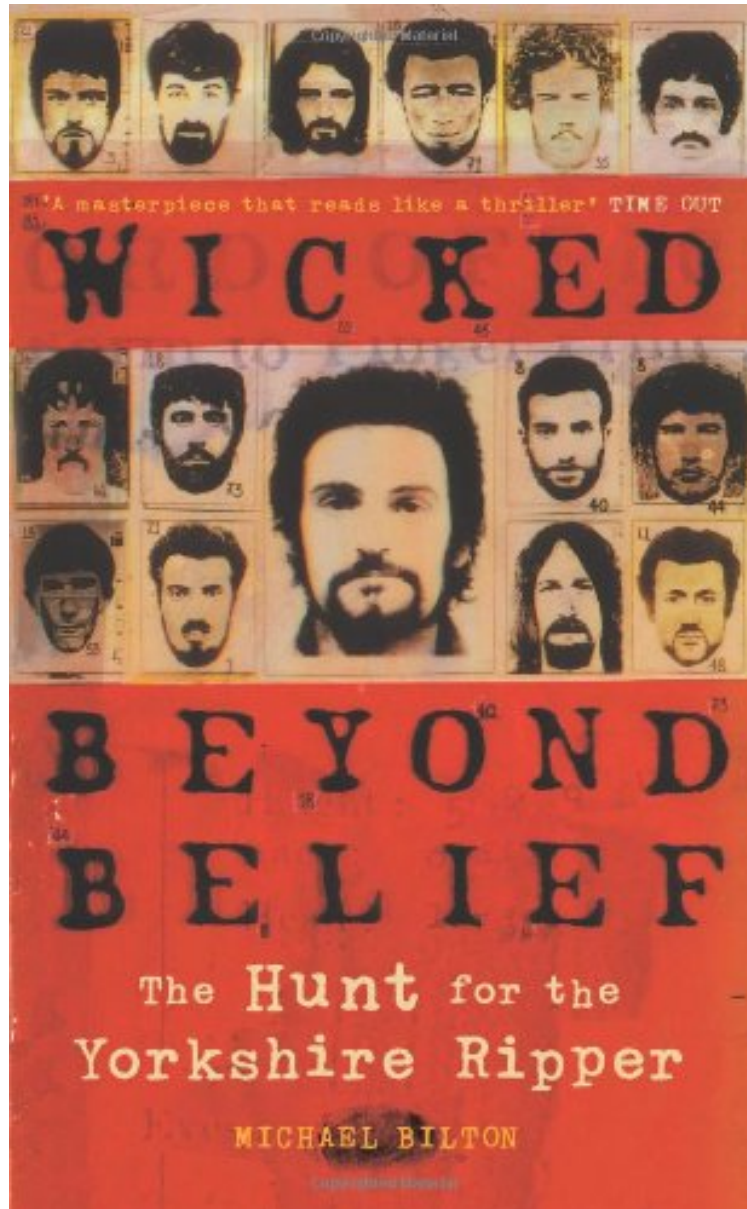


(Download free pdf) Wicked Beyond Belief: The Hunt for the Yorkshire Ripper

## Wicked Beyond Belief: The Hunt for the Yorkshire Ripper

Michael Bilton

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**Michael Bilton : Wicked Beyond Belief: The Hunt for the Yorkshire Ripper** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wicked Beyond Belief: The Hunt for the Yorkshire Ripper:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Account of a Case of Deadly Paperwork By R. Schultz This is an engrossing book, but potential readers should be alerted that the author does NOT delve into the

psychology of the killer here. He immediately states that he regarded Peter Sutcliffe as a worthless monster, and that he did not care to dignify him by interviewing him or by granting him any more personal attention than the press has already given him. So if your reason for reading true crime is to gain a deeper insight into the making of a killer, this might not be the book for you. Although, like me, you might find yourself becoming just as interested in the real theme of this book - which is the anatomy of an investigation. Bilton follows along with this ever ramifying real-life procedural as one mutilated corpse after another turns up in the Bradford-Leeds-Manchester area of England in the 1970's. This narrative becomes a lesson in how NOT to conduct an investigation, or, in a larger sense, how NOT to approach any vital project that might fall your way. In the era before DNA and a lot of computer capacity, the police had to try to scope out suspects in the old-fashioned way, by gumshoeing door to door, tracking auto registrations, tire tracks, and (one of the most fascinating clues they followed) the origins of a newly-issued 5-pound bank note found on one of the dead women. However, it soon becomes apparent that the police are doing a snow-job on themselves. They get lost in a blizzard of paperwork, and become unable to see the forest for the trees. As you read along, you'll probably find yourself being challenged to consider how you might have worked your way clear of this paper chase if you'd been on the case, and how you might have saved lives by finding the killer sooner. Another lesson to be drawn from this years-long failure to find the killer is the importance of listening with undivided attention and with an open mind to what your colleagues of proven capability are telling you. One of the most interesting, heart-breaking chapters in this book recounts how a detective suggested, with good reasons, who the killer might be to one of his supervisors, but was summarily dismissed because the supervisor was having a bad day, or was just generally bent on carrying the investigation in another direction. As a consequence, three more women died. This book seems to have been written with the assumption that it would be bought mostly by English readers. There is a fair amount of Brit slang here, including terms that even I, an Anglophile, hadn't encountered before. He "clocked one of his snouts." He "knew the wide boys, the spivs." You'll become all too familiar with the term "punter." In most cases though, you can guess the meaning by the context. Then it might have been helpful to both American and English readers to have included a section outlining the chain of command in the British system of detection. It gets a little confusing trying to keep track of the official hierarchy and of who was responsible to report to whom. It's also a little difficult to understand why it was not deemed appropriate to bring Scotland Yard into the investigation in any consistent way. The investigation was left to the recently consolidated Yorkshire force, but this still involved significant fragmentation of police resources, and a consequent lack of communication. Bilton explains some of the historic roots of this system and how it's been amended in recent years, but it still might have been helpful to have an Appendix that explained all the different British police acronyms (DCS, SIO, ACC, etc.) and their place in the scheme of things. There is an Appendix containing a transcript of Sutcliffe's initial interviews with police. Bilton points out how a certain lack of attentiveness was dogging the investigation even through these interviews - and up to the present day. In an exclusive revelation made here, Bilton describes the way in which Sutcliffe's appearance positively demonstrated that his killings had been motivated by a calculated drive for sexual satisfaction - rather than by an attempt to appease the heavenly "voices" he claims to have heard. However, once again, this clue to Sutcliffe's real state of mind got lost in the shuffle, and has contributed to him being kept in the cushier settings of a mental hospital rather than in prison. This is overall a finely researched, excellent account. You might come to appreciate this relatively unusual approach that focuses, not on the twisted developmental psychology of the perpetrator, but on the psychology that led an investigation astray. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not an easy read. By Lizzie An excellent portrayal of the fear and confusion of that time and the title sums up the nature of Sutcliffe. Looking back it's frustrating to see how close the police came to apprehending him and how overwhelmed and exhausted they all were. So many lives ruined, victims and their families as well as police families. It must have been so difficult without the technology we have today, to track this mass murderer as he drifted around looking for victims, and it's easy to apportion blame but the reader is left with the conviction that he should never ever be released. An excellent report of the incidents but not an easy read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. As Seen On YouTube By Jahana I searched this out after seeing a Channel Four documentary on the "Yorkshire Ripper," Peter Sutcliffe. Of course the book is far more detailed and nuanced. A sterling piece of research and riveting as all get-out. It seems that the USA has not the monopoly on crazed psychopaths although we are close to it. Of course most serial killers apprehended in the USA trace their heritage to the British Isles but I do not know if genetics plays much of a role in this sort of crime. For that we must look at the Royals.

For over 20 years, the dark secrets of the biggest criminal manhunt in British history have remained a closed book—until now. *Wicked Beyond Belief* is a powerful indictment of the calamitous investigation that logged two million man-hours of police work. Its revelation of crucial new evidence relating to Sutcliffe's meticulously planned methods caused newspaper headlines, and it argues convincingly that his crimes were far more extensive than admitted. With exclusive access to the detectives involved, pathologist's archives, and top-secret reports, Michael Bilton's expose is as riveting as any thriller.

"A masterpiece that reads like a thriller." About the Author Michael Bilton is a former Sunday Times investigative journalist and an award-winning documentary film maker. He won an Emmy for his documentary on the My Lai massacre and got rave reviews for his book 'Four Hours in My Lai' which was published 8 years ago and which has sold over 350,000 copies so far.