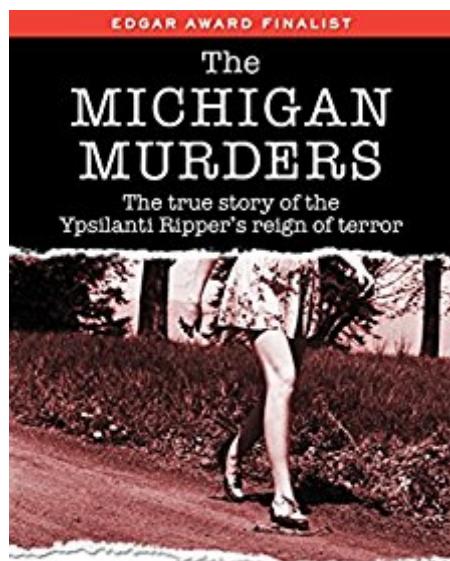


The book was found

# The Michigan Murders



## Synopsis

Edgar Award Finalist: The terrifying true story of savage murders, a terrorized midwestern town, and the serial killer who could have lived next door. In 1967, during the time of peace, free love, and hitchhiking, nineteen-year-old Mary Terese Fleszar was last seen alive walking home to her apartment in Ypsilanti, Michigan. One month later, her naked body, "stabbed over thirty times and missing both feet and a forearm," was discovered, partially buried, on an abandoned farm. A year later, the body of twenty-year-old Joan Schell was found, similarly violated. Southeastern Michigan was terrorized by something it had never experienced before: a serial killer. Over the next two years, five more bodies were uncovered around Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, Michigan. All the victims were tortured and mutilated. All were female students. After multiple failed investigations, a chance sighting finally led to a suspect. On the surface, John Norman Collins was an all-American boy, "a fraternity member studying elementary education at Eastern Michigan University. But Collins wasn't all that he seemed. His female friends described him as aggressive and short tempered. And in August 1970, Collins, the "Ypsilanti Ripper," was arrested, found guilty, and sentenced to life in prison without chance of parole. Written by the coauthor of *The French Connection*, *The Michigan Murders* delivers a harrowing depiction of the savage murders that tormented a small midwestern town.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

True Story of John Norman Collins. Eerie, and well done. I had to read this in my Evidence and Criminal Investigation class as a sort of case study. Missing some pertinent details (as one would expect). Shows true investigation techniques of the time and the difficulty when the case goes cold. When reading this book it reminded me of how much easier the proof in the case would have been had they had DNA screening techniques, although I am sure John would have found a way around it. A great look at the escalation of serial crime. Makes me want to drive to Ypsi and check it out for myself, but I am pretty sure that would be to much for me. I live near Milwaukee and one serial killer area is enough for me! for more info on this case check out [crimelibrary.com](http://crimelibrary.com)

I was a student at EMU just a few of years after these murders happened. It was, and still is, truly chilling to read about the murders and the investigation. When I read "The Michigan Murders" for the first time (in hardback) I travelled around Ypsilanti and the surrounding area visiting the various crime scenes. Very, very eerie. I have read many true crime books and Keyes' writing is among the best. As the preceding reviews indicate, this book needs to be reprinted and made available again.

This is a sad yet fascinating account of savage serial killings in America's heartland. It was well researched and written. The killer and the community come to life in this gripping tale of fear, terror and frustration that overtook these Michigan communities. I have never been to Michigan but after reading it I felt like a native, part of the bustling college scene. I envisioned myself walking those same streets. Who would have predicted the murderer to be who he turned out to be? Until a lucky break surfaced, the case was a nightmare for law enforcement, and the entire community. An excellent who-done-it to be sure. But If I there were to make a constructive criticism it would have been to have a more in-depth psychological profile of the killer and details of the interviews he gave - a longer epilog. The story just ends abruptly after he is sent to prison. But all in all a must read for true crime buffs.

I'd been interested in this book and finally ordered it once I saw the reviews on . John Collins used to walk my sister home from class, during the time he was committing the murders. He was also a friend of my brother-in-law's. I can only guess that he didn't pick my sister, as a victim, for several

reasons, purely conjecture: they were friends, she was blonde (it appears most of his victims were brunette), or because she was very popular and would've been a high risk for him. I wish the author would've had more of a "personal" voice, in the book, but he was as accurate as he could be, considering he didn't interview any of the victim's families or John Collins, himself. It's the only book out there on the crime and, since I was quite young at the time, I didn't get the full scope of the atrocities he committed. Got it now. I'd recommend it just for the immense problems the justice system had, during the 60's, as compared with the modern technology used today. Having gone to Eastern Michigan University, I know those cops would've done everything possible to catch this guy, and they eventually did.

Although it happened such a long time ago, one of his victims was my cousin and the hurt never goes away. I wish they had executed him and got it over with....but it does show how a good looking, charismatic person can be so deceiving to innocent girls.

This is an interesting account of a series of murders in Michigan during 1967 - 1969 (with another in California), and is quite stimulating until the last couple of chapters. The reporting on the trial was extremely bland, and deflated the over-all effect of the rest of the narrative. The book would have been improved with photos -- victims, investigators, crime scenes and, of course, the man ultimately convicted.

I'm in the middle of my 17th read of this book, having first acquired a copy about 10 years ago. I've lost the jacket cover, and the book itself is a bit dog-eared, but it is so well written, and very hard to put down. I gain more insights each time I read it. It must have been a very frightening time for the residents of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Mr. Keyes ties all of the clues and loose ends together extremely well. I have been trying to find out more about the background of John Collins (the murderer), that would cause him to hate young women so much that he would murder seven of them, but have been unable to find anything. I wonder if he is still in jail, or since released. Mr. Keyes, please write a follow-up!!

This is an excellent book. I have read several true crime stories about serial killers and this is the best one I have read. I found an old copy of this on my mothers bookshelf. Too bad it is out of print this is an great book. I too would be interested in a follow up book on the killer. Is he still in prison?

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