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# Listening To Killers: Lessons Learned From My Twenty Years As A Psychological Expert Witness In Murder Cases





## Synopsis

Listening to Killers offers an inside look at twenty years' worth of murder files from Dr. James Garbarino, a leading expert psychological witness who listens to killers so that he can testify in court. The author offers detailed accounts of how killers travel a path that leads from childhood innocence to lethal violence in adolescence or adulthood. He places the emotional and moral damage of each individual killer within a larger scientific framework of social, psychological, anthropological, and biological research on human development. By linking individual cases to broad social and cultural issues and illustrating the social toxicity and unresolved trauma that drive some people to kill, Dr. Garbarino highlights the humanity we share with killers and the role of understanding and empathy in breaking the cycle of violence.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 324 pages Publisher: University of California Press (March 12, 2015) Language: English ISBN-10: 0520282876 ISBN-13: 978-0520282872 Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews Best Sellers Rank: #94,411 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 inà Â Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Forensic Psychology #42 inà Â Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Forensic Psychology #396 inà Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime > Murder & Mayhem

## **Customer Reviews**

"This book should become the definitive text on the subject." - STARRED REVIEW (Library Journal 2015-02-15)"Garbarino's knowledge, compassion, insight, and unmatched experience provide us with an amazing opportunity to learn the path that lead children to violence. . . . Please  $\tilde{A}$ ¢ $\hat{a}$   $\neg \hat{a}$  œ buy this book for yourself and for every single person you know. I did." (Josh Eudowe eA Risk Management Group 2015-06-29)"Garbarino is a master storyteller and a graceful, elegant writer who brings the complex science to life in dramatically rendered personal histories. It is a narrative style that makes for clear science and riveting reading. $\tilde{A}$   $\hat{A}$  Be prepared to change your mind. I did." (Dan Clayton St. Lawrence University Alumni Magazine 2015-07-10)"Jim is a master

storyteller and a graceful, elegant writer who brings complex science to life in dramatically rendered personal histories. It is a narrative style that makes for clear science and riveting reading. Be prepared to change your mind. I did." (Daniel Clayton St. Lawrence University Alumni Magazine 2015-10-01)

" An invaluable resource for how to transform and rehabilitate killers and how to prevent others from emulating their behaviors.  $\hat{A}\phi\hat{a} - \hat{A}\cdot \&\#151$ ; Kathleen M. Heide, PhD, Professor of Criminology, University of South Florida, author of Understanding Parricide: When Sons and Daughters Kill Parents A A " Fascinating and riveting . . . a masterful integration of research and appreciation of the influences that facilitate the homicidal mind.  $\tilde{A}$   $c\hat{a} - \hat{A} \cdot \&$  #151; David A. Crenshaw, Clinical Director of the Children  $\tilde{A}\phi \hat{a} \neg \hat{a}_{,,\phi}\phi$ s Home of Poughkeepsie "An eloquent and compelling argument for how to view and understand young killers, drawing upon dozens of case studies from [GarbarinoŢâ  $\neg$ â,,¢s] practice as well as cutting-edge research. His command of the relevant data from all of these fields is extraordinary, if not unparalleled.  $\tilde{A}\phi \hat{a} - \hat{A} \cdot \hat{k} + 151$ ; Charles Patrick Ewing, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, Past President, American Board of Forensic Psychology "As one of developmental psychology  $\tilde{A}\phi \hat{a} - \hat{a}_{,,\phi} \phi$ s most insightful thinkers and most articulate voices, Dr. Garbarino tells stories that are guaranteed to provoke readers  $\tilde{A}\phi \hat{a} \neg \hat{a}_{,,\phi} \hat{c}$ searching thought about their own nature and our society  $\tilde{A}\phi \hat{a} - \hat{a}_{..}\phi \hat{c}$  s collective responsibilities. Acâ ¬A•— Gary Melton, Associate Director for Community Development and Social Policy, Kempe Center for Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect "As violence escalates in our society, we often question why: What drives people to commit murder? Listening to Killers speaks of the tragedies and trauma we so often see in the lives of those facing capital charges, the significance of these traumas in the development of moral and emotional decision-making, and the identification of at-risk juveniles and effective protective factors. A compelling read—I could not put this book down.â⠬•—Louise Luck, Director of Court Consultation Services

This was required reading for my Criminal Justice class at Missouri State University and I totally think it was a PERFECT book to assign.THIS AUTHOR IS SO AWESOME THAT AFTER READING THIS BOOK I ORDERED ALL HIS OTHER RELATED BOOKS.This book gives you a pretty objective perspective of what goes on in the minds of a killer, but more so, WHY they became killers.A MUST READ for any criminology student or someone fascinated with crime in American society

This was an absolutely amazing book that really opened eyes to helping society understand how a person can come to kill another human being. Dr. Garbarino does a nice job of remaining sensitive to the nature of the crimes his subjects committed and balancing that with a real compassion and understanding of how certain individuals get to that point.

Love this book. I'm a forensic psychology major in college, currently going for a masters degree. This book is spot on and full of information.

Dr. Garbarino is spot-on. I have an ACE score of 9. I can deeply relate to these young people and children who have killed. A society concerned only with individual self-interest ...which can show no empathy for the plight of abused and abandoned children..would be well served by self-examination and a mindful contemplation of what to me is a predictable outcome of callous, and unconcerned societal neglect of our most abused and terrified children. I see our group failings in caring for these vulnerable children to be no less abhorrent than the killings of these young people. That said, this is an absolutely excellent book. It is full of lots of very valuable information. Also this book gives us hope. Killers are made by us... we too can seek redemption and forge a peaceful world!

### Please read!!!!

This is a must read for anyone involved in capital cases or understanding the individual charged with murder or a violent crime

### Great Book!

## Required reading for a class but it's so interesting!

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