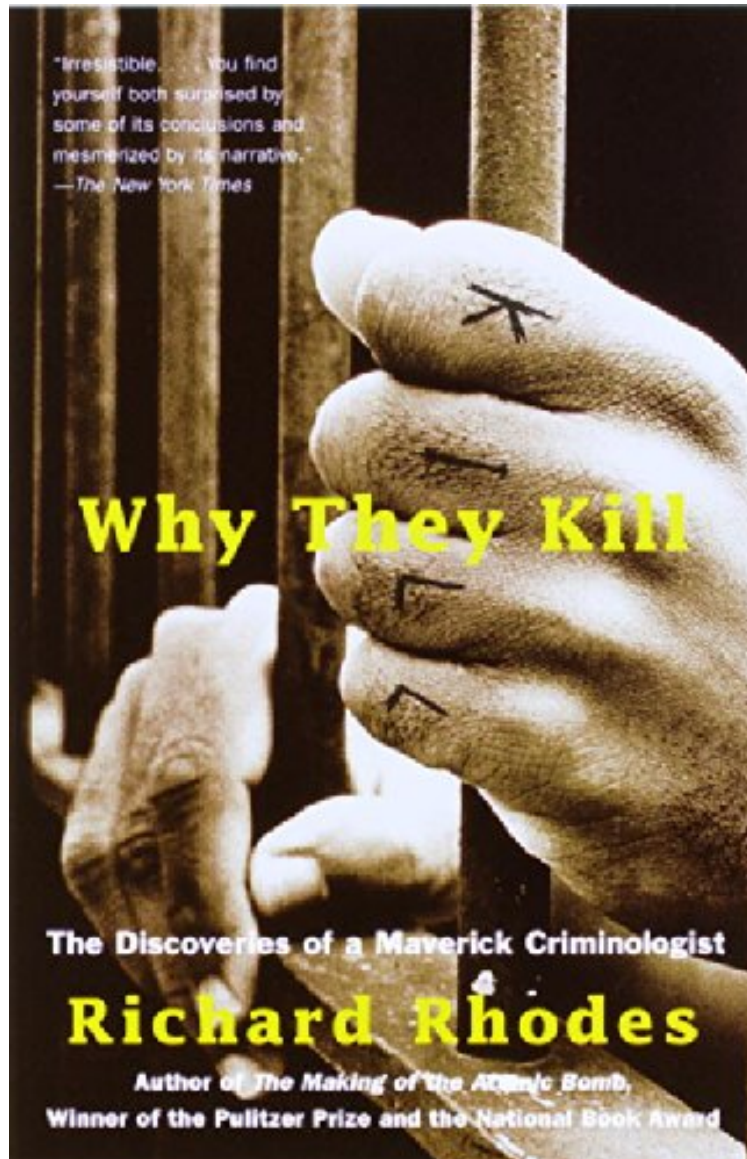


[Download] Why They Kill: The Discoveries of a Maverick Criminologist

Why They Kill: The Discoveries of a Maverick Criminologist

Richard Rhodes

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#188143 in Books Richard Rhodes 2000-10-10 2000-10-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.01 x .86 x 5.151, .72 #File Name: 0375702482384 pages Why They Kill The Discoveries of a Maverick Criminologist | File size: 42.Mb

Richard Rhodes : Why They Kill: The Discoveries of a Maverick Criminologist before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Why They Kill: The Discoveries of a Maverick Criminologist:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The best book of the last 50 books I have read By Paul G. Joseph This book imho is a must read for every thinking adult. It is the best of the last 50 books I have read. I learned a lot that isn't

available elsewhere. Kudos to Richard Rhodes for finding and highlighting the work of Prof. Lonnie Athens. Nonetheless, Lonnie holds that the criminal has the ability to choose. I would disagree--I feel that accidents of life and a possible genetic basis make this more deterministic than most people are comfortable with. Case in point--Lonnie himself: he says he too, being "violentized" by his dad would have gone the same way, but for his "relatively small physical size and his academic inclinations." Likewise, he says, for most women--their generally smaller physique prevents their complete violentization. In short, I see this as largely being "determined," uncomfortable though that feels. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Choice to Be Bad By Joel This is a biography of a criminologist (Lonnie Athens) who doesn't buy the "born bad" theory of criminology. Rhodes writes a personal and intellectual biography (the two are inseparable anyways) of a man who grew up in a violent home but didn't end up in prison. He carries his narrative of Athens' life and works past a mere recounting of the criminologist's experiences and writings by comparing Athens' findings with other classic studies of violence, often finding in what appear to be contradictory studies evidence of the truth that Athens uncovered by his unconventional approach of actually interviewing men and women who had committed violent acts. This book is for the politician and the voter who is looking for fresh and pragmatic insight into the problem of murder, rape, and assault. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read Book, but its not the Whole Story By David Keirse Not a light read, Richard Rhodes does an excellent job of relaying the groundbreaking work of Lonnie Athens in human story fashion. Lonnie Athen's work is one of the most significant works in sociology and psychology in the last hundred years. Rhodes chronicles Lonnie Athen's life and struggle to overcome his father's violence and his struggle to correct the stupid, statistical academic view of the criminal and society. Its a riveting story, plus it puts forth Athen's development and explanation of his notion of violentization, as one kind of socialization of individuals. Rhodes, then goes into several interesting examples of this process to illustrate the notion. Most reviewers are right: this is a great book. Its a must read for understanding humanity. On other hand, one reviewer calls the book a biased and simplistic book. He is partially right, but we should be so lucky to get such a biased and simple view. Rhodes and Athens are biased, but their view is clear and logically correct. And to call Athen's explanation of the human psyche as simplistic, is not fair. It sounds simple because it makes sense. Any explanation of the human psyche is going to be too simplistic. On the other hand, that reviewer has a point in that Athens doesn't explain all, and Athens and Rhodes, through no fault of their own, have not explained that human "temperament" (inherent personality preferences) has a role in influencing the actions and reactions of all concerned. Obviously, looking at other books: in particular Please Understand Me II and the Nature Assumption should give readers a clearer view of Lonnie Athen's grandfather, father, mother, brother, and most importantly Lonnie, himself, in terms of their differing temperaments. It does make a difference. Looking at Lonnie Athens and his brother's reactions to their violent father is interesting comparison in two differing temperaments in similar circumstances. Clearly there needs to be more work done on the role of socialization, where Athen's violentization is only one kind of socialization. Athen's Self as a Soliloquy could serve as a landmark for other's in following the complex interactions between the individual and his environment. Adding the notions of temperament and more complex notions of the peer group interaction will be the next possible step.

Richard Rhodes, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, brings his inimitable vision, exhaustive research, and mesmerizing prose to this timely book that dissects violence and offers new solutions to the age old problem of why people kill. Lonnie Athens was raised by a brutally domineering father. Defying all odds, Athens became a groundbreaking criminologist who turned his scholar's eye to the problem of why people become violent. After a decade of interviewing several hundred violent convicts--men and women of varied background and ethnicity, he discovered "violentization," the four-stage process by which almost any human being can evolve into someone who will assault, rape, or murder another human being. *Why They Kill* is a riveting biography of Athens and a judicious critique of his seminal work, as well as an unflinching investigation into the history of violence.

.com In *Why They Kill*, Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Rhodes traces the life and career of criminologist Lonnie Athens, a man who took his own sad and squalid life and turned it on its head to make a groundbreaking career as a criminologist. Athens grew up in a violent, angry world. Rather than absorbing the sickness and violence around him, though, he studied it, and eventually developed a theory about how violent criminals are created. Rhodes's critical examination of Athens's work forces readers to consider how violent our society really is, how it became that way, and what might be done to change it. When applied to well-known criminals such as Michael Tyson and Lee Harvey Oswald, Athens's ideas become concrete and take on an urgent tone: it's easy to discuss theories and predictors in the abstract, but these stories are real, and they repeat themselves in our society at an alarming rate. Rhodes's approach to this disturbing subject stands apart from many other crime books in its intelligence, humanity, and empathy. These are not just descriptions of "scumbags" and their brutal crimes, but intensely personal stories that reveal how a culture of violence propagates itself. --Lisa Higgins From Publishers Weekly What transforms an ordinary person into a violent criminal? Not genetic inheritance or low self-esteem or coming from a violent subculture, answers Pulitzer Prize-winning author Rhodes (*The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, etc.), but rather a process of brutalization by parents

or peers that usually occurs in childhood. In this provocative study, Rhodes focuses on the work of criminologist Lonnie Athens, who teaches at Seton Hall University in New Jersey. Athens believes that violent crime results from "social retardation," a process whereby an individual who was abused in childhood guides his or her actions by recourse to a "phantom community" of the internalized voices of caregivers and others. Rhodes tests Athens's theory against specific cases, including those of boxer and convicted rapist Mike Tyson; Cheryl Crane, daughter of actress Lana Turner, who at age 14 stabbed to death her mother's lover; and Lee Harvey Oswald. The author champions Athens as a pioneering genius battling a criminological establishment that ascribes violent crime to psychopathology or antecedent social conditions; yet he overestimates the originality of Athens's work (the "phantom community" in some ways resembles Freud's superego), and his well-intentioned study is at times belabored. Both Rhodes and Athens suffered through horrifically abusive childhoods, which adds a compelling personal note to this study but may also color their views. Rhodes strongly endorses Athens's call for school-based prevention programs to break the cycle of domestic and societal violence. Agents, Morton Janklow and Anne Sibbald, Janklow Nesbit Associates. (Sept.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Drawing on exhaustive interviews with violent prison inmates, criminologist Lonnie Athens asserts that people do not commit violent crimes because they live in poverty, are mentally ill or on drugs, have a genetic predisposition to violence, "just snap," or have been brutalized as children (though the latter plays a part). Rather, they have undergone a four-step "violentization" process that leads them, under certain circumstances, to decide consciously to beat, rape, or kill. Together with Athens's own hardscrabble, violence-filled upbringing, this theory derived as it is from qualitative rather than quantitative research has made his existence within the academic community difficult. Rhodes, a Pulitzer Prize winner (*The Making of the Atomic Bomb*) and himself a victim of childhood violence, offers a compelling look at Athens, his work, and its application to noted violent offenders, different eras and cultures, and men at war. Recommended for academic and larger public libraries. -A Jim G. Burns, Ottumwa P.L., IA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.