



The Profiler: My Life Hunting Serial Killers and Psychopaths

Pat Brown , Bob Andelman

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In 1990, a young woman was strangled on a jogging path near the home of Pat Brown and her family. Brown suspected the young man who was renting a room in her house, and quickly uncovered strong evidence that pointed to him--but the police dismissed her as merely a housewife with an overactive imagination. It would be six years before her former boarder would be brought in for questioning, but the night Brown took action to solve the murder was the beginning of her life's work. Pat Brown is now one of the nation's few female criminal profilers--a sleuth who assists police departments and victims' families by analyzing both physical and behavioral evidence to make the most scientific determination possible about who committed a crime. Brown has analyzed many dozens of seemingly hopeless cases and brought new investigative avenues to light.

In *The Profiler*, Brown opens her case files to take readers behind the scenes of bizarre sex crimes, domestic murders, and mysterious deaths, going face-to-face with killers, rapists, and brutalized victims. It's a rare, up-close, first-person look at the real world of police and profilers as they investigate crimes--the good and bad, the cover-ups and the successes.

The Profiler: My Life Hunting Serial Killers and Psychopaths Details

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From Reader Review The Profiler: My Life Hunting Serial Killers and Psychopaths for online ebook

Phoebebb says

I can't take this book anymore. It's misleading! I thought I was going to enjoy a book about profiling psychopaths, but instead I'm slapped in the face with an autobiography about an obsessive housewife trying to convince the world how clever she is; who happens to profile as a hobby. Every time she turns around she's being told she's a lunatic and she just chalks it all up to flaws in the justice system.

If I was to profile this woman I would suggest she suffers from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, narcissism, and uses delusions of grandeur as a defense mechanism while the world around her tells her she's nuts.

Susan (aka Just My Op) says

3 1/2 stars. Because of a murder that occurred in her community and a suspect who was a boarder in her home, Pat Brown became a profiler. Her book explains how she developed her career and chronicles some of the cases she worked.

I find the subject fascinating and am glad I read the book. For my tastes, it fell short in a couple of areas. The first 80 or so pages was devoted to the first case and how Brown became involved. While the case was interesting, there was just too much irrelevant detail. I didn't want so much detail about her homeschooling and I didn't want to know how long she breastfed her children.

I very much enjoyed her description of her earlier career as a sign language interpreter in a hospital, especially her telling how some of the people she was helping would show one persona for the medical staff and an entirely different one when she was the only person with them.

It frustrated me, although I'm sure not nearly as much as it frustrates the author, that there was so little to prove her theories correct, at least officially. There were often political roadblocks and a lack of police cooperation. There were also instances where she drew conclusions that I didn't think logical. I think that perhaps that is because there were details in her thinking that were left out. Still, she usually did explain why she drew the conclusions that she did, and I liked that look into her mind. The work that she does for families and individuals is pro bono, a remarkable generosity on her part.

She more than once used the phrase "have his way with her," and that annoyed me more than it should have. If it is rape, call it rape. She also wrote about why tracking dogs couldn't find a girl's scent. Her theories about that were that a person picked her up and carried her or that "the dogs just weren't any good." I know that there could be many reasons why the dogs weren't able to track her other than not being good tracking dogs, and it is unfair to think that her two reasons were the only possible ones. I know I'm nitpicking here.

It seems to me that there was more criminal investigation than there was actual profiling. Both added to the story, but I was surprised by how much plain old detective work was involved. While the cases themselves were tragic, I enjoyed reading about Brown's insight and conclusions, honing in on things that may have been overlooked. The book is well worth reading for anyone interested in criminal investigation.

Valerity (Val) says

Found this one interesting. I always wanted to know more about profiling.

Neil Mudde says

Rarely have I ever read such a self serving ego centric book, I am astonished this book got published. Pat Brown, has a vision of herself of a caped crusader, I can see why her husband left her, good heaven this woman is obsessed, imagine walking into police stations, were thank goodness in most cases they would give her no access to active or even cold case files, I kept on reading hoping something would happen for her to change her mind, all the cases she mentions and has given her personal "profile" are simply guesses which any sane person would be able to come to the same conclusion, the first case where the so called "perpetrator" lives in her house after supposedly killing a local girl, she cleans out his garbage pail in which she finds all sorts of goodies, used condom, blood, etc etc. I read this in the large print section, but I am still amazed that any publisher would publish this type story. It is more a story about Pat Brown who is totally driven by her selfworth, and the sense she ought to be running all the major agencies dealing with murders in the US

Sharon says

I really wanted to like this book. I have read memoirs by John Douglas, William Bass and numerous other professionals in the fields of forensic and behavioral sciences (I am a forensic anthropology major).

Pat Brown's memoir just bothered me. First of all, she admits that she is "self-trained," and decided to become a profiler because a boarder in her home seemed like he might be a suspect in a murder. However, like every single case she discusses in her book, that man was never charged with anything. The police took her information and sent her on her way -- which seems to be a theme throughout the book. Although Brown never says that she uses pseudonyms throughout the book, I presumed that she must; otherwise, she would be in for numerous libel suits. None of the people at whom points her finger and shouts "J'accuse" are ever charged.

I will say in her favor that she does her work pro bono. This is good in that she is not receiving funds from the grieving families who hire her. However, it just serves to reinforce the impression against which she rails: that of a dilettante housewife playing at behavioral and forensic science work.

People in the forensic and behavioral sciences business have a term they use for people like Pat Brown: "the CSI effect." In a nutshell, it means that people watch TV shows like CSI and figure that they, too, are qualified for the job.

In other words, it was a disappointing book. I give her ghostwriter (Bob Andelman) credit for turning it into a well-written story.

(Review based on uncorrected advance proof.)

Tara Chevrestt says

While reading this book, I found myself eyeing my co workers and checking the psychopath trait checklist. It's unbelievable how many of them are running around! In this book, Pat Brown, self trained profiler talks about psychopaths, their traits, and what makes some of them cross the line to become serial killers.

Full review: <http://wwwbookbabe.blogspot.com/2010/...>

noelle says

what a nonstop thrill ride in stupidity! here are some choice quotes: [trigger warning for rape, murder, etc.]-

"She was smiling at me when she signed it. I thought, *You don't look too bent out of shape for a rape victim.*"

"As a female, I could tell you exactly why that girl had leggings hanging off her left leg. That's because women who have sex in the backs of cars end up with leggings hanging off one leg."

"The police never quite proved Suspect #2 was in the area at the time of Sarah's murder. One of the reasons that some people thought it might be him was because he worked with horses, and Sarah had two hangers wrapped around her head. But if you look at any kind of pornography or bondage, you find lots of women with bridles around their heads. That's the way brutal men control women." **BDSM NOT SAME AS BRUTAL RAPE AND MURDER, HULK SMASH** (i actually don't remember if that case involved rape but she's bringing pornography into the mix so i'mma just include it)

"So this cross-dressing weirdo was a decent suspect." NO

"He didn't technically rape her, but he did roll her onto her stomach, putting something under her belly to elevate her buttocks." is detailing a case about unwanted sexual contact really a good time to debate *technically rape?*

"Also, the killer looked in on the children. Why? What interest, if he wasn't a rapist, would he have in checking out sleeping kids? And, since there were teenage girls in the house, a rapist would have been more than pleased to make such a find." rapists don't solely rape young women, you know that, right? some rapists in fact prefer older women because they are more vulnerable and "weak" JESUS FUCK

"She thought the low voice sounded like it belonged to a black man, although "it could have been somebody with a Southern twang accent." It was not a voice Laurie recognized" so i get that pat brown didn't say that, but the fact that she included it kind of leaves me to believe that she believes in black voices as a thing

"He also said Doris knew things about him he had never told anyone. Was he suggesting she was psychic?" what? that sounds to me like he fucking told the lady shit he never told anyone else, for christ's sake

"A lot of men who are considered child predators are not pedophiles. A pedophile is somebody who has an obsession with having sex with children, with childlike children, little children. A pedophile is not

necessarily a sexual predator, because some pedophiles don't do anything about it, they just think about it a lot." who gives a shit, people who want to fuck children regardless of acting on urges are shitty people

I HAVE LITERALLY LIKE 5 PAGES ON MY KINDLE OF NOTES FROM THIS BOOK AND I AM TIRED OF IT I AM JUST GOING TO STOP I JUST WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW IT'S FUCKING HORRIBLE

Petra CigareX says

I had expected a totally different kind of book. I had expected to read of a woman who using all the clues was able to pin point exactly the traits a particular criminal would have, enough to be able to identify them and that arrest, trial and justice would follow. It wasn't that kind of book and so I was very disappointed.

Pat Brown was a self-taught profiler who did not work for the police but more for families and individuals where conventional means had failed to bring the perpetrators to justice. It was somewhat intriguing reading exactly how she looked for and interpreted clues, actions, people and the logic she brought to bear on identified *exactly* who-dun-it. That was that. None of the people she profiles in the book were ever tried and imprisoned because of her work. It was all for the peace of mind, I can't quite say 'closure', for the victims' families.

And that's why the book is so disappointing. What is the point of solving all these clues that others in law enforcement missed if that is the end point? Why was she not believed enough that they didn't follow through?

The picture of Pat Brown - a very good-looking woman of uncertain age - is kind of indicative of the writing as well. It's all about her. It's not that she is not likeable, it's just that it's too much 'me me me'. I think in real life she is probably a sweetheart and so her editor was unable to see that she doesn't come across that way in the book and so didn't recommend a softening of position.

As a profiler with no cases brought to justice (at least in the book) it must be very frustrating and that together with the irritating self-directedness of the book means it's a 3-star read. One case brought to trial from her work would have given it 4-stars. Such a shame.

Ashley says

I'm really struggling right now. I WANT to write a review of this book. I have a lot to say about it.

BUT. I am finding that it is impossible to review this book without making it sound like a personal attack against the author. Which, since it's a memoir makes sense, but I'm trying to find a balance here.

But- In short, just to take away today, do not waste your time. PLEASE. Seriously. Anyone who uses an appearance on the Montel Williams show to establish credibility and expertise is not worth your time or money. I mean, seriously.

Cynthia says

So badly written and generally terrible that I needed to comment. Like many people, I checked out this book because of an interest in profilers brought about by watching Criminal Minds and the like. I assumed the author would be someone with the requisite training and who actually worked with law enforcement. This is not so. At least within the parts of the book I read, it became clear that she has absolutely no relevant education or training.

The writing style is awful. The author tends to include far too many unnecessary details. I could barely make it through 1/4 of it. Overall this book is just about the worst thing I've ever had the misfortune of picking up and I do regularly read some of the less good representatives of the YA and pulp fiction genres.

Lisa says

I didn't finish it; which is something I have done with a book I've begun, maybe three times in my life. I threw it down in frustration about half way through, although I wanted to, much earlier. My main bones of contention are the authors gross generalizations and statements of personal opinion that are presented as fact, especially in a field that is held to the standard of the scientific method. I couldn't take it anymore.

I will concede that the author, if she is to be believed (her credibility is shot, for me, based on my above observations), did make a few clever observations and drew interesting and plausible conclusions from those.

I will refrain from going into my personal opinion about the mental health and writing ability of the author.

Naomi says

Don't waste your time with this book! This writer has an ego the size of New York City. She was all-knowing, while those around her, including the police and some victims families, were misdirected and ignorant. If you love profiling books, stick to those of John Douglas and Roy Hazelwood (or really any Quantico trained profiler), they tend to be much better written and focused on the facts of the case and less on emotions and ego.

Eva says

Wow.

I can't honestly remember the last time I read a book that had me shaking my head, roll my eyes and groan in deep frustration on every second page.

To be perfectly honest, it was a bit my fault. I should have looked up the author's credentials before reading the book, but when a book has as its title "*My Life Hunting Serial Killers and Psychopaths*", it leads you to

believe that the author a) actually does this as a job and b) is kind of successful at it - not the obsession of an autodidact who works outside of any institutional framework.

In a similar vein, I could title my hypothetical book "My Life Baking the Best Cakes That Everybody Loves" - I have about as much credentials in baking as Pat Brown seems to have in profiling (the results of my labour are usually more delicious, though).

So yes, no real background in profiling other than she has read a lot of books on the subject.

Hey look, there are my 80+ cookbooks.

The profiles themselves are so fantastically ordinary I get why Brown must be thinking that anyone, including her, could do this.

Whenever she runs against institutional boundaries, gets denounced as a meddling outsider and politely shown the door, it's the fault of the blind investigators who just cannot accept her "brilliant insights."

All in all: horrible book and the only reason I finished it, is because I developed a love-hate relationship to the author's persona and wanted to delve further into her weirdly delusional, ego-centric mind.

Maggie says

I love serial killer/profiling/true crime/etc. This book sucks. The author comes across as arrogant and stupid--never a good combination. It was really hard to finish; I did so only because I thought there would have to be SOMETHING to warrant her self-proclaimed expertise. Wrong. She draws conclusions based on opinion & then complains about the police not doing their job. She uses a premise as fact and then bases the rest of her "proof" on that shaky foundation. She seems to have no idea of what is required to bring a case to trial--if it seems obvious to Pat Brown, it must be enough to prove guilt. Simplistic & boring. How did it get published?

Audiaa says

According to this book, anyone can be a profiler; all you have to do is read a bunch of books, create a web site, and get lucky. That's what happened to the author, and her website happened to be found in a search during the D.C. Sniper case, she was asked to be on T.V., and became famous as a profiler even though she had no qualifications and no experience. Additionally, most of the cases she discusses in the book do not involve potential serial killers; there are suicides, ex-spouses, and children. A few involve potential serial killers, but the title of the book is misleading. I would expect the author of this book to work with official law enforcement professionals and to work profiling serial killers, but neither is really true.

The author discusses several cases that she was asked to profile (by the families of the victims not the law enforcement) after she became famous. Most were cold cases that the families were interested in getting confirmation that the person they suspected was the criminal. For most of the cases, the local law enforcement doesn't want to work with her and they usually ignore her profiles. None of the profiles she discusses in this book have ever been proven to be correct or for the most part even encouraged further investigation of her suggested suspect.

