

# The Science of Serial Killers Media Kit

By Meg Hafdahl & Kelly Florence

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## Book Information:

### AUTHOR BIOS

Long

**Kelly Florence** is a communication instructor at Lake Superior College in Duluth, Minnesota and is the creator and co-host of the *Horror Rewind* podcast as well as the producer and host of the podcast *Be A Better Communicator*. She received her B.A. in theatre at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and got her M.A. in communicating arts at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. She has directed, produced, choreographed and stage managed for dozens of productions in Minnesota including *Carrie The Musical* through Rubber Chicken Theatre and *Treasure Island* for Wise Fool Theater. Kelly is also the co-author of *The Science of Monsters*, *The Science of Women in Horror*, and *The Science of Witchcraft* coming in October 2022, all from Skyhorse Publishing.

Horror and suspense author **Meg Hafdahl** is the creator of numerous stories and books. Her fiction has appeared in anthologies such as *Eve's Requiem: Tales of Women, Mystery and Horror* and *Eclectically Criminal*. Her work has been produced for audio by *The Wicked Library* and *The Lift*, and she is the author of two popular short story collections including *Twisted Reveries: Thirteen Tales of the Macabre*. Meg is also the author of the two novels; *Daughters of Darkness* and *Her Dark Inheritance* called "an intricate tale of betrayal, murder, and small town intrigue" by *Horror Addicts* and "every bit as page turning as any King novel" by *RW Magazine*. Meg, also the co-host of the podcast *Horror Rewind* and co-author of *The Science of Monsters*, *The Science of Women in Horror* and *The Science of Stephen King*, lives in the snowy bluffs of Minnesota.

## Short

Kelly Florence is a teacher, mother, and horror film lover. She teaches at Lake Superior College in Duluth, MN and is the co-host of the *Horror Rewind* podcast.

Meg Hafdahl is an author and co-host of the *Horror Rewind* podcast. Her female driven horror fiction has been produced for audio by *The Wicked Library*. She is the author of the novels *Her Dark Inheritance*, *Daughters of Darkness*, and the short story series *Twisted Reveries*.

## PHOTOS



Ghouls Rule

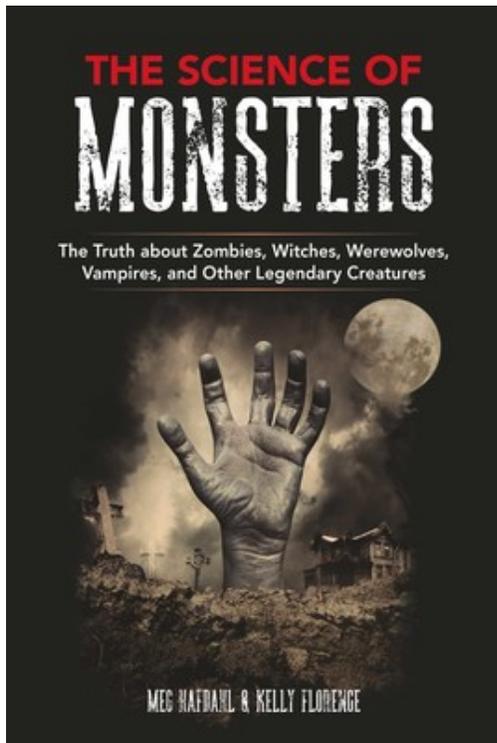
Meg Hafdahl (left) and Kelly Florence (right) Horror Rewind



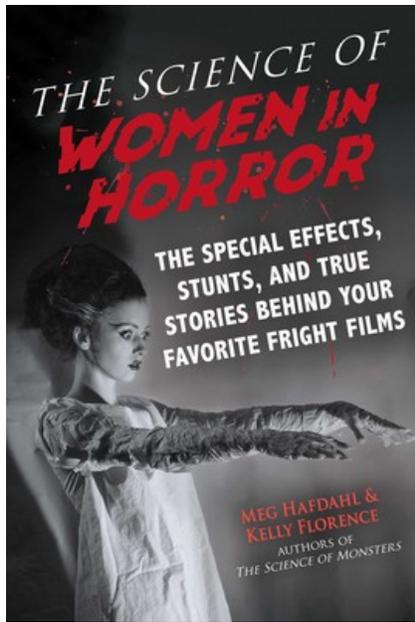
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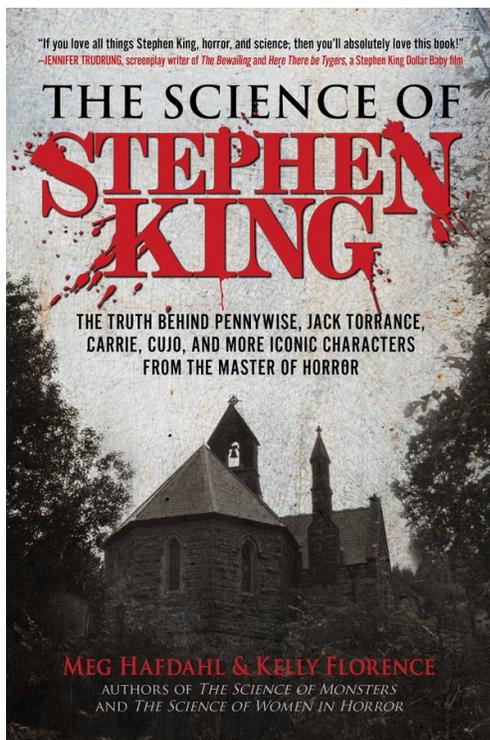
Kelly Florence



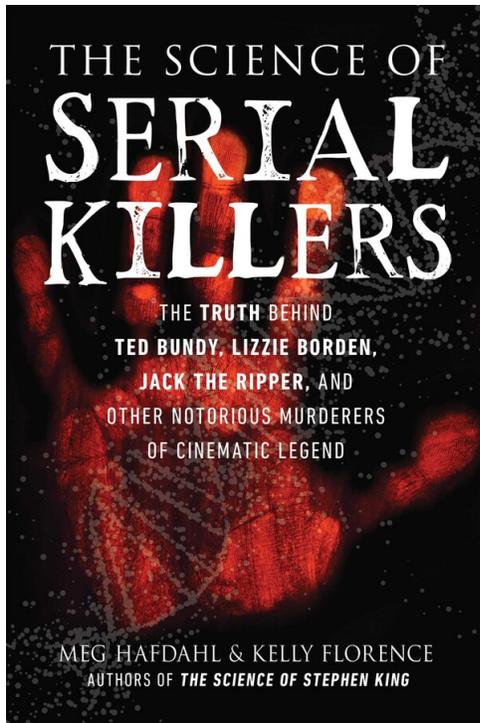
The Science of Monsters 2019



The Science of Women in Horror 2020



The Science of Stephen King (2020)



The Science of Serial Killers (2021)

## About the book:

### **The Science of Serial Killers**

By Meg Hafdahl & Kelly Florence

**Discover the real-life inspirations behind history's most infamous serial killers: John Wayne Gacy, Jeffrey Dahmer, Charles Manson, and so many more.**

Gothic media moguls Kelly Florence and Meg Hafdahl, authors of *The Science of Monsters*, *The Science of Women in Horror*, and *The Science of Stephen King*, and co-hosts of the *Horror Rewind* podcast called “the best horror film podcast out there” by *Film Daddy*, present a guide to the serial killers who inspired the movies and media we all know and love. Delve into the brutal truth behind horror’s secret: many monsters portrayed on the silver screen are based on true murderers. Uncover the truth behind the *real* monsters of horror, answering such questions as:

- What is the science behind serial killers' motivations like Ted Bundy and John Wayne Gacy?
- How did detectives discover the identities of criminals like the Boston Strangler and the BTK Strangler?
- Has science made it possible to unmask Jack the Ripper and the Zodiac Killer?
- What is the science behind female versus male serial killers?

Through interviews, film analysis, and bone-chilling discoveries, join Kelly and Meg as they learn about the horrors of true crime through the decades.

- Publisher: Skyhorse (October 19, 2021)
- Length: 264 pages
- ISBN13: 9781510764149

## Reviews

“Hafdahl and Florence have written a page-turner probing into the most notorious killers and their influence on film and TV. They wisely dive into a variety of fascinating angles with Hollywood’s fascination, and the psychology and science behind what made them tick. By the end, you’ll have plenty of movies to add to your streaming queue.”

—**Paul McGuire Grimes, film critic and entertainment reporter**

“Hafdahl and Florence have done it again. *The Science of Serial Killers* is an engaging, informative dive into the forensic, environmental, and legal peripherals of notorious crimes that have inspired the horror genre’s most celebrated films.”

—**Anya Stanley, writer and film critic for Fangoria magazine and AVClub.com**

"Hafdahl and Florence once again deliver a compulsive read, this time to explore the fascinating cross-section of horror movies and the true crimes that inspired them. Through easily digestible forensic science, interviews, keen insight, and unwavering empathy for victims and survivors, the authors offer a deft examination of the steadfast fascination with the world’s most infamous killers."

—**Meagan Navarro, film critic and horror journalist**

“If you love all things Stephen King, horror, and science, then you’ll absolutely love this book! Authors Meg Hafdahl and Kelly Florence intricately discuss and decipher the science behind some of Stephen King’s most legendary stories, creations, and monsters. This in-depth exploration into all things King and science is a must-read!” —Jennifer Trudrung, screenplay writer of *The Bewailing* and *Here There be Tygers*, a Stephen King Dollar Baby film

Reviews for *The Science of Women in Horror*

“Through the lens of horror, Kelly Florence and Meg Hafdahl take readers on a thought-provoking journey through history and real-life applications on what it means to be a woman. A monstrously feminine and insightful read; the past, present, and future of horror is female.” —  
**Meagan Navarro, genre film journalist, critic, and columnist at bloody-disgusting.com**

“*The Science of Women in Horror* is a well-researched and thought-provoking love letter to women in horror, reflecting on the impact of the influential characters onscreen as well as the women responsible for helping shape the genre behind the camera. Through a series of compelling interviews with female filmmakers, as well as essays exploring the many films that have both shaped and subverted expectations for women in the genre—from the virginal final girl to the vengeful killer, and everything in between—the authors speak to the breadth of the female and female-identifying experience and the impact horror has made on reflecting universal fears while simultaneously redefining female archetypes. It’s a riveting read, shedding an important light on how far we’ve come and how far we still have to go on the road to broader representation and gender parity in film—with horror, as a genre, leading the charge.” —  
**Stephanie Malone, founder and editor-in-chief of morbidlybeautiful.com**

“*The Science of Women in Horror* presents how the everyday horror of the female experience creeps into the movies that have shaped a genre. Meg Hafdahl and Kelly Florence have produced a smart social analysis of horror and how women continue to revolutionize the industry.” —  
**Daphne Strasert, co-author of *Horror Bites: Campfire Tales***

## About Skyhorse Publishing

Skyhorse Publishing, one of the fastest-growing independent book publishers in the United States, was launched in September 2006 by Tony Lyons, former president and publisher of the

Lyons Press. The company has had forty-eight New York Times bestsellers and has over 9,000 titles in print.

Through its eighteen imprints, Skyhorse publishes an eclectic and maverick list of titles. Its imprints cover everything from nature, sports, country living, history, reference, travel, humor, health, art, business, philosophy, religion, politics, investigative and conspiracy, to fiction, literary nonfiction, science fiction, fantasy, and young adult and children's literature. Its backlist includes more than six thousand titles. Skyhorse is distributed by Simon & Schuster in the U.S. and abroad.

## INTERVIEW RESOURCES

### BIO TALKING POINTS

- Meg has written three novels and collections of short stories published through Inklings Publishing.
- Kelly and Meg co-host the Horror Rewind podcast in which they rewatch the horror movies from their childhood to see if they're as good as they remember.
- Kelly and Meg met because of The X-Files TV show.
- Meg has a fear of birds but loves the movie *The Birds*.
- Kelly's first horror movie was *Night of the Living Dead* which she received on VHS for Christmas at the age of six!
- Kelly stage managed *Carrie: The Musical* in 2019 and she and Meg sponsored the show through their podcast, *Horror Rewind*.
- Kelly and Meg are both big Stephen King fans. Kelly was introduced to his work first through his movies, specifically *The Shining*, when she was in first grade!
- Meg's fiction writing has been compared to Stephen King's and her fictional town of Willoughby, featured in her novel trilogy and short story collections, is akin to Derry or Castle Rock.

## BOOK TALKING POINTS

- The Bertillion method helped catch the serial killer HH Holmes
- Dogs have typically been found to not attack intruders in home invasions.
- There are fascinating facts regarding the rise of lead and aggressive crime
- Heat can affect our mood and leads to a rise in crime rates.
- Women's revenge on a patriarchal society that manifests in murder.
- Privileged murderers who kill a child out of boredom.
- The glorification of serial killers in modern and past media.
- When caretakers, like a nurse, take advantage of their role to kill.
- A woman devotes her life to convicted a serial killer, and even marries him.
- When murderers profited from their slayings, angered victims' families worked to make that illegal.
- The items owned by serial killers hold an almost magical, or totem like appeal to many collectors, causing them to spend excessive cash.
- Crime solving has grown leaps and bounds. While investigators put the pieces together, science is vital in the capture of many.
- While female serial killers statistically murder for money, male serial killers

are almost exclusively motivated by sex and the power that it represents.

- Movies and true crime are inexorably linked. Fact and fiction merge, unfortunately creating a mythos around killers who don't deserve it.
- I (Kelly) write about my own, personal experience in a past abusive relationship and how it relates to the psychology we uncover in the book regarding gaslighting and manipulation used by abusers.
- I (Kelly) visited Finland in high school to meet some relatives. It's such a peaceful country I was surprised to learn a serial killer is still at large in the country's most shocking crime, the Lake Bodom murders.
- I (Meg) grew up in the late '80s and '90s when the shadows of Bundy, Dahmer, etc loomed large. My mom was worried about similar predators and because of this I was often not able to have the freedom of my older brother. No solo bike rides for me. This dichotomy of male and female was hard for me to understand, and seems to be something that resonates with many who grew up in the "post-serial killer" America.
- As a horror movie lover I've (Meg) been pretty ignorant to the true stories behind films like *Scream*, *Rope*, and *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. It wasn't until I did research that I connected what I saw on screen to reality,

and I think this is important in the empathy that horror elicits.

- As a little girl I (Meg) became absolutely obsessed with accused killer Lizzie Borden! I was so used to seeing the girls become victims in horror films that I was drawn to Lizzie like an anti-hero. She was the one wielding the axe, and this brought me a strange sort of comfort!