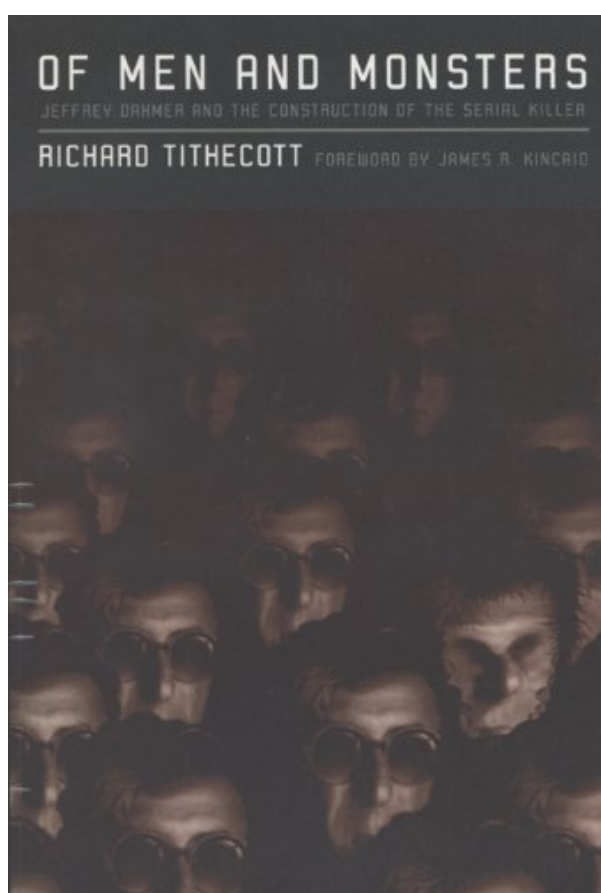
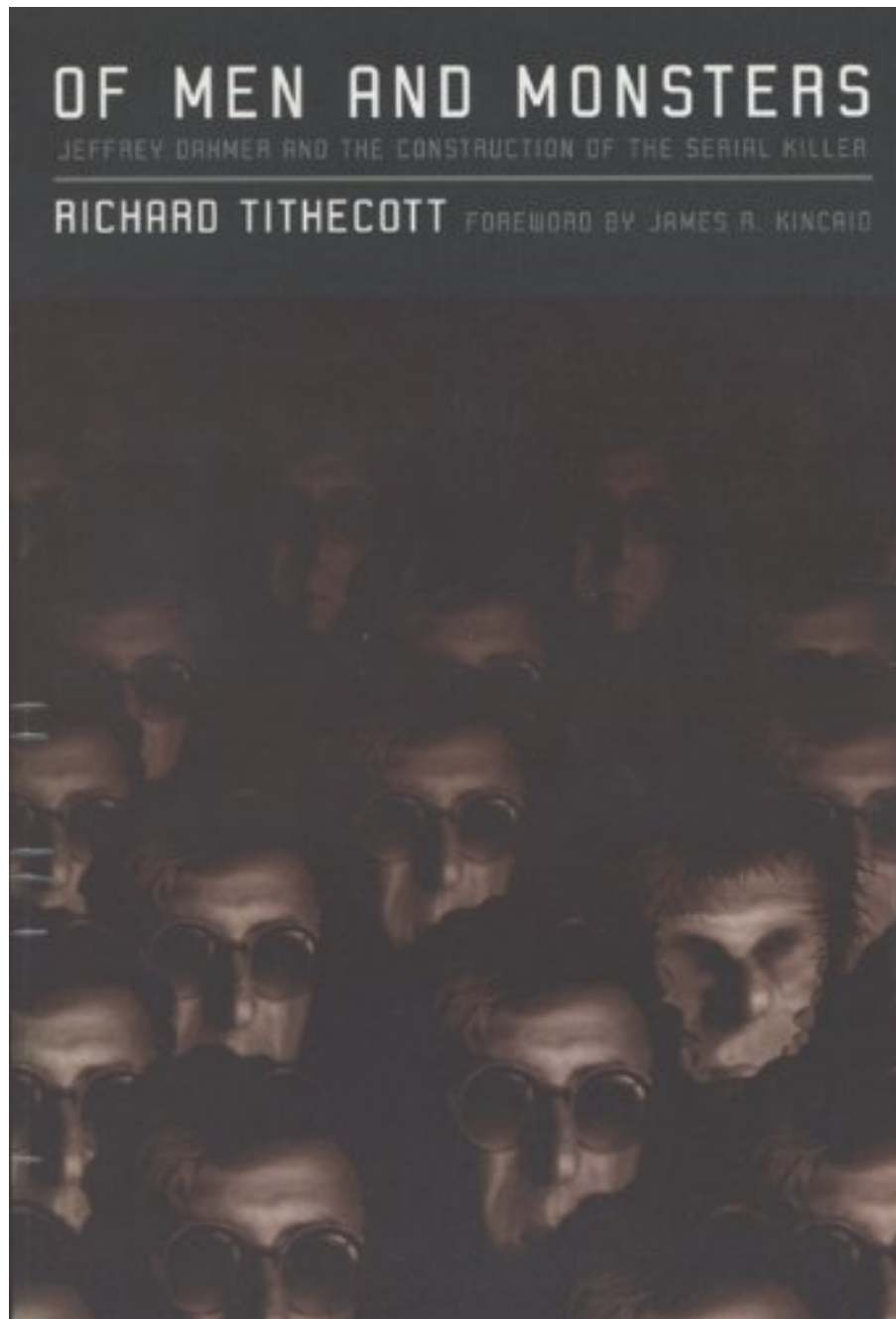


**OF MEN AND MONSTERS: JEFFREY
DAHMER AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF
THE SERIAL KILLER BY RICHARD
TITHECOTT**



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Amazon.com Review

"This is a book, not about what makes the serial killer tick, but about those of us--all of us--who have wound the clock and need to keep it running." These words by historian James Kincaid, in the foreword to *Of Men and Monsters*, introduce the idea, explored in depth by author Richard Tithecott, that we construct the phenomenon of serial killing. We also construct ourselves, he says, as audience to that spectacle. The killer himself responds to that audience, in a classic loop of the observer affecting the observed. It is a postmodern view, of course, to say that society, and its designated representatives such as FBI serial-killer experts, actually collude in the actions of a "monster" like Jeffrey Dahmer. Tithecott draws on the ideas of French philosopher Michel Foucault to explain and illustrate this view, using prose that is heavy going in places, but still quite readable.

Another important contribution to the cultural study of violence is Mark Seltzer's *Serial Killers: Death and Life in America's Wound Culture*.

Review

"In this post-modern reading, Jeffrey Dahmer is not a page in the history of true crime but a Monster who serves many rhetorical and cultural functions."—Philip Jenkins, Penn State University, author of *Using Murder: The Social Construction of Serial Homicide*

"Brilliantly compelling. Tithecott challenges us to investigate our simultaneous distancing from and fascination with serial murder."—Maria Tatar, Harvard University, author of *Lustmord: Sexual Murder in Weimar Germany*

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From the Inside Flap

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OF MEN AND MONSTERS: JEFFREY DAHMER AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SERIAL KILLER BY RICHARD TITHECOTT PDF

Of Men and Monsters examines the serial killer as an American cultural icon, one that both attracts and repels. Richard Tithecott suggests that the stories we tell and the images we conjure of serial killers—real and fictional—reveal as much about mainstream culture and its values, desires, and anxieties as they do about the killers themselves.

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

One Star

By Amazon Customer

Terrible!! I do not recommend!!

41 of 50 people found the following review helpful.

Complete nonsense

By George Lundskow

Typical of postmodern "theory," the writing is needlessly complex, which, also typical of postmodernists, hides the fact that the author is substantively ignorant of the topic and has no insight to offer. If you can sort through the jargon, this book basically argues that serial murders would not happen if we just ignored the killers, because they are part of a "discursive" loop, in which the killers are a sort of performer who kill to please their audience, which is the public. The author is oblivious to work done in psychology, criminology, sociology, and FBI investigations. Overall, the book is a flight from reality, which would be humorous if the topic were not so serious.

5 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Reading Maps is Easier!

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I found this to be a good book, given the relatively difficult topic, very informative (another person's (Richard's in this case) is always usefully anyhow; however, this is the most hardest of reading material that I have ever come across. **ADVICE:** One Korean Gingseng and no alcohol before opening Richard's Book.

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