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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **The Hillside Strangler: The Rest of the Story**

The study of serial killers has been called “the most macabre and fascinating branch of modern criminology.” It certainly has its share of devotees: Type in “serial killers” at search engine Google.com and you get approximately 347,000 hits.

Why does this dark slice of our society invite such attention? Well, first, it is a surprisingly large subject; there have been more than 1,500 recorded serial killers worldwide. Many of these were caught, yet a significant number have apparently evaded capture forever. And, according to Karisable.com, a crime research service, “at any given time there are an estimated 20-50 active serial killers.” Karisable also reports that 85 percent of the world’s serial killers are in America.

Multiple murders with their subsequent investigations are the most captivating and dramatic of all crimes. These horrific crimes are truly unforgettable and challenge our perceptions of security. One of the most elusive and bizarre stories of multiple murders is that of Ken Bianchi, dubbed “The Hillside Strangler” when he began terrorizing the Hollywood, California, area with brutal slayings of young women in the late 70s.

For two years, Ken Bianchi watched protectively over the woman he loved, fearing she would become the killer’s next target. But it was Ken himself who was one of the Hillside Strangler’s most tragic casualties. Victim of a multiple personality disorder, Bianchi led a strange and terrible triple life. He worked hard to support girlfriend Kelli and their infant son, Sean. But as the shadowy, amoral Billy, he watched a third personality, the vicious, vengeful Steve strangle well over a dozen young women after sexually assaulting them.

Called “emotionally wrenching” by *Publisher’s Weekly*, *The Hillside Strangler* by Ted Schwarz, first published twenty years ago, is truly a classic in the true crime genre. Using exclusive information gleaned from countless conversations with Bianchi, his girlfriend, his psychiatrists, and policemen and journalists involved with the case, Schwarz wrote a dramatic psychological study of a brutal killer. Eventually Schwarz was himself embroiled in the case when he was subpoenaed to testify.

Yet, the story of crime often does not end with prosecution and sentencing. Prisoners can still have contact with the outside world and the families are left to struggle, often publicly, with the horrific deaths. In new material in the recently reissued *The Hillside Strangler*, Schwarz explores the psychology of “groupies,” young women who pursued Bianchi even though he was a proven killer, Bianchi’s prison marriage, and the woman who attempted murder on Bianchi’s behalf. Also in this new material titled “The Rest of the Story”, we learn of the impact of these crimes twenty years later on the families of victims and investigators, and the impact on Schwarz’ own life.

*The Hillside Strangler: The Three Faces of America’s Most Savage Rapist and Murderer* (Quill Driver Books) is available at brick and mortar bookstores, online bookstores, at QuillDriverBooks.com, or by calling 1-800-497-4909.

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