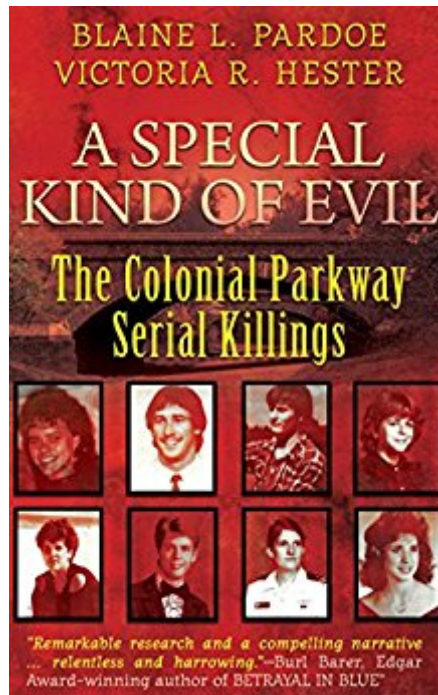




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A Special Kind Of Evil: The Colonial Parkway Serial Killings



Synopsis

For four years a killer, or killers, stalked Virginia's Tidewater region, carefully selecting victims, sending waves of terror into the local community. The Colonial Parkway Murders – the name given eight murders that took place in the Tidewater region in the late 1980s, two of which were on the historic Colonial Parkway, the nation's narrowest National Park. Young people in the prime of their lives were the targets. But the pattern that stitched this special kind of evil together was more like a spider web of theory, intrigue, and mathematics. Then, mysteriously, the killing spree stopped. The nameless predator, or predators, who stalked the Colonial Parkway stepped back into the mists of time and disappeared. Now, father-daughter true crime authors Blaine Pardoe and Victoria Hester blow the dust off of these cases. Interviewing members of the families, friends, and members of law enforcement, they provide the first and most complete in-depth look at this string of horrific murders and disappearances. The author-investigators peel back the rumors and myths surrounding these crimes and provide new information never before revealed about the investigations.

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Customer Reviews

Highly recommended: the new book on the unsolved Colonial Parkway Murders, 'A Special Kind of Evil: The Colonial Parkway Serial Killings' by true crime authors Blaine Pardoe and Victoria Hester, out now. Well worth reading, it explores how four young couples were killed in lovers' lanes in and around Williamsburg, Virginia from 1986 to 1989, four double homicides that remain unsolved. Blaine and Victoria spoke with a number of friends and family of the eight victims, together with knowledgeable journalists and reporters who have been covering the case for decades, as well as first responders and law enforcement investigators who worked the case, both on and off the record. The authors capture the frustration of a group of family members still waiting for answers, pushing back against bureaucratic responses from agencies who often seem more interested in protecting their institutional interests than helping the families, including the FBI, National Park Service, and Virginia State Police. Amazingly, they even manage to get former FBI agents to speak with them, a rare feat. Blaine and Victoria use a conversational style, backed up by in-depth research, which paints a strong picture of the time and place and makes the sometimes heartbreaking details of young lives cut short a bit easier to take. Their contrast of the beauty of the Tidewater area of Virginia, home to historic sites Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown and a major military complex in Norfolk, with the terrible crimes that occurred along these lovely back roads is particularly striking. If you enjoy true crime or historical fiction, you will enjoy 'A Special Kind of Evil.' Full disclosure: my younger sister, Cathy Thomas, along with her friend Rebecca Dowski, were the first two victims in the Colonial Parkway Murders. We have also set up a new Facebook group, Colonial Parkway Murders, to discuss developments in the case. We hope that the book will help lead investigators to closing on the person(s) responsible for the Colonial Parkway Murders.

This was a different twist on the unsolved murders. The authors brought every facet of each victims lives into focus for the reader. It's a book that makes one think of the people left behind. I would recommend this book to any true crime reader. The hope is that the killer or killers be found.

I live in Virginia Beach and once in awhile the news stations will do an update, nothing new. This book has so many facts about the murders that hasn't been reported. It's very sad for the family members, the writers I feel put a personal perspective on the victims, not just a photo but what they were like, their past, their dreams for the future. The writers did justice by the victims, now if this will be solved then the family members will get justice. It is such a creepy and detailed book.

I read this book in less than two days. I just couldn't put it down. Buy This Book! You won't be disappointed! I grew up in N.N., Va. when these murders took place. I knew one of the victims. September 1987 is when our innocence was stolen. A life-changing event... Blaine & Victoria fill in holes and gaps that weren't reported in the newspapers during that time. They write like opening a time capsule back to the '80's. Even if you don't know the area, the authors put you there. There are eight victims, eight different roads to travel, eight life journeys, that all end with the same fate... and a lot of unanswered questions. This book is beautifully written, chapters are set up so they're easy to read, and follow.

I live in the area where these horrific crimes occurred. It's unreal that no DNA was found. I feel terrible for the families and pray these cases will eventually be solved.

“A Special Kind of Evil” is that special kind of true-crime book that is both compelling and proactive, bolstered by solid research to shed unsettling light on a notorious crime spree from decades ago. Father-daughter true crime writing duo Blaine Pardoe and Victoria Hester deliver a page-turning account of the Colonial Parkway Serial Killings that is well-paced and expertly researched. Their methodical narrative marks the first in-depth exploration of this case, leading the reader through this 1980s crime story that terrorized Virginia's Tidewater region. Taking full advantage of the benefit of time, the authors expertly pull together the many threads of this unsettling string of murders, weaving a compelling book that works on many levels. This is just the type of book that should hopefully lead to a renewed effort to close this cold case and write the last chapter in the true-crime tragedy. Well done!

Who gets away with murder? Not just one or two, but eight? True crime writers Blaine Pardoe and Victoria Hester want to know, and with *A Special Kind of Evil*, delve into what has become known as Virginia's Colonial Parkway killings. Dating back to the late 1980s, these horrific and unsolved crimes make for chilling, yet compelling reading. Pardoe and Hester deliver their detailed accounts of the crimes and the subsequent investigations through interviews with family, friends, and investigators. Their somewhat folksy and conversational style is disarming, and at times one forgets the shockingly brutal nature of the crimes. As quickly as these crimes surfaced, they ended. And like the authors, one is left anxiously asking questions and seeking definitive answers. An impressive work by this writing duo.

With the exception of some minor geographical errors this is an excellent book. In fact I could not put it down. I am retired from the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office and was working during the time period of these incidents and remember them well. That being said, I actually knew very little about the "Parkway Murders". I was familiar with many the names that were mentioned. The book does a case by case analysis of the four Murders and goes into as much detail as possible. Being as I was up way into night finishing the book needless to say I highly recommend it.

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