



Invisible Darkness: The Strange Case Of Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka

By Stephen Williams

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Perfect for fans of *Making a Murderer* and *The People v. O. J. Simpson*, *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.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The horrifying sex murders committed in southern Ontario by Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka caught the attention of the media and public of Canada like few, if any, cases in that country's history. Readers of either of the two previous books about the case (*Deadly Innocence* and *Lethal Marriage*) may be skeptical that another retelling is necessary, but *Invisible Darkness* benefits from Stephen Williams's prodigious research and his unique perspective on Karla's culpability. Williams had to jump several legal hurdles unique to Canada's "Crown disclosure" protocols, but eventually was able to gain access to more than 70 hours of videotaped police interviews with Karla, interviews with Paul by his defense attorney, and even psychiatrist's notes. Williams uses vivid vignettes to tell the story, and refrains from unnecessarily graphic details about the crimes. As the *Winnipeg Free Press* writes, "If any readers still believe [Homolka] was a victim of post-traumatic stress, abused into submission by Bernardo, this will put that idea to rest."

Review

"By far the most intelligent and subversive of the Bernardo triptych." -- *Lynn Crosbie, The Globe and Mail, Dec. 1997*

"I found *Invisible Darkness* a superior example of a dying breed the straight, unhyphenated, literate work of true-crime." -- *Jack Olsen, Edgar-Award winning author of "Son" and "Doc," Jan, 1999*

"If any readers still believe she was a victim of post-traumatic stress, abused into submission by Bernardo, this book will put that idea to rest." -- *Ted Wakefield, The Winnipeg Free Press, Sep. 1996*

"*Invisible Darkness* offers up Karla Homolka, 17 years old at the time she met Paul Bernardo, as a Devil Incarnate just waiting to meet her Svengali." -- *Maggie Siggins, The Globe and Mail, Aug. 1996*

"Readers will leave *Invisible Darkness* knowing that it's nothing short of obscene.....Homolka could be out of prison as early as next year." -- *Leonard Stern, The Ottawa Citizen, Sep. 1996*

"There is much in this book of merit....He begins intriguingly....with a nun waking up to see a pert Karla Homolka sitting in bed beside her....One moment in the book, Bernardo and Homolka are two suburbanites...caught up in their own melodramas, the next moment they're raping teenagers and severing heads." -- *Pete McMartin, The Vancouver Sun, Aug. 1996*

"This book lets it all hang out....You can't help but be drawn in by this tale of sex, death, lies and videotape...." -- *Helen Dolik, The Calgary Herald, Sep. 1996*

"Williams has performed a remarkable, if unconventional, feat in the annals of true crime." -- *Judge Lynn King, The Toronto Star, Sep. 1996*

"You may think you've heard enough but you haven't heard the half of it. It's a must readBased on court documents....as well as countless interviews with police, lawyers, psychiatrists and friends of Paul and Karla, it is well-researched and thought-provoking." -- *Bart Johnson, The Edmonton Sun, Sep. 1996*

From the Inside Flap

"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.

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