

BY THE SAME AUTHORS

Mindhunter
Inside the FBI's Elite Serial Crime Unit
Unabomber
On the Trail of America's Most-Wanted Serial Killer
Journey into Darkness
Obsession

BY JOHN DOUGLAS

Sexual Homicide
Patterns and Motives
(with Robert K. Ressler and Ann W. Burgess)
Crime Classification Manual
(with Ann W. Burgess, Allen G. Burgess, and Robert K. Ressler)
John Douglas's Guide to Careers in the FBI

BY MARK OLSHAKER

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Thirty Years of Battling Hot Viruses Around the World
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Fiction

Einstein's Brain
Unnatural Causes

Blood Race

The Edge

Anthology

Unusual Suspects
(edited by James Grady)

The key to the period appeared to be that the mind had become aware of itself. . . . The young men were born with knives in their brain, a tendency to introversion, self-dissection, anatomizing of motives.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON,
Life and Letters in New England

THE ANATOMY OF MOTIVE

THE FBI'S LEGENDARY MINDHUNTER
EXPLORES THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING
AND CATCHING VIOLENT CRIMINALS

JOHN DOUGLAS
AND
MARK OLSHAKER

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For
Dolores Douglas, Thelma Olshaker, and Molly Clemente
with love

AUTHORS' NOTE

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Finally, we’d like to take a moment to remember Suzanne Collins, Stephanie Schmidt, Destiny Souza, and all the rest of our angels. And if we’re worthy, we hope they’ll put in a good word for us.

—JOHN DOUGLAS AND MARK OLSHAKER
February 1999

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PROLOGUE

DUNBLANE

Why did he do it?

I just happen to be in Scotland when I hear about the massacre.

It's the morning of Wednesday, March 13, 1996, and I'm in a television studio in Glasgow as part of a promotional tour for my book *Mindhunter*, at the invitation of our British publisher. For the last hour I've been interviewed about criminal profiling on the ITV television program *This Morning* by a very personable team of cohosts named Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. How did I begin in the field? they ask. How did I learn what I know, and who did I learn it from? How did my Investigative Support Unit in Quantico, Virginia, go about creating and using a profile of an unknown subject or UNSUB, as he is known in FBI and law enforcement circles? Throughout the tour I've been really pumped up by the Brits' fascination with the subject and the interest they've shown in my career of studying and hunting killers, rapists, bombers—men whose evil and depraved acts challenge the bounds of the human imagination. Fortunately for the people of the United Kingdom, their society is not nearly as violent as ours in the United States; but they come by their fascination understandably. The first known serial killer—Jack the Ripper—terrorized the East End of London in a grisly mystery that's remained unsolved for more than a hundred years. On this tour, interviewers still ask me if the killer could be profiled and the case closed. I tell them that it would be difficult to come up with the Ripper's specific identity at this late date, but that even after a century we can very legitimately profile the UNSUB and say with reasonable assurance the *type of individual* he was. In fact, I tell them, I've done it several times in the Ripper murders—both in training

exercises at Quantico and on a live international television broadcast with Peter Ustinov some years ago.

I'm back in the TV station's green room when the producer comes in. I assume she's going to thank me for appearing, but when I look at her she's grim, and her voice is urgent.

"John, can you come back on the show here?"

I've just done an hour—what more could they possibly want? "Why?" I ask. "What's happened?"

"There's been a horrible murder in Dunblane."

I'd never even heard of the place. It turns out to be a traditionally peaceful village of about 7,300 people, midway between Glasgow and Edinburgh, that goes back to the Middle Ages. I've got about five minutes before the producer wants me back on, and she quickly hands me the wire service copy.

It says there's been a mass killing of children at the Dunblane Primary School. Reports were frantic and details sketchy, but it appears that a gunman walked into the school at about 9:30 in the morning and began shooting four-, five-, and six-year-olds in the playground. There'd been multiple gunshots, and some of the children had definitely been killed. Others were injured, their teacher fatally wounded. The news reports didn't have a name or age, but apparently the killer had more than one weapon with him—high-caliber military-type weapons, it seemed.

From these brief news flashes, it sounds like a scene of utter and appalling horror. For a father of three—even with all I've seen—it's difficult not to become sick at the thought of small children being massacred on the playground of their own school.

This is all the information we have when we come back on the air a few minutes later, still reeling from the news. The story is broadcast, and Richard Madeley turns to me and says something like, "Well, John, what do we have here?"

"Well, first of all, you're dealing with a mass murderer," I tell them, then explain how that's different from serial murderers and spree killers. A serial killer is hunting human beings for the sexual thrill it gives him and will do it over and over again, believing he can outwit and outmaneuver the police, never expecting to be caught. The spree killer kills a number of victims at different locations in a short period of hours or days. But a mass killer is playing an endgame strategy. Once he commits himself to his course of