

# Contents

---

Preface	ix
1 Introduction	
<i>In Search of the Murderer</i>	1
Researching murder, problems and sources	2
Killing and the law, a beginner's guide	3
Categories of killing	6
Homicide statistics for England and Wales	8
Wife-killing	13
Sexual murder	17
The history of sex-killing: is it a modern phenomenon?	19
Gender and sex-killing: is it an all-male preserve?	23
Culture and sex-killing: is it universal?	26
Explanations of murder: the traditional approach	28
2 The Murderer as Hero	35
The myth of the sex beast from broadside to tabloid	37
'Exotic murder': the true-crime monthlies	44
Death and transgression: from monster to rebel	52
Philosophy in the charnel-house: the Marquis de Sade	55
The murderer as rebel: existentialism	58
Conclusion	66
3 The Murderer as Deviant	69
Criminology, the 'science of crime'	72
Biogenetic explanations of sex murder	73
Body type and criminality	76
Criminality and the brain	78
Chromosomes	79
Hormones	80
A note on biological explanation	81

Psychological explanations of sex murder	83
Personality	84
The psychopath	87
The diagnosis and treatment of psychosexual abnormality: psychiatry, sexology and psychoanalysis	91
Psychiatry: the medical and legal concept of madness	92
Sexology	94
Psychoanalysis	99
The Shoemaker	104
Social explanations of sex murder	107
Victimology	108
Learning theory	110
Subculture theory	112
Labelling theory	113
Radical criminology	116
Conclusion	119
4 The Murderer Personified	120
Rippers: a century of prostitute-killing	122
Sadists: the iniquity of Brady and Hindley	138
Culture, representation, action	139
Myra Hindley: it's different for girls	144
Necrophiles: Dennis Nilsen, the incurable romantic	148
North American serial killers: getting their kicks on Route 66	155
5 The Murderer as Misogynist?	163
Sexual murder as violence against women	164
Sexual murder as masculine transcendence	166
Feminism, the subject and sexuality	170
Appendix	
<i>Sex-murderers referred to in the text</i>	178
Notes	185
Bibliography	195
Index	204