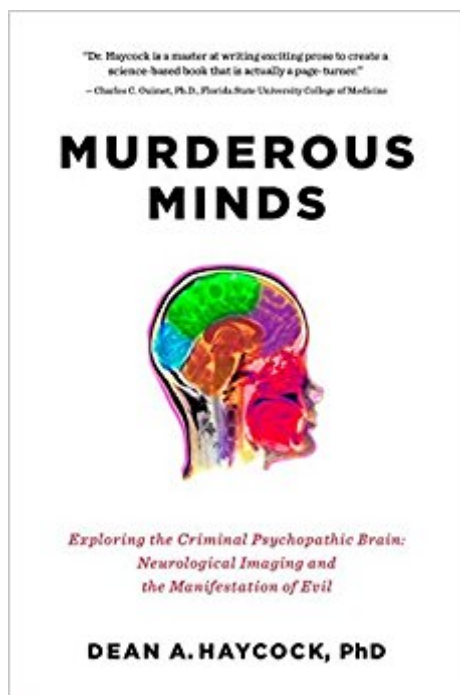




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Murderous Minds: Exploring The Criminal Psychopathic Brain: Neurological Imaging And The Manifestation Of Evil



Synopsis

Is there a biological basis for evil? From neurological imaging to behavioral studies, Dean Haycock's account of the groundbreaking research reveals what scientists are learning about the psychopaths living among us. How many times have you seen a murder on the news or on a TV show like CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, and said to yourself, "How could someone do something like that?" Today, neuroscientists are imaging, mapping, testing and dissecting the source of the worst behavior imaginable in the brains of the people who lack a conscience: psychopaths. Neuroscientist Dean Haycock examines the behavior of real life psychopaths and discusses how their actions can be explained in scientific terms, from research that literally looks inside their brains to understanding how psychopaths, without empathy but very goal-oriented, think and act the way they do. Some don't commit crimes at all, but rather make use of their skills in the boardroom. But what does this mean for lawyers, judges, psychiatrists, victims and readers--for anyone who has ever wondered how some people can be so bad. Could your nine-year-old be a psychopath? What about your co-worker? The ability to recognize psychopaths using the scientific method has vast implications for society, and yet is still loaded with consequences. 8 page color insert

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Customer Reviews

When you think about the murder of John F. Kennedy in 1963, do you ever wonder what went through the mind of his murderer? How about the famous O. J. Simpson, who was never criminally convicted of the murder of his wife but is widely believed to be the murderer? How about Drew

Peterson? He is a man believed to have murdered numerous ex-wives of his. The minds of these men are as hard to read as a book in a completely foreign language. The author of *Murderous Minds*, Dr. Dean A. Haycock, tries to help us understand the many types of people walking around with mental health disorders, specifically focusing on psychopathic people and murderers. Haycock argues that insights in neuroscience research can help us understand how the specific parts of the brain can influence psychopathic behavior, which can also help us understand why some disorder can be misdiagnosed. In this review, I'd like to focus on some very important topics the author mentions consistently throughout the book. Haycock highlights the misuse of particular psychological terms. Haycock illustrates the confusion by focusing on well-known murderers and psychopaths. Finally, Haycock also examines what leads psychologists and doctors to diagnosis people with these disorders. Haycock is very critical of society's misuse of neurological terminology therefore making some definitions important for him to define. The definitions he mentions multiple times are those of psycho, psychopathic, psychopath, and serial killer. According to the Macmillan Dictionary, the word "psycho" refers to a person who behaves in a frightening and/or violent way. However, Haycock argues that people use this term to refer in an offensive manner to someone with a mental illness (Haycock, 12).

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