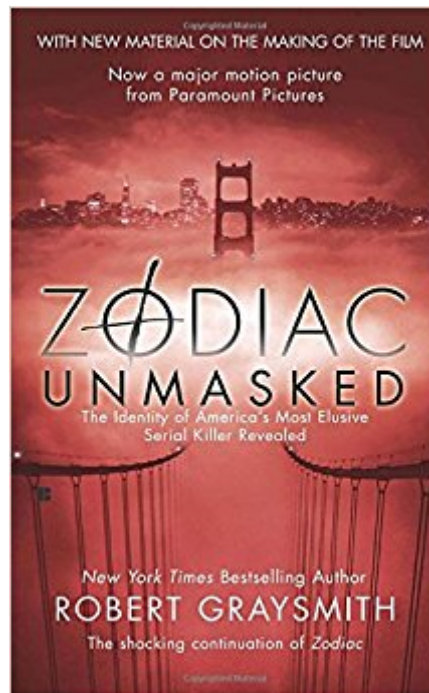




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Zodiac Unmasked: The Identity Of America's Most Elusive Serial Killer Revealed



Synopsis

The Identity of America's Most Elusive Serial Killer Revealed Between December 1968 and October 1969 a hooded serial killer called Zodiac terrorized San Francisco. Claiming responsibility for thirty-seven murders, he manipulated the media with warnings, dares, and bizarre cryptograms that baffled FBI code-breakers. Then as suddenly as the murders began, Zodiac disappeared into the Bay Area fog. After painstaking investigation and more than thirty years of research, Robert Graysmith finally exposes Zodiac's true identity. With overwhelming evidence he reveals the twisted private life that led to the crimes, and provides startling theories as to why they stopped. America's greatest unsolved mystery has finally been solved. INCLUDES PHOTOS AND A COMPLETE REPRODUCTION OF ZODIAC'S LETTERS

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Customer Reviews

Rarely have the crimes of a serial murderer captured the imagination and fears of the entire country as did the unsolved "Zodiac" killings in the Bay Area in the 1970s. Close to the investigators and long obsessed with the case, Graysmith reputedly knows more about the killer than anyone else. His popular 1986 *Zodiac* offered such a thorough account that even a lead investigator used it as a reference. In that book, , seasoned true-crime author Graysmith identified the most likely suspect though only under a pseudonym, Richard Starr, hoping the book would trigger a reader to come forward with incontrovertible evidence. The suspect died in 1992, and in this follow-up to *Zodiac*, Graysmith now identifies "Starr" by his real name, Arthur Leigh Allen, a terrifying sociopath and

convicted pedophile whom police long considered the prime suspect. Culled from official records and new interviews conducted in recent years, the latest book excavates the still burgeoning 30-year history of investigations into the Zodiac murders six confirmed and dozens of others that the killer claimed to have committed, and who spawned a score of copycat killers, most recently a 15-year-old from Kobe, Japan. The Zodiac case is convoluted at its heart and though Graysmith's evidence against Allen plays solidly, the narrative often gives way to unexpected segues and jumps in time. To keep track of this case that has more facets than a diamond, readers will need a scorecard. Photos and other supporting material in the book were not seen by PW. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Graysmith was employed at the San Francisco Chronicle in 1968, when the serial killer known as Zodiac began methodically brutalizing and murdering random victims across California. Zodiac, who was something of an egomaniac, communicated with authorities via the Chronicle. In addition to gloating over the inability of law enforcement to capture him, he would often describe how he intended to kill his next victim or would recount in chilling detail the last moments of someone he had savagely slain. At least 37 gruesome murders were attributed to him in the state of California; however, competing investigations (because the murders happened in several different counties) and other mishaps led to his consistent evasion of authorities. In this excellent study of the case, Graysmith provides never-before-published photos, a complete reproduction of the Zodiac letters, and a scary and disturbing account of pure evil. Libraries with a readership interested in true-crime tales will definitely want to stock up on this probable best-seller from the author of the widely read *Zodiac* (1986), which was his first book on the subject. Now readers can learn all that he has learned in investigating the case further, including the chief suspect. Kathleen HughesCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Graysmith's updated version is pretty good. If you read the various online Zodiac forums everyone has their favorite "flavor of the month" suspect. Ross Sullivan is hot right now. Forced to choose...with a gun to my head...I think ALA is the best of the lot. Not because I just finished the book, but most all Zodiac roads run past him. I understand...we have no DNA match, no handwriting determinations, no good prints and still no other absolutes that would totally put the stopper in the bottle for ALA. For that matter we have no conclusive evidence that fingers anyone. This case happened in a crazy era for this country in a crazy area in the US. So many

leads. So many strange things like the Chronicle classified...Zodiac your partner is in deep real estate...and the fatal auto accident the next day. Zodiac team? Who knows. Most everyone involved in the case is long dead.

The Zodiac case has always interested me. I had intentions of starting this book years ago. I am glad to finally cross it off my list. The book is crammed full of detailed information. Circumstantial or not, there are too many coincidences. This book plainly paints Arthur Leigh Allen as the Zodiac in convincing fashion. It is a shame the police departments failed to cooperate adequately and failed to bring the killer to justice. Do yourself a favor, and slip back in time nearly a half century ago and read this great book.

Graysmith's work is probably the most interesting and compelling stuff ever written about the Zodiac Killer. It makes for a truly great read, but should be understood mostly as a study in obsession (which this case tends to produce in mass quantities) rather than as a work that actually "unmasks" the Zodiac Killer. Arthur Leigh Allen was simply not the Zodiac, as huge amounts of evidence have shown again and again, and I don't agree with Graysmith's decision to name him directly. Still, a great book, and it's hard not to marvel at the tremendous amount of research and work that went into the project.

While the subject of the Zodiac murderer has intrigued me since the mid-eighties, I found this book a bit of a disappointment. There is much speculation in the book without any hard evidence. It seems to reveal mostly coincidence which is left to subjective interpretation. The book also seems a bit incoherent. There are tons of investigators quoted in the book but there is no cohesion to chapters. I reviewed it as "It's O.K." because of the subject matter and I respect the author. I just don't think that we will ever know the truth behind this serial killer.

I have tried twice to read this book but it is the most boring book about crime/a criminal that I've ever tried to read and I'm not going to be finishing this book

This is the best book on Zodiac out there because it covers all the known events, both of the killer and those trying to find him. The book has plenty of repetitive material but it's still the best around. It does waffle a bit regarding the DNA, which everybody knows did not match Leigh but it's true that there is still some controversy about that. Graysmith knows that's his Achilles tendon.

Interesting. A good luck at police investigation and the problems of prosecution. Is Graysmith right about this suspect? I don't think we will ever know? The evidence just never fit.

Probably the definitive Zodiac resource, vook.

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