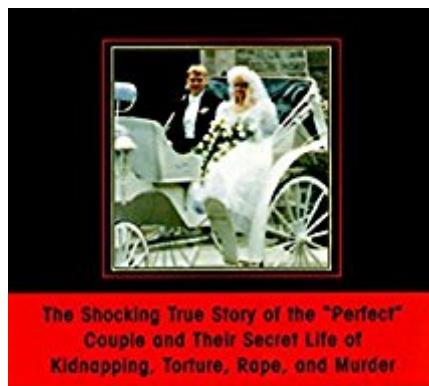


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# Invisible Darkness: The Strange Case Of Paul Bernardo And Karla Homolka



## INVISIBLE DARKNESS

"Riveting...You can't help but be drawn in by this tale of sex, death, lies and videotape."  
—The Calgary Herald

STEPHEN WILLIAMS



## Synopsis

Perfect for fans of Making a Murderer and The People v. O. J. Simpson, *The Invisible Darkness* is the story of one of the more bizarre cases in recent memory—killings so sensational that they prompted the Canadian government, in the interests of justice, to silence its national press and to lock foreign journalists out of the courts. To all appearances, Paul and Karla Bernardo had a fairytale marriage: beautiful working-class girl weds bright upper-middle-class guy and they buy a fashionable dream house in the suburbs. But, bored with his straight, prestigious accounting job, Paul soon went freelance as an international smuggler. He also revealed his boredom with conventional sex—enough so that, one Christmas Eve, he persuaded his wife to drug her own sister and engage in a menage a trois, during which the sister died (a bungling coroner ruled her death accidental). The couple then upped the ante, kidnapping and imprisoning several high school girls for sexual marathons, which they videotaped before savagely murdering their captives. When the girls' bodies were found, the police were stymied (although Paul had been accused of rape and given a DNA test that vanished for two years and only recently was linked to some fifty sexual-assault cases) until Karla tried to have her husband arrested for wife beating. During questioning, she confessed to the crimes and is now serving two concurrent twelve-year sentences for manslaughter in exchange for testifying against her husband, who was jailed for life. From the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

File Size: 4367 KB

Print Length: 555 pages

Publisher: Bantam (October 10, 2009)

Publication Date: October 14, 2009

Language: English

ASIN: B002SE641A

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #395,105 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #92

## Customer Reviews

I have studied this case for several years now. There is so much information in this book that I have almost become too horrified to continue researching. Everything from the recovered videos is discussed, partially transcribed. I have read a lot about killers and have seen several documentaries about this case but the book shook me. Very disturbing. I commend the author for his hard work because I found it hard to sleep some nights while reading this. Powerful but it definitely makes one feel almost wrong even reading it. I truly wish Karla was still in prison where she belongs and I pray that she does not harm anyone else.

Just finished this book on Kindle and wish I'd bought "Deadly Innocence" by Scott Burnside and Alan Cairns instead. Reading Williams' book was like being handed a huge pile of crime files - statements, videos, names, scraps of paper, and being asked to sort through them myself. I appreciated the detail, but sometimes it really bogged down the flow of what was happening. Williams also tended to make distracting personal observations like "she was a little heavy in the thighs". It might have been helpful to have a list of who's who at the beginning of the book. It's great that everyone's name got mentioned, but by the time I read a list of ten or so people associated with the prosecution or the defense or Karla's inner circle, I found myself having to flip backwards to see, Now Who is this person, and Why are they important to the story. Perhaps Williams was trying to do what he described Steve Irwin as believing: "As an investigator, he saw himself as a miner for details; details in people's memories that had to be excavated in person, at the source." Unfortunately, Williams mined a pile of rubble, and then left it to the reader to find the nugget of gold.

Wonderful Book about the serial killing team of Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka. They both sexually assaulted, raped, sodomized and murdered three teenage girls, Tammy Lyn Homolka (Karla decided to give her 15 year old sister's virginity to Paul as a Christmas gift, by drugging her and sexually assaulting her while Paul raped her but she died probably from mixing alcohol and veterinary anesthetic), Leslie Erin Mahaffy (Paul kidnapped her after finding her locked out of her house after coming home after curfew, they kept her for 3 days with both Karla and Paul sexually

assaulting her but had to strangle her because Karla's parents were expected for a Father's day dinner. After they dismembered her body, encased it in cement and dumped it at Lake Gibson) and Kristen Dawn French (Paul and Karla kidnapped her from a church parking lot, kept her as long as they could, continually violating her and then strangled her and dumped her in a ditch). The most sickening aspect is that she's free.

Invisible Darkness is a disturbing, dark, nightmare-inducing, well-written account of terrible crimes and the psychopathic couple who committed them. I read a fair amount of true crime but of everything I've read this book creeped me out the most. It is not for the faint of heart. The crimes are described in such horrific detail I almost put the book down, but the depraved couple who committed these crimes deserved no less. I'm interested in the psychology of psychopaths and serial killers and am always looking for a way into understanding them and seeing them as still human. But by the time I finished Invisible Darkness I felt a visceral hatred for Karla and Paul and not a shred of compassion. One of the things I found most interesting was the way Williams juxtaposed Karla's seemingly perfect domestic life (her fairy tale wedding etc) with the pure hell it concealed. Also interesting how the 'lovely' pornographic Karla managed to wrap therapists, the police, and her lawyers around her little finger with her tales of victim-hood. I think in this case the stereotypes of vulnerable pretty women that are ingrained in our culture worked in her favor. Though I would like to 'unknow' some of this book, it continues to haunt me.

This book chronicles the story of the so called "Ken and Barbie" killers. Most of the book seemed more focused on Karla than on Paul but I was able to get past that. Both of these killers are sick and justice has not been fully served on these two. The true events took place in the late 1980's and early 90's in Canada near the US border with Niagara Falls. The couple has their own love story along with their wicked crimes. Both Paul and his wife Karla are two people who delight in others pain. Paul is a serial rapist while Karla enjoys pain in others especially if it pleases Paul. While Karla tried to paint herself as a victim too under Paul's control, I believe she is just as wicked as he was. In the end, this wicked couple kidnap, rape, and murder three women including Karla's own younger sister (a gift to Paul according to Karla). Overall, not a bad read. The story got bogged down in the end with the police investigation but it was needed.

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