is sexually assaulted and beaten almost to death in 1980. When the crime is not solved in a couple months Douglas offers to help the lead detective Dean Martin. Douglas tells Martin he thinks the attacker is a local teenager and describes his understanding of how the situation develops. When asked if he is a psychic, John Douglas replies his analysis comes from experience with profiling. The author recalls another case he investigates from the San Francisco Bay area identified as "Trailside Killer." Douglas is certain the UNSUB has an obvious defect like a speech impediment that bothers him. One of the first victims for which he is incarcerated reports that while attacking her he stops stuttering. Despite regular success profiling is considered witchcraft or black magic until a 1981 report commends BSU for "their outstanding job." The author cites details in the brutal and ritualistic mutilation murder case of Francine Elverson to show how the FBI profile narrows the suspect list to identify and convict the offender Carmine Calabro thirteen months later.

The next Chapter 9 Walking in the Shoes describes an increasing number of requests that requires more selectivity in the type and handling of accepted cases. He takes over 150 cases yearly in the early 1980s. Active rape-murder cases with potential loss of life are highest priority while cold and large department cases are low priority. Initially Douglas writes an analysis but now he reviews it in person or by phone with local investigators who take their own notes for analysis. The author emphasizes crime-scene analysis and victimology to define a profile. He starts with a medical examiner's report, proceeds to preliminary police report and to crime-scene photos and schematic drawing. Information about items taken from a victim is important for motive. Douglas claims a critical part of profiling is ability to "walk in the shoes of both the offender and the victim." A profiler must feel the terror and agony of a victim as well as understand and feel the gratification of an attacker. Douglas details the gruesome torture and killing of teenage girls in a van by Lawrence Bittaker and Roy Norris and the rape-murder of a 7-Eleven clerk by psychopath Russell Odom and schizophrenic partner Clay Lawson. Douglas claims they could be criminally insane except that they return a second night to do the crime when interrupted the first night.

Chapter 10 Everybody Has a Rock recalls an experience Douglas has with his parents. His mother asks her twenty-year old college student if he has sex. The author uses her question as a vulnerable point for the metaphor "everybody has a rock." For example Douglas teases an associate about a pretty officemate and his wife. Greg is completely innocent but he is rattled by teasing that makes the point everyone is vulnerable. Douglas cites a case in Rome, Georgia where a twelve-year old girl is abducted and killed. Her death by skull fracture is from blunt-force trauma consistent with a large rock.



Douglas suggests police stage interrogation at night with the bloody rock placed so the suspect has to turn his head to see it. When the suspect is brought in he sees the rock, perspires, breathes heavily and eventually confesses. Douglas claims the key to solving this type of case is defining suspect vulnerability so staging can target the "rock" that everybody has.



# Chapter 11, Atlanta

## Chapter 11, Atlanta Summary and Analysis

Atlanta is besieged in 1981 by one of the largest and most publicized manhunts in American history. Complaints about foul odors are first reported in July 1979. The decomposing bodies of two teenage black boys are discovered fifty feet apart along Niskey Lake Road. One is strangled and the other is shot but by November of that year two more bodies are found. Other children's bodies continue to be found through 1980 and include girls as well. The police finally make the determination that these continuing murders of black children are related but until Attorney General Griffin Bell orders an investigation, the FBI is not involved. The Atlanta field office is charged to determine if the murders are linked and to find the killer as soon as possible. The FBI is authorized to be directly involved if interstate kidnapping or federal civil rights are violated by a group conspiracy genocide or serial killer, typically white, killing black children.

John Douglas and Roy Hazelwood are assigned to investigate the Atlanta case named ATKID. Sixteen cases are opened to that date for examination. Douglas and Hazelwood agree they are not Klan-type murders, both believe the offender is black and many but not all cases are related. A strong link is they are young, outgoing but inexperienced children that are lured and then taken away from the abduction site by car. Douglas thinks girls are not killed by the same offender, but the repeat offender will keep killing until he is caught. There are no signs of sexual activity which suggests inadequacy. Douglas and Hazelwood profile a black male twenty-five to twenty-nine who is a police-buff and has a police dog and police car. Police produce fifteen hundred name lists of pedophiles and sexual offenders they work as suspects. Back in Quantico, Douglas hears of a caller from Conyers just north of Atlanta who claims to be the killer but turns out to be a false lead among several others. Douglas determines the real killer is following press releases because a body does show up later where the imposter claims. They begin watching river sites when forensic evidence produces fiber and hair samples that a river will wash away. A stakeout car stops Wayne Williams after a loud splash is heard and he drives away. He fits the profile and police investigate him until they can get a search warrant.

Evidence found in his car is sufficient to arrest him for murder of one victim and continue the investigation of several others. Douglas does an interview in which he is misquoted by the press about Williams' likelihood of being the killer. The Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) censures him as the Williams trial is starting. Douglas is asked to assist the prosecution because of his investigative results. The defense wants to bring in expert testimony but after meeting with Douglas the expert does not appear because he confirms much of Douglas' profiling conclusion. Seven hundred pieces of hair and fiber evidence are conclusively matched to Williams. However, complex evidence is more difficult to understand than the handsome defense team member's rebuttal. Williams asks to take the stand himself and Douglas is asked about cross-examination. John Douglas recommends wearing Williams down by detailing

every step in his life, waiting until the right moment to ask a question that makes him fly off into an uncontrolled rage. The jury returns a guilty verdict in 1982 and Williams begins two consecutive life terms in the Valdosta Correctional Institution. Douglas receives commendation letters for his work on solving the ATKID case on the same day he receives a censure letter from OPR.



# Chapter 12, One of Our Own

## Chapter 12, One of Our Own Summary and Analysis

Judson Ray is a special agent in the Atlanta field office while the ATKID case is being investigated. Ironically, the FBI agent is almost killed by his wife. Douglas and Ray become aware of each other through a letter from the "Forces of Evil" that threatens to kill a black woman in retaliation for the six elderly white women killed in Columbus, Georgia by the Stocking Strangler who is suspected to be black. The letter on stolen military stationery from Chicago also threatens to double the number of victims if the Strangler is not caught by specific dates. This group of seven white men threatens to act as the vigilante Forces of Evil to extract ransom and retaliation if the brutal killer is not caught. Jud Ray is a black police officer and Army veteran who works for the Columbus Police Department when he suggests the department contact BSU for help. BSU returns a profile report in three days indicating the Forces of Evil is not comprised of seven white men but is a lone black man, probably the UNSUB, who already kills the black woman mentioned in the letter and others. He writes the letter to divert attention. His profile is circulated and he is identified, tried, convicted and sentenced to death as is the Stocking Strangler who is identified from a witness' photograph.

Jud Ray's background, training and race earn him an offer and assignment to the Atlanta Field Office. Jud works with Douglas and the other agents on the ATKID case in 1981. At the same time he is having marital problems with his alcoholic and verbally abusive wife. He is surprised when she abruptly changes by becoming more attentive to him and their daughters and stops drinking. He does not suspect any underlying motives but she decides to have him killed to avoid a divorce, keep their kids and collect a quarter-million dollar insurance policy. Her behavior change gives her time to make arrangements to kill him. However she does not realize shooting a law officer who keeps his right hand ready to use his gun is challenging. She tries making him coffee for a travel cup but he cannot get used to having both hands occupied while driving. The shooters decide to kill him at home alone but expose themselves to a witness at the wrong apartment. She fixes him spaghetti laced with phenobarbital and visits an aunt with the girls. When shooters break into the right apartment they shoot him before he can get his gun. Wounded, he calls for help but he is drugged and sounds drunk so the police dispatcher tries to hang up on him but the operator insists they send help. At the hospital he undergoes surgery and is saved.

Jud is visited by the Atlanta SAC John Glover whom he tells to find his wife. He is in the hospital for twenty-one days under armed guard while his wife shows dismay and shock. When he returns to his routine he comes across a \$300 phone bill that he thinks is the key. There are several calls to a preacher in Columbus who is known for getting things done. The preacher tells the investigating officers the name of an Atlanta neighbor from the Army who passes on her request to a brother-in-law who introduces her to the shooters she gives the contract to. A total of five conspirators, including Jud's wife, receive ten-year sentences for attempted murder, conspiracy and burglary. Jud



initially remains in Atlanta while he gets his life and that of his girls' back together. He is later promoted to the New York Field Office and eventually is assigned to the BSU. His case is used as a teaching aid to help expose contract spouse attempts and killings. Jud admits his wife could have got away with the crime if he had died since apartment evidence appears to be a burglary that goes bad and the preoffense behavior contains the significant clues.





# Chapter 13, The Most Dangerous Game

## Chapter 13, The Most Dangerous Game Summary and Analysis

A story written in 1924 describes the type of criminal behavior exhibited by Robert Hansen in Anchorage, Alaska. That story tells about a hunter that tires of hunting game and decides to hunt men instead. The Alaska troopers identify Hansen as a subject before requesting help from the FBI. Hansen is accused by a seventeen year-old prostitute when she escapes handcuffed from the airport. She describes Hansen as her kidnapper but he claims she is trying to shake her down, does not know her and has an alibi of dinner with two business associates. Authorities are skeptical of the mid-forties year-old successful baker and prominent community member. Several bodies of young women are found in the area whose deaths are unsolved. Douglas is asked to help local and state authorities develop the case to get Hansen off the street. He brings agent Jim Horn along on one of his first behavioral cases in 1983 on their flight to Anchorage. This case is the first time profiling is developed to support getting a search warrant.

The victims discovered when their bodies show up in this case are prostitutes and topless dancers who work at the bars that operate twenty-four hours a day, less time for cleanup. This is a transient population where victims do not report their whereabouts and are not missed until a dead body shows up. The offender Hansen is short, slight and heavily pockmarked with a severe stutter who is probably shunned by girls as a teenager. Hansen's local reputation is as a proficient hunter with crossbow, guns and knives. Many victims are found in remote, wooded areas with gunshot wounds from hunting rifles. The author suggests Hansen picks up a prostitute, imprisons her and takes her into a remote area where he strips her, lets her loose and then hunts her down to kill her with a gun or knife. Douglas suggests he may start with just killing the first victims and flying their bodies to remote areas until he escalates to combine hunting skill with addictive behavior to maintain control and sexual gratification. Douglas believes his hunting rifle is hidden in his house and jewelry or other similar items may be a gift to his wife or daughter who are vacationing in Europe. He expects to find a journal of Hansen's activities.

A grand jury is convened to investigate the story of the escaped prostitute which calls the dinner associates alibi into question. Neither is willing to commit perjury and both admit they did not have dinner with him that evening. Hansen is charged with kidnapping and rape and a search warrant is executed to discover murder weapon and sufficient evidence including victims' jewelry and other identification to arrest Hansen. He pleads guilty to murder and other charges in 1984 which results in a sentence of 499 years in prison.

This and several other cases lead Douglas to distinguish between a criminal's modus operandi, "MO" or what an offender does to commit a crime that may change to fit circumstances and "signature." Signature does not change because it is based in the



perpetrator's need to fulfill himself. For example, an aspect of MO like staging may be used to confuse or distract the investigation from the offender's intent to make a rape look like a burglary. Posing, however, is an aspect of signature which is done by the offender to satisfy the criminal's need that has nothing to do with the investigation. Many states rely solely on MO to link crimes. Douglas and his associates are developing the skills needed in signature analysis to more precisely identify the behavioral evidence essential to secure and link consistent convictions.



# Chapter 14 through Chapter 16

## Chapter 14 through Chapter 16 Summary and Analysis

This subsection describes particular challenging cases. Chapter 14, *Who Killed the All-American Girl?* tells the story of Mark and Karla who are engaged to marry and plan to move in together after their party on June 20, 1978. After work that day Mark and a friend Tom stop at their house. As they leave the disordered basement Mark sees Karla on her knees bent forward wearing only a sweater in the laundry room. Her hands are tied behind and her head is in a barrel of water. They pull the dead girl out and Mark collapses in grief. Her head has blunt-force trauma and she is strangled before being put in the barrel. Clues are few but a neighbor remembers a red car with a white roof and a long-haired rough-looking fellow earlier that day but there is no suspect. Crime-scene investigator Alva Busch explores computer enhancement of photos and is asked about bite-mark images on her neck. Busch gets a bite-mark sample from the neighbor Paul Main but cannot locate his friend John Prante. In 1982 Douglas develops a profile that shows anger from rejection. They exhume her for bite-marks and promote "resurrecting" her to entice the killer. Prante is remembered for mentioning Karla's house. He fits the profile and a dental impression is ordered. Prante's teeth match and he is charged with murder and other crimes, rendered guilty and sentenced to seventy-five years in prison.

Gregg McCrary gets a call in Chapter 15, *Hurting the Ones We Love*, from a police department to help with an abducted two year-old boy from an apartment parking lot. The mother leaves her son in their apartment building hall to make an emergency trip to the restroom but is gone when she returns. She looks for him but finds only his mitten and calls 911 to say he has been kidnapped. Gregg is wary but when she reports receiving the second mitten in the mail he knows the boy is dead and the mother is the killer which he reports to police. Gregg claims the mother stages the kidnapping. Upon investigation she confesses she murders her child. Her new boyfriend does not want someone else's kid in their life so she eliminates the child. Chapter 16 "God Wants You to Join Shari Faye" describes the abduction of Shari Faye Smith in front of her house on May 31, 1985, in Columbia, South Carolina. Over one thousand volunteers participate in the manhunt to find the diabetic girl who must have regular nutrition and medication. The family gets a handwritten two-page note from Shari that is analyzed. Telephone trap and trace plans are put in place to trace the call. The caller gives instructions about where to find her body, dead for several days. He must be a local resident familiar with the area in order to remain undetected for a sufficient time. Shari and her sister Dawn are both attractive blonds and the offender confuses their names on his calls. Douglas considers using Dawn as bait to catch him. Douglas suggests attaching one of Shari's koala bear collection to a bouquet of flowers for Dawn to leave as a souvenir at her gravesite during her memorial service.

The UNSUB does not take the bear but does call Dawn. He does not use voice-altering equipment and she keeps him on the phone for an extended period. The analysts use



technical equipment to identify a phone number traced to the Sheppards in Alabama. They know an individual that fits the profile named Larry Gene Bell and identify his voice on a call to Dawn. He is arrested when he leaves his parents' house for work. A day's worth of staged questioning does not produce a confession till Douglas asks if the Larry Bell sitting there could do these things. Bell says the good Larry could not but the bad Larry Gene Bell could. He is tried, convicted and on death row in South Carolina.



# Chapter 17, Anyone Can be a Victim

## Chapter 17, Anyone Can be a Victim Summary and Analysis

An Ohio farm family of three, mother and daughters, on vacation for the first time are found hog-tied and dead floating in Tampa Bay. The police and press announce when three innocent tourists vacationing in Florida are killed anyone can be a victim. The FBI field office in Tampa, Tampa and St. Petersburg police departments and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's department do not solve this case and a year later Quantico is asked to develop a profile. An appearance on the television show "Unsolved Mysteries" produce thousands of leads without results until billboard space is donated in the area asking help to identify handwriting from a note in the victims' car. Within days three unrelated callers identify Oba Chandler's handwriting. He fits the profile in other ways as well, is arrested and tried, found guilty and sentenced to death for this random triple murder.

The use of proactive methods like television and billboard promotion is critical to use in cases where the crime is random and anyone can become a victim. For example the 1982 Chicago Tylenol poisoning case causes the random death of victims without any apparent motive like random bombing or tossing rocks off an interstate overpass. Douglas claims a large city like Chicago has many people that fit a general profile so the use of proactive techniques can keep pressure on the UNSUB. Promotion of gravesite memorial services or new drugstore procedures may entice an UNSUB to attend or visit. The media can be used to offer support to an UNSUB or solicit tips from the public. The author provides detail of cases in San Diego and Chicago where proactive methods produce results. In the case of bombers and extortionists who threaten, the word "we" often belies a loner.

Douglas classifies bombers as power-motivated, attracted by destruction, mission-oriented, liking designing, making and placing devices, or technicians who enjoy their own brilliant and clever bomb design and construction. The motives of bombers can include extortion, labor disputes, revenge and suicide. Generally, they are white males often with above-average but underachieving intelligence, careful planners who are orderly and meticulous among other characteristics. Risk factors in a profile are related to a victim target, type of device, bomb workmanship and delivery. For example, the author develops a first profile on the Unabomber who targets universities, professors and uses letters to newspapers and manifestos for public communication. He refers to the "Freedom Club" but characteristically operates as a loner over his seventeen-year career,

Bomb threats are used for extortion against an individual or group usually for a profit motive and connected with kidnapping. The scenario may not be real but relies on fears of the targeted victim. For example, Douglas recounts the 1970s Texas bank president bomb threat extortion and kidnapping that is a scripted event used with random victims



knowing "one of them is going to bite." There is no bomb and no kidnap planned but prison time is earned by the disc jockey that runs the scam. Other hoaxes may involve kidnapping and stalking that are difficult to handle because a real occurrence can have deadly consequences. For example, famous personalities like President Ronald Reagan and Governor George Wallace both experience assassination attempts that one survives unscathed but the other is left paralyzed. When famous actress Jodie Foster is stalked by the unknown John Hinckley, an expectation that he is going to shoot Ronald Reagan to get her attention makes it clear that anyone can be a victim, even the President.



# Chapter 18 through Chapter 19

## Chapter 18 through Chapter 19 Summary and Analysis

This subsection characterizes ongoing difficulties Douglas and his profilers face in the past while developing ISU and what is expected for the future. Chapter 18's Battle of the Shrinks describes Thomas Vanda in a Joliet prison for a second murder. He is released from a mental institution for murder and other crimes after declared "cured." Ressler and Douglas interview him and the staff psychiatrist. Douglas asks about Vanda and finds he may be ready for parole. Douglas asks the psychiatrist if he knows why Vanda is in prison. The psychiatrist says he does not want to know and does not have time to deal with him. Douglas recounts the gory crime Vanda commits and the psychiatrist says "Get out of my office!" Douglas reminds him he can recommend probation but knows nothing about the criminal he may release to the public. An ironic dilemma of psychiatric therapy is that criminals tell therapists what they want to hear. For example, Kemper and Monte Rissell are both in therapy when they commit crimes. Douglas agrees with psychologist Dr. Samenow that criminal behavior is less a matter of mental illness than character defect. Douglas claims a basic issue is "dangerousness."

The fundamental question of prison release is either that the experience is so positive it overcomes hostility of the inmate's upbringing to become a law-abiding citizen and safe for society, or the experience is so horrible that in spite of his background and previous behavior, he resolves to do nothing that might put him back in prison. Both scenarios are unrealistic. Douglas agrees with Dr. Park Dietz about serial killers, ". . . it's hard to imagine any circumstance under which they should be released to the public again." The prison environment is well-ordered and inmates do not have choices. The behavior of a model prisoner like Shawcross depends on his environment. Dangerousness depends on the situation in which his behavior is either controlled or free. The details of Shawcross and other felons' criminal behavior after prison release prove their dangerousness.

Unfortunately in Chapter 19 Sometimes the Dragon Wins in cases like the "Green River Killer." The dead women are prostitutes who work the Seattle-Tacoma highway area. Murder details are similar enough to be the same UNSUB. Douglas' profile indicates proactive methods may lure the UNSUB into police contact. The victim group is transient and by 1983, twelve victims are known and seven more are missing. Douglas is in Seattle on this case when agents Blaine McIlwain and Ron Walker find him near death and get him to the hospital. He returns in 1984 but the Green River Killer is still at large. The Green River Task Force investigates fifty deaths and twelve hundred suspects. McCrary's fire-breathing dragon cartoon says "Sometimes the dragon wins" and is indicative of the Green River Killer like Britain's unsolved Jack the Ripper.

Douglas divorces in 1993 after twenty-two years. Their two daughters grow up while he is away much of the time. When their son Jed is born in 1987, other profilers work with him but he is so consumed with his career and crimes that he is unable to provide



normal responses. They both develop friendships that fit separate social circles. John Douglas retires from Quantico in 1995 but still teaches, consults and helps out. Twenty-five years of experience convince him criminals are made not born, but whoever makes a profound negative influence could make a positive influence just as well. John Douglas affirms that what he tells in this book is the real story as he has lived it.





# Characters

## John Douglas

John Douglas is the author and main character in "Mindhunter." This book tells the story of his life and career with the FBI investigating crime. Stress, pressure and anxiety from work focused on finding and investigating criminals who perpetrate the most heinous and horrendous crimes of serial killing with horrible mutilation and abuse puts him in Seattle Swedish Hospital at 38 years with brain hemorrhage. Stress causes him viral encephalitis and takes months of recuperation. John and his older sister Arlene are born in Brooklyn but raised in Hempstead where his father Jack is a union leader. John is a mediocre student but likes animals and telling stories. He attends college in Montana but when he joins the Air Force is assigned to New Mexico. He joins the FBI in 1970 and a year later marries Pam and is sent to the FBI regional office in Milwaukee where she teaches school and has a child. He spends five years in field assignments before joining Behavioral Science (BSU) where he can use his master's degree in industrial psychology.

BSU training is provided through "road schools" that Douglas finds inadequate for the responsibility of teaching police departments and academies. He works with fellow FBI agents Conway and Ressler to informally test his idea for prison interviews. They later develop them into a formal Criminal Personality Research Project with Dr. Ann Burgess and publish conclusions in a 1983 book. From that study John Douglas begins to formalize other ideas to investigate crimes of serial killers and develop a BSU caseload. He develops a formal process to investigate and analyze referred cases to structure a current method of FBI profiling. John Douglas makes other contributions to criminal investigation like distinguishing between modus operandi and signature analysis, proactive techniques to entice an UNSUB and reforming BSU into Investigative Support Unit during his career.

## UNSUB

UNSUB is the term used to describe the unknown subject of an investigation. This is a most important character and main person throughout the book. The UNSUB does not have an individual name but rather is the focal point of every crime Douglas and his team investigates. The goal of every case is to eliminate the UNSUB by converting him or her through investigation into a named suspect and from there into the subject and ultimately into a convicted criminal inmate. In order to identify the UNSUB, Douglas reviews the referred crime-scene file to understand the crime's entire story. From examination and review of that file as well as other less specific information, the UNSUB begins to take form as a profile of the one who may be the perpetrator of the crime. John Douglas and the other investigators focus on the unknown subject to determine what is inside their mind. The UNSUB is often symbolized as The Dragon in this work.



## **Pam Douglas and Family**

Pam Douglas is John Douglas' estranged wife and mother of his three children, Erika, Lauren and Jed. Jack and Dolores Douglas are the mother and father of John Edward and older sister Arlene Douglas. John Douglas makes a substantial and continuing contribution to the FBI in a dedicated career. However his personal life with his wife ends in a 1993 divorce and his children suffer through it all—he admits after retiring in 1995. Fortunately, his twenty-five year career ends before his young son Jed is fully grown up and he still has time to spend with him.

## **Roger Depue and Staff**

Roger Depue is his FBI unit chief and his fellow agents Blaine McIlwain and Ron Walker find him near death and get him to the Seattle hospital. Without their assistance in his 1983 illness and emotional collapse he might have die. They keep him alive and remain supportive during his sickness and recuperation period.

## **Sherlock Holmes**

Sherlock Holmes is a character of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Sherlock Holmes is the name of the fictional famous profiler after whom the FBI investigators pattern their activity

## **Roy Hazelwood**

Roy Hazelwood is another FBI agent who handles John Douglas' cases while he recuperates. Hazelwood develops the idea that crime investigation involves three interrelated questions of what happens, why it happens as it does and who commits this crime for those reasons.

## **J. Edgar Hoover**

J. Edgar Hoover manages the FBI when the seventy-five year old Director orders Douglas to report December 14, 1970. William F. Webster is the Director of the FBI in 1984 when Douglas worries about being able to shoot. Webster tells him he wants his mind more.

## **Howard Teten and Pat Mullany, et al**

Howard Teten and Pat Mullany are the names of veteran agents in behavioral sciences that change his career. Mullany is promoted to headquarters and Douglas replaces him in 1977. Dick Ault and Robert Ressler are the names of additional instructors in the BSU



at Quantico. Jack Pfaff is the name of the BSU chief who promotes Douglas to a TDY at Quantico

## **Edward Gein**

Edward Gein is the name of a deceased criminal from Plainfield, Wisconsin. Gein becomes a serial-killer through escalating from considering a sex-change operation in the 1950s to "making himself a woman suit out of real women." Douglas becomes aware of the Gein story while he is assigned to his FBI work in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

## **John Conway**

John Conway is the name of the California resident FBI agent who first contacts the California penal system for permission to interview Ed Kemper at California State Medical Facility in Vacaville. Conway, Ressler and Douglas interview Kemper together in an initial interview that Conway arranges through his contacts.

## **Ed Kemper**

Ed Kemper is a prisoner at the California State Medical Facility in Vacaville. Kemper is convicted on eight counts of first-degree murder and is serving multiple life sentences. His case is taught before this interview at the National Academy without any direct contact. Kemper is the first criminal interviewed during the informal prison research period. Other prisoners interviewed during this informal period include Arthur Bremmer, "Squeaky" Fromme and Charles Manson

## **Dr. Ann Burgess**

Dr. Ann Burgess prepares a fifty-seven page interview instrument to use in the analysis of forty felon interviews and helps to secure \$400,000 in grant funds from the National Institute of Justice.

## **William Heirens**

William Heirens is the first felon Bob Ressler and John Douglas interview to initiate the formal portion of the Criminal Personality Research Project. He is convicted and imprisoned in 1946 where he is a model prisoner in the Statesville Prison in Joliet, Illinois. He is the state's first prisoner to complete a college degree and do graduate work while in prison. Other prisoners interviewed during this formal research study include Richard Speck, Jerry Brudos, Monte Ralph Rissell and David Berkowitz.



## Wayne Williams

Wayne Williams is the name of a serial killer in Atlanta, Georgia who causes one of the largest and most publicized manhunts in American history in 1981. The author is fully involved from his initial assignment to the ATKID case through profiling, investigation and apprehension of Wayne Williams. Douglas is also assigned to participate in the successful trial strategy and Williams' conviction.

## Judson Ray

Judson Ray is the name of a special agent in the Atlanta field office who is involved in the ATKID and Forces of Evil cases. He is initially a black police officer and Army veteran who works for the Columbus Police Department and initiates contact with the FBI when he suggests the department contact BSU for help with the Forces case. Judson Ray is also, ironically, the victim of his wife's attempted contract murder case. She exhibits preoffense behavior during their troubled marriage that he misinterprets as a change of heart towards him and their family. Her behavioral change is actually an attempt to buy time while she works out the details of planning his assassination. Judson survives and she is convicted only because he is alive and reinterprets her preoffense behavior as conspiracy.

## The Psychiatrists

The Psychiatrists refers to the group of mental health professionals who reflect the conflict Douglas experiences between the reality of criminals being released to the public from a mental health institution. The staff psychiatrist at Joliet prison typifies the overworked institutional mental health worker who recommends parole and prison release to criminals under assumption or lack of proper care to determine whether they are cured. Drs. Samenow and Park Dietz present their opinion about paroled criminals that is opposed to institutional staff psychiatrists. Specifically, Samenow claims criminal behavior is less a matter of mental illness than character defect. Douglas claims a basic issue is "dangerousness" and Dietz confirms that position with his opinion speaking of serial-killers, ". . . it's hard to imagine any circumstance under which they should be released to the public again."

## The Green River Killer

The Green River Killer is an unsolved crime that is symbolic of a fact of life in law enforcement that "sometimes the dragon wins." The Green River Killer operates in the Seattle-Tacoma highway area where several prostitutes are found dead. Murder details are similar enough to be the same UNSUB. Douglas' profile indicates proactive methods may lure the UNSUB into police contact. The victim group is transient and by 1983, twelve victims are known and seven more are missing. Douglas compares the Green River Killer to Jack the Ripper and the BTK Strangler, cases that are also unsolved.



# Objects/Places

## Swedish Hospital

Swedish Hospital is the name of the hospital in Seattle, Washington where John Douglas recuperates for a month after suffering a brain hemorrhage from stress, overwork and anxiety.

## Quantico, Virginia

Quantico, Virginia is the home office location of the FBI on a Marine base. Agents are indoctrinated there in 1970 under J. Edgar Hoover to seek Soviet spies everywhere. FBI agents learn "shoot to kill" and are trained in criminal law, fingerprint analysis, violent and white-collar crime, arrests and other subjects as part of their initial and specialized training programs in Quantico.

## Behavioral Science Unit

Behavioral Science Unit (BSU) is the initial name of the unit Douglas joins and later manages and renames the Investigative Support Unit.

## Clovis, New Mexico

Clovis, New Mexico is the name of the location where Douglas is transferred by the Air Force to run the Special Services athletics programs. While in service there he graduates, begins a master's program in industrial psychology and meets Frank Haines at a health club in 1970 who recommends him to the FBI.

## Detroit's Reactive Crimes Unit

Detroit's Reactive Crimes Unit is the name of the first field assignment Douglas receives. He is assigned to work with the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution squad that chases military deserters from the Vietnam War.

## Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Milwaukee, Wisconsin is the name of the city where John Douglas is assigned in his second year to manage recruiting. John and Pam honeymoon in the Poconos and visit with his folks in Long Island before they take up residence in Milwaukee where the new couple lives for the first five years of their married life. Douglas spends his time there on



bank robberies and develops his "signature" approach to link crimes together that prepares him for serial murder case analysis.

## **Menominee Indian Reservation**

Menominee Indian Reservation is the name of an assignment location in northern Wisconsin where Douglas receives concentrated exposure to murder-scene investigations.

## **FBI National Academy**

FBI National Academy program is the name of the location where Douglas is assigned in late 1976 for temporary duty assignment (TDY). Counselors and students in the all-male dormitory housing at the Academy are exposed to regular pranks and practical jokes. He performs his TDY effectively and is promoted.

## **Road School**

Road School is the name of the initial field training program that John Douglas receives while working with Bob Ressler. The program involves spending two weeks on the road teaching "war stories" and case file hearsay to local police departments or academies. Subsequently they travel to the next assigned location through the United States. Instructors often teach department or academy classes about cases that conflict with the real life experience of their students who work a case. Douglas compensates for that deficiency by asking that students who work a case volunteer to share their experiences with it. During road school Douglas and Ressler decide to interview prisoners in the area to provide additional depth to their teaching assignment.

## **California State Medical Facility**

California State Medical Facility in Vacaville, California is the name of the penal facility where Douglas and Ressler do their first prison interview of Ed Kemper. Kemper is convicted on eight counts of first-degree murder and serves multiple life sentences at this institution.

## **Criminal Personality Research Project**

Criminal Personality Research Project is the name of the formal prison interview study completed in 1983 with thirty-six individuals and 118 victims. Conclusions of the study are published in a book titled, "Sexual Homicide: Patterns and Motives." Douglas admits the study raises more questions than it answers.



## Rock

Rock is the metaphorical reference that Douglas uses to illustrate the point of vulnerability he claims everybody has. The expression originates with discomfort young Douglas feels at twenty when his mother asks if he has sex. The rock has tangible significance when an actual bloody rock used in a crime is placed as part of interrogation room staging to rattle the criminal who uses it. Douglas claims "everybody has a rock" that can be discovered and used to unsettle them.

## ATKID

ATKID is the name ascribed to the FBI case investigation of multiple black children murders in Atlanta, Georgia. Douglas hears of a caller from Conyers just north of Atlanta that turns out to be a false lead but reveals the real killer follows press releases since a body appears by a river where the imposter claims. They begin to survey river sites where a stakeout car stops child killer Wayne Williams.

## Anchorage, Alaska

Anchorage, Alaska is the name of a city in Alaska where Robert Hansen lives and from where he selects, abducts, tortures, hunts down and kills his victims. The location is significant to his criminal activity because its remote nature allows him to incorporate his hunting skills and pilot training in crime. He abducts transient Anchorage prostitutes whom he takes by plane to a remote cabin where he tortures and hunts them down like big game.

## Profile

Profile is a term for the basic description of characteristics, traits, habits, features and lifestyle among other more specific information that is used to narrow an investigation from the UNSUB down to a specific subject.

## Stressor

Stressor is a term used for a triggering event or occurrence that makes a latent criminal personality snap or go over the edge to actually perform criminal acts. For example, the night when Monte Rissell's girlfriend breaks up with him, he acts on that stressor to abduct and kill his first victim.

## Modus Operandi

Modus operandi is a term also known as "MO" used to describe the method and manner whereby a criminal performs his criminal behavior.



## **Signature**

Signature is a term developed by Douglas to describe the specific behavior that an individual criminal uses.

## **Proactive Techniques**

Proactive techniques is the term used to describe methods and facilities that cause an UNSUB to involve himself in the investigation of criminal activity. They can be any number of activities done through the media or police actions that serve to lure the UNSUB into a trap.

## **Green River Task Force**

Green River Task Force is the name of the special assignment team organized to investigate and solve the Green River Killer case.

## **Fire-breathing Dragon**

Fire-breathing dragon is the name of a metaphorical symbol that appears in a cartoon showing an evil dragon overcoming the good Knight. The caption on McCrary's cartoon states, "Sometimes the dragon wins" which is symptomatic of a continuing struggle the FBI and other law enforcement officials maintain in their battle with the evil behavior of criminals.





# Themes

## The Prison Study

When Douglas arrives at BSU the agency is still under the direction of J. Edgar Hoover and his preconceived notions of FBI training and indoctrination. During the Hoover regime profiling is discouraged to avoid risking FBI embarrassment from an incorrect profile. Behavioral training is done on a "road school" program with veteran agents. For example, Bob Ressler travels with Douglas for two weeks passing "war stories" and case hearsay to local police departments and academies. Douglas observes that instructors often teach about cases veteran students in the class have experience with and that their experience can conflict with the instructor's comments that are based on theory or hearsay.

Douglas notices the criminals who commit the crimes that they teach about are not interviewed. For example, Ed Kemper is convicted on eight counts of first-degree murder and is serving multiple life sentences. His case is being taught at the National Academy but ironically no instructor ever interviews him. Douglas suggests they interview imprisoned criminals directly to get better insight for their students. They begin this initial informal interview process through resident FBI agent John Conway who contacts the California penal system for permission to meet with Ed Kemper.

Subsequently, Douglas and Ressler do prison interviews of any criminal killers in the area where they are conducting Road School. FBI badges get them into many prisons without an appointment which works out better. The inmate has no time to think up things to say and is at less risk from other prisoners finding out and harming them for cooperating with the authorities. These informal research interviews are conducted with six convicted criminals initially and eventually they finish ten prison interviews and have requests for fifty more. They formalize the program with Dr. Ann Burgess and secure \$400,000 in grant funds from National Institute of Justice. Dr. Burgess prepares a fifty-seven page interview instrument to use in the analysis of forty felon interviews

John Douglas wonders why convicted felons agree to speak with agents. He assumes some are bothered by their crimes and think talking about them may help, others like being around cops and FBI agents, some want attention or are bored and others want to relive fantasies. They publish an article that lists four questions to outline their inquiry which include questions of motive and warning signs, methods to inhibit action, victim response coping strategy and treatment implications. They review all cases in advance to minimize the opportunity for felons to add extraneous information that may embellish their interview. The prison interview study is completed in 1983 with thirty-six individuals and 118 victims. Conclusions are published in a book titled, "Sexual Homicide: Patterns and Motives."



## Modus Operandi Compared to Signature

Betting on raindrops rolling down a windowpane is a metaphorical expression for bettors that wager on virtually anything because it is in their very nature to derive some psychic benefit from betting regardless of the stakes. Similarly it is in the very nature of criminals to perform criminal action because they derive some psychic benefit from crime regardless of outcome. Criminals cannot be stopped. They do criminal acts because they are who they are and must do what they do. A comparison of modus operandi and signature that Douglas might agree with may align wagering to the signature and windowpane to the MO. The bettor is driven to wager and the windowpane is there instead of a leaf falling or horse racing. Specifically, the MO is the vehicle by which the bettor exercises his skill and signature is the compulsion to bet no matter what.

Douglas defines a criminal's modus operandi or "MO" as learned behavior or what a perpetrator does to commit a crime. Modus operandi is dynamic and can change to fit changing circumstances. Since many states rely solely on MO to link crimes they can be subject to error by a copycat criminal. A criminal may do the criminal activity he "normally" does or he may do the criminal activity another criminal does to copy him as a copycat. For example, an aspect of MO like staging may be used to confuse or distract an investigation from the offender's intent and make it look like the criminal action of another criminal or another type of crime, like making a rape appear like a burglary. Sole use of modus operandi by a state can make it mistake the action of one UNSUB to be responsible for actions far beyond his realm of ability. For example, there may be some question about how many "Jack the Rippers" there are.

However, there is no question some perpetrators are driven to perform criminal activity like a bettor is driven to bet. Douglas defines a criminal signature as what a perpetrator has to do to get fulfillment. Criminal signature is static and does not change although there may be the subtle difference in form that another criminal gets "credit" for. The author develops this more precise term specifically to differentiate it from MO. He begins to develop this "signature" approach while in Milwaukee to enable linking less deadly crimes together like bank robberies. Unlike MO, signature does not change because it originates in the perpetrator's need to fulfill himself. Douglas looks for behavioral clues that make a criminal and crime stand out from others to lead him to the concept of signature as distinct from modus operandi. For example, posing is an aspect of signature done by the offender to satisfy the criminal's need that has nothing to do with the investigation. Douglas and his associates develop the skills needed in signature analysis to more precisely identify behavioral evidence to secure and link consistent convictions that are more reliable than modus operandi alone.

## Insanity and Prison Release

Douglas presents details of several crimes that are the result of criminal behavior by an offender once under control but then released by a mental health professional or other authority. For example, Ed Kemper is incarcerated at the California State Medical



Facility in Vacaville for a second round of killings for which he is convicted. He serves multiple life sentences this time on eight counts of first-degree murder. The first time at fourteen he shoots and stabs his grandmother and grandfather because he "wondered how it would feel to shoot Grandma." He receives a "personality trait disturbance, passive-aggressive type" diagnosis and is committed to hospital for the criminally insane for the first double murder but is released in 1969 at twenty-one. In three years he commits eight more murders the second time and is disappointed by their lack of impact so he calls the Santa Cruz Police to admit he is the Coed Killer.

Douglas discovers this occurrence is not unusual since Thomas Vanda is in Joliet prison for his second murder after being released from mental institutions for his first murder and other crimes after being declared "cured." Ironically, a staff psychiatrist says Vanda could be ready for parole again despite the horrendous crimes Vanda is in prison for this time that the psychiatrist does not want to know about and does not have time to deal with. This is despite his position to recommend probation and knowing nothing about the criminal he is about to release.

The ironic dilemma of psychiatric therapy is that criminals tell therapists what they want to hear. For example, Ed Kemper and Monte Rissell are both in therapy when they commit more crimes. Furthermore, the prison environment is well-ordered and inmates do not have choices to make. The behavior of a model prisoner depends on his environment. Beyond prison gates the environment is free and full of choices the former inmate is ill-equipped to make while being bombarded by potential stressors.

Psychologist Dr. Samenow claims criminal behavior is less a matter of mental illness than character defect while Douglas claims the basic issue is "dangerousness." For example the details of Kemper, Rissell and Vanda's criminal behavior after prison release are cited above prove their dangerousness. Douglas agrees with Dr. Park Dietz about serial killers, ". . . it's hard to imagine any circumstance under which they should be released to the public again."

# Style

## Perspective

John Douglas is the co-author of "Mindhunter" who bases the book's content on his twenty-five year career with the FBI's Investigative Support Unit. Douglas organizes and manages the unit from its beginning in 1980 to his retirement in 1995. Mindhunter is the story of his life and experiences profiling criminals. Mark Olshaker is co-author and brings his experiences as a novelist and filmmaker who produces the PBS Nova program "Mind of a Serial Killer." The combined team efforts of Douglas and Olshaker produce four novels in addition to Mindhunter. In John Douglas' own words he presents the real story of the evil that the dragon represents as he confronts it throughout his career.

He writes this book to tell his story of twenty-five years in the pursuit of criminal justice. He seems to be a good man albeit obsessed with his task, to the apparent loss of his happy home life. The topic makes the book not all that pleasant to read despite its value. Hard truths are presented in an effort to face the experience of man at its most despicable level. Truths that Douglas presents make one shudder but admire the FBI's persistent commitment exhibited in the serial crime unit. Mindhunter is a valuable book, yet painful to read because of its brutal honesty.

## Tone

Mindhunter is a subjective account of John Douglas' life and career in the FBI. He claims to tell the real story as he lives it through his twenty-five years career till retirement. Douglas presents an objective picture of his experiences with clinical detachment. He is an objective criminal Mindhunter who expresses his subjective experience of a criminal element with the dispassionate objectivity of a scientist. The serial criminals whose minds and motives Douglas profiles are presented objectively from his subjective point of view. The criminality presented is horrifying but Douglas' presentation does not horrify as might be expected. He approaches the subject from an apparently cold, indifferent and analytic point of view without extraneous emotion. The most horrendous actions are presented without hyperbole or frightening the reader.

The writing rambles from one criminal incident to another as if the writer is bursting with stories to tell and information to share. It is probable Douglas' experience is so extensive and focus so intense that his apparent stream of consciousness tone and style of writing is helpful to purge the evil criminal thoughts swirling in his mind from a twenty-five year career. Regardless of Douglas' motive in writing style the book is chock full of an enormous amount of FBI case file information to delve into if one has the stomach for the sometimes lurid detail of the criminal cases.

## Structure

Mindhunter is a 384 page non-fiction historical accounting of Douglas life and career that is comprised of a Prologue, nineteen chapters, inserted photographs and an Index. The Prologue and early chapters begin with recuperation from his emotional breakdown and describe his personal life before beginning a career with the FBI. Middle chapters describe criminals he profiles interspersed with philosophical comments and theories he develops through those experiences. Final chapters summarize thoughts and reflections after his retirement from the FBI.

Chapter titles are descriptive like, "I Must be in Hell," "The Heart of Darkness" and "Who Killed the All-American Girl?" The fully extensive Index is particularly useful to research or look up one or another criminal or concept. Photographs of the Douglas family and other agents provide a pleasant offset to the photos of criminals they apprehend or interview. The format contributes to an easy read of the experiences Douglas has as an agent although the content presented in its harsh and clinical reality is not always easy to read. The language is simple and straightforward and the concepts are presented so as to be readily understood.

## Quotes

"For the past six years, I had been developing a new approach to crime analysis, and I was the only one in the Behavioral Science Unit working cases full-time. Everyone else in the unit was primarily an instructor. I was handling about 150 active cases at a time with no backup, and I was on the road from my office at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, about 125 days a year. The pressure was tremendous from local cops, who themselves were under tremendous pressure to solve cases, from the community, and from the families of victims, for whom I always had enormous empathy. I kept trying to prioritize my workload, but new requests kept pouring in daily. My associates at Quantico often said I was like a male whore: I couldn't say no to my clients," Prologue, p. 3.

"That's what I have to do. Think of one of those nature films: a lion on the Serengeti plain in Africa. He sees this huge herd of antelope at a watering hole. But somehow—we can see it in his eyes—the lion locks on a single one out of those thousands of animals. He's trained himself to sense weakness, vulnerability, something different in one antelope out of the herd that makes it the most likely victim," Chapter 1, p. 12 .

"But finally, in November, I was offered a probationary appointment, at a initial salary of \$10,869. Finally, I was getting out of my depressing, windowless basement room. I wonder what I would have thought at the time had I known I'd be spending a major part of my Bureau career in another windowless basement room, pursuing far more depressing stories," Chapter 2, p. 41.

"There was something inherent, deep within the criminal's mind and psyche, that compelled him to do things in a certain way. Later, when I started research into the minds and motivations of serial murderers, then, when I began analyzing crime scenes for behavioral clues, I would look for the one element or set of elements that made the crime and the criminal stand out, that represented what he was," Chapter 3, pp. 58-59.

"There, under the tutelage of such legendary agents as Howard Teten and Pat Mullany, I got my first real exposure to what was already known then as behavioral science. And that changed my career," Chapter 4, p. 79.

"Back in Milwaukee, I was still on the reactive squad and the SWAT team, but was spending much of my time going around the state training business executives on how to deal with kidnapping and extortion threats and bank officers on how to deal with the single-bandit and gang armed robberies that were plaguing rural banks particularly," Chapter 5, p. 85 .

"By the time Ressler and I had done ten or twelve prison interviews, it was clear to any reasonably intelligent observer that we were onto something. For the first time, we were able to correlate what was going on in an offender's mind with the evidence he left at a crime scene," Chapter 6, p. 117.



"He replies, 'Yeah, that's right. See, the guys don't like these colors. They're peeling the paint off the wall, and they're eating it,'" Chapter 7, p. 127.

"The first crime for which he was caught and served time, the attack on a woman with a knife and hammer in the Presidio, came following the birth of a child into an already strained marriage. During the brutal assault and shortly before, the victim reported, his terrible stutter was gone," Chapter 8, p. 156 .

"The fact of the matter is, profiling and crime-scene analysis is a lot more than simply inputting data and crunching it through. To be a good profiler, you have to be able to evaluate a wide range of evidence and data. But you also have to be able to walk in the shoes of both the offender and the victim," Chapter 9, p. 171.

"Again, the reason this occurred to me was because I tried to put myself in his place; I tried to figure out what would get to me. And my experience tells me that there is a way to get to everyone, if you can only figure out what it is," Chapter 10, p. 196.

"But whatever mistakes we made, the ATKID case was a decisive turning point for our unit. We put ourselves on the map, proved the value of what we could do, and in the process achieved instant credibility throughout the law enforcement community world wide and helped put another killer behind bars," Chapter 11, p. 224.

"More than anything else, Jud's case is an object lesson for us on how you can misinterpret behavior at a crime scene. If Jud had died, we would have come to some wrong conclusions," Chapter 12, p. 237.

"What was significant to us about this case was that it was the first time profiling was used to support a search warrant. We began analyzing everything we knew about the crimes and about Robert Hansen," Chapter 13, p. 243.

"In this particular case, Jim and Roy rode out of town quietly. They had been rushed down in a private Bureau jet. When their work was done, they flew home tourist class, crammed in with happy vacationers and screaming kids in the back of a commercial flight. But we knew what they'd done, and so did all the recipients of the 'silver bullets' they had left behind," Chapter 14, p. 281 .

"The key to many murders of and by loved ones or family members is staging. Anyone that close to the victim has to do something to draw suspicion away from himself to herself. One of the earliest examples I worked on was the murder of Linda Haney Dover in Cartersville, Georgia, the day after Christmas in 1980," Chapter 15, p. 288.

"McCarty went home with a twenty-two-point list of conclusions and characteristics about the subject. When he got back, he said he told Metts, 'I know the man. Now all we have to find out is his name,'" Chapter 16, p. 308.

"Now comes the most chilling part. He says he has the president's wife, Louise. She drives a Cadillac, goes here in the morning, then here, et cetera, et cetera. Panicked,



the president has his secretary call his home on another line because he knows his wife should be there. But no one answers. Now he's become a believer," Chapter 17, p. 333.

"Dr. Park Dietz, who works with us frequently, has stated, 'None of the serial killers that I've had the occasion to study or examine has been legally insane, but none has been normal either. They've all been people who've got mental disorders. But despite their mental disorders, which have to do with their sexual interests and their character, they've been people who knew what they were doing, knew what they were doing was wrong, but chose to do it anyway,'" Chapter 18, pp. 144-145 .

"The dragon doesn't always win, and we're doing whatever we can to see to it that he wins less and less. But the evil he represents, the thing I've confronted throughout my career, isn't going to go away, and somebody has to tell the real story. That's what I've tried to do here, just as I've lived it," Chapter 19, p. 384.





## Topics for Discussion

Identify, list and describe the three interrelated questions that Roy Hazelwood uses to analyze a profiler's task in evaluating the entire story of a crime.

Explain and discuss the significance of John Douglas' initial response to "road schools" and describe the steps he takes to correct the deficiencies he sees in the Behavioral Science Unit operations when he joins the unit.

Identify, list and describe at least three reasons why Douglas thinks inmates might be willing to talk with federal agents. Explain how these reasons can be used to answer the four questions that serve as an outline of how to accomplish goals of the prison inmate research study.

Identify, list and describe the five steps and documents Douglas examines in a case file to develop the UNSUB profile

Identify and explain at least two points of jurisdiction at which the FBI is authorized by law to exercise federal control of a case.

Identify, describe and discuss the significance of the preoffense behavior Jud Ray notices with his wife. Why is that significance relevant to the crime scene in his apartment?

Describe and discuss the significance of Robert Hansen's criminal activity in Alaska, relative to how his activity would differ if he were to live in a large metropolitan area like Chicago. Compare and contrast at least five points of similarity or difference.

Identify, list and describe the steps and professional help involved in profiling, analysis, research and investigation of the Mark and Karla case that takes over four years to solve. Compare and contrast at least five reasons why the crime scene and evidence takes so long to evaluate.

Identify, list and describe at least five types of proactive technique that may contribute to UNSUB investigation. Compare and contrast the expected result of each method for efficiency, public exposure and expected time to work.

Identify, list and explain under what circumstances and by whom should an inmate be considered for parole, probation or early release from prison.