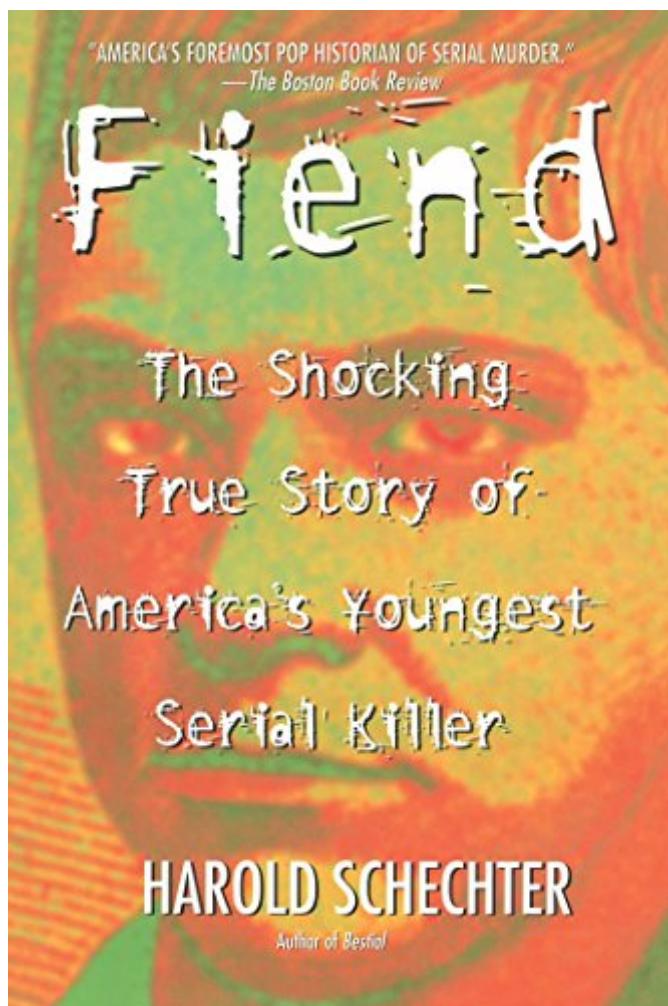


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Fiend: The Shocking True Story Of Americas Youngest Serial Killer



Synopsis

A MONSTER PREYED UPON THE CHILDREN OF NINETEENTH-CENTURY BOSTON. HIS CRIMES WERE APPALLING -- AND YET HE WAS LITTLE MORE THAN A CHILD HIMSELF.

When fourteen-year-old Jesse Pomeroy was arrested in 1874, a nightmarish reign of terror over an unsuspecting city came to an end. "The Boston Boy Fiend" was imprisoned at last. But the complex questions sparked by his ghastly crime spree -- the hows and whys of vicious juvenile crime -- were as relevant in the so-called Age of Innocence as they are today. Jesse Pomeroy was outwardly repellent in appearance, with a gruesome "dead" eye; inside, he was deformed beyond imagining. A sexual sadist of disturbing precocity, he satisfied his atrocious appetites by abducting and torturing his child victims. But soon, the teenager's bloodlust gave way to another obsession: murder. Harold Schechter, whose true-crime masterpieces are "well-documented nightmares for anyone who dares to look" (Peoria Journal Star), brings his acclaimed mix of page-turning storytelling, brilliant insight, and fascinating historical documentation to Fiend -- an unforgettable account from the annals of American crime.

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Customer Reviews

This book has a bit of a slow ending but 5 stars for the rest. This was one sick puppy. He should have been shot after they caught him the first time. I love the authors intro about the "good old days" a view I always had.

This was a fascinating book, as all of Schechters' books are but this one, perhaps because the boy was so young, really makes you go "wow, some people are just insane". It gives you a glimpse back in time to when it happened by painting a visual picture for you and then takes you into the psyche of those involved. Great book. Great story that is really, not well known and should be.

Difficult subject, no doubt. Schecter provides you with historical context that make his books interesting. Not as rich in detail has his coverage of Roland Molineux at the turn of the century in "The Devil's Gentleman...", but equally well endowed with an easy writing style and fair amount of history.

Well written. Mixes current & past crimes as the tale is told. It's amazing how blind Jesse's mother is to his guilt. Beyond blind love.

I have never heard of this guy mostly because he lived in the 19th century. He started on his "career" in his preteens and came from a very broken home but he was very stubborn, probably an Obsessive Compulsive personality. He was so feared that he spent more than 40 years in solitary confinement - a record. All told, it's a pretty good read.

An excellent read, and a shockingly horrible man.

I had read the alienist, so I was interested in this character - a child serial killer at the turn of the century. The author managed to weave an interesting tale which can't be easy when reading a non-fiction novel. At times it was more like reading fiction because you become engrossed in the story. There were a few parts that I thought were a little repetitive, but for the most part - well worth reading.

This book was very well written. I could barely put it down. An amazing story of survival against all odds. What this poor boy endured and a family so sick it's hard to believe. Thank heaven for his sister and other amazing people who came to help him.

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