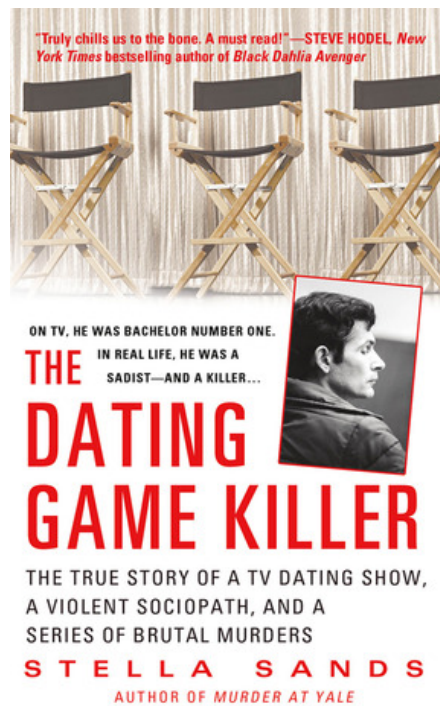




The Dating Game Killer: The True Story of a TV Dating Show, a Violent Sociopath, and a Series of Brutal Murders

Stella Sands

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In 1978, Rodney Alcala was a contestant on the "The Dating Game," one of America's most popular television shows at the time. Handsome, successful, and romantic, he was embraced by the audience—and chosen as the winner by the beautiful bachelorette. To viewers across the country, Rodney seemed like the answer to every woman's dreams. Until they learned the truth about his once and future crimes...

Ten years before his TV appearance, Rodney was charged with the sexual assault and attempted murder of an eight-year-old girl. In the decades that followed, he would be accused of seven murders—and, as new DNA evidence continues to be uncovered, the list may grow. The case is so disturbing that it's been documented in several news outlets, from *People* magazine and *USA Today* to *48 Hours Mystery* and *Dr. Phil*. *The Dating Game Killer* is the shocking true story about the dark and twisted man.

The Dating Game Killer: The True Story of a TV Dating Show, a Violent Sociopath, and a Series of Brutal Murders Details

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From Reader Review The Dating Game Killer: The True Story of a TV Dating Show, a Violent Sociopath, and a Series of Brutal Murders for online ebook

Julie says

Stella Sands weaves a horrifying tale of the true story of photographer Rodney Alcala, sociopath and sadistic murderer of girls and women across the country and who still sits in prison today. Terrifying and sad.

Rylie Brausam says

Finished this book in a short short amount of time because I simply couldn't put it down. The short chapters kept me engaged, and the way the story was told through the eyes of Rodney's victims was enthralling.

Erin says

I wasn't crazy about the writing style, but this book really fleshed out a case that I had seen in a documentary on TV. This vile man should have been stopped when he was caught raping his first 8 year old victim. If ever a man should have been taken care of and quietly dumped by police, Alcala is that man. There needs to be harsher penalties for violent rapists. So many other girls and young women suffered horrendously because this POS was not taken care of properly the first time. The details of these murders are more horrible than most.

David says

The career of sadistic serial killer Rodney Alcala ought to have resulted in a great true crime read, but Stella Sands writes as if she is being paid by the word. *The Dating Game Killer's* bloat is especially bad in its final stages, when the narrative slogs through all the victim impact statements from Alcala's final trial before sharing the reminiscences of some of the major players in the case, all of whom do little other than repeat things that we have already heard (at least once, if not more!). IS THERE AN EDITOR IN THE HOUSE? PLEASE! CAN SOMEONE FIND ME AN EDITOR?

Fishface says

This was a grisly read, not for the faint of heart or the weak of stomach. The author spares no detail in telling us what the killer -- diagnosed over and over as a sexual sadist with a Narcissus complex the size of Alaska - - did to his unlucky victims, but she does spare us the deadly details of the never-ending legal proceedings this guy seems to generate, maybe continuing to this day. I like the way the story was broken down into small bites, because otherwise reading about this more-than-thirty-year-long story would have been very difficult to get through. I also like the way the author tells us so much about the known victims, making the tragedy of their loss far easier to grasp. I also like the way she leaves the door open for any new information

that may arise -- because this guy may have done far more than kill a handful of women and girls. I look forward, grimly, to the sequel...

Abriana says

I feel like this could have been a bit shorter. The second half seemed to drag a bit and took too long to wrap up. That being said, this had me hooked. Alcala's luck with the law was astounding at times, and these cases truly show how far advances in DNA technology have brought us. A solid true crime book.

Jazmine says

Stella Sands did a terrific job with this one. I really liked her writing style & bite sized chapters. I enjoyed the short chapters a lot, I felt as though I wasn't being bombarded with information. I really learned about Rodney Alcala and I learned a lot about what was happening in the world while he was committing his crimes.

The ending was a little long winded but over all I enjoyed this book.

Anna Machan says

Well written but too many "Parts"

I enjoyed this book immensely. It was well written and attention holding. It covers the subject matter very well. However, it had like 16 parts! With over 100 chapters total. I think there had to be a better way to divide the book up because having that many "Parts" was kind of jarring.

♥ Marlene♥ says

Finished this book yesterday morning and I must say Stella Sands did a very good job. This book contains a lot of small chapters. For example one thing she did was write in bulleted form about the mayor news events that happened for example in 1977 and then she also added something Rodney Alcala was doing, or had done at that same time. Killed someone or was suspected of killing someone.

I also liked that she did start from the beginning. With his first victim. A lot of true crime authors think all readers know what happened so do think nothing of just telling us what happened and who did it on page 1. Anyway back to Stella Sands. She tells us more about the lives of all his victims, trying so that we get to know the girls that were murdered and their families. Only negative thing is that at the end it got just a little bit long-winded but all in all I do recommend this book.

Viviana says

Sands did a very thorough job of describing the crimes and Alcala's link to them, and also provided great background information about the victims to make the reader truly feel the loss of their lives. However, she became very repetitive in the second half of the book where the court cases are described. A generally average book as true crime goes.

Tabi34 says

I haven't read anything by Stella Sands, but I will look for more of her work. So many true crime books are a listing of facts in a dry almost textbook manner, but Sands turns the facts into an interesting tale. Although I knew that the women she previews are going to die in the upcoming pages, it doesn't take away from the "oh no" factor. I kept hoping that one of them would get away; would turn up some place, safe.

The one word of warning I would add is that Rodney Alcala was a sadistic murderer and Sands doesn't hold back in the graphic descriptions of how his victims were tortured or found. It might be a bit upsetting to some.

I found the book hard to put down but I had to because life/work got in the way, but I highly recommend this book.

Sherry Haning says

An indepth view of an evil serial killer. Well written.

Raven Tiger {Paint me like one of your 19th century gothic heroines!} says

Disclaimer: I pretty much did not like this book, so I ranted in my review. There is also bad language. So you have been thoroughly warned. If you loved this book, great! I didn't.

Rating: 2.5 to 3 stars

What I liked:

-The chapters were short, but there were a ton of them. So if I needed to, I could (and I did) take a break between chapters. I dislike stopping mid-chapter, but if a chapter is super long, and I feel like stopping I do. There were some long chapters, but only during key points and trials.

-Erm, I'm sure I liked more things to give it a somewhat 3 star rating. Will come back to this later.

-I did like that she gave background info to not only the killer but the victims and their family as well, but this also turned into a dislike, which I will explain later.

-My favorite quote: "Asked whether or not she [Veronica Thomas, a psychologist hired by the prosecution to interview Alcala] felt that Alcala was evil, Thomas replied, 'Evil is not a psychological term and difficult to objectify. I believe that evil is a moral description, and if you think of people in terms of their ability to put themselves in the shoes of their brother or sister or feel the sadness or pain of hunger or torture, then Alcala

is evil. He does not have the capacity to empathize with others. His degree of inhumanity, which was determined by his biology, psychology, and environment, reflects a constant predatory attitude.' "

-Pg 368

What I Disliked:

-This was an emotionally-draining read for me. I'm gonna be honest, I was reading true crime, I expect dark, tragic things, but this book affected me weird, and I'm not sure why either. I think one of the reasons I finished this was because I felt compelled to, because I paid a paperbackswap credit for this.

-When I read True Crime, I expect it to fall in more intellectual/academia than this was written. It felt like it relied to much on emotional manipulation that felt really heavy handed to me. I don't need to be hit over the head with emotions. I already feel a lot of empathy for the victims and their family, I don't need to be constantly hit in the face with it.

-This was written in what felt like to me in a more tabloid/exploitive fashion, which is fine with gossip and the like, but this book sometimes rubbed me the wrong way.

-Also trigger warning for graphic gore/murder scene/and rape, including child rape (though this one was more fade to black then the others).

-I really got annoyed with how the victims were written about. Don't get me wrong, those poor women/girls and their family, my heart goes out for them. I just got irritated with the emphasis put on their all-american looks. How BEAUTIFUL, PRETTY, and PURE and INNOCENT they were. Yes, those poor women/girls and they were pretty/beautiful, but there is more to them than that. There was so much emphasis on the PERFECT VICTIM, that it was just ugh, can you not?

-Near the end of the book, the author included a quote from a defense lawyer, who had to say this:

"It is a rarity in my job. Not all the victims are so nice. I deal with drug dealers. **Some people put themselves in a position of vulnerability**, but every one of these people [victims] was a really genuine good person."

-Pg 360-361

So much classism. Believe it or not, some people have to work night shift or have a valid reason to be out past what you deem an acceptable hour. Also nice subtle dig at prostitutes who are often victims of violence and popular serial killer victims. I'm sure there are other problematic things to mention in this quote (like race issues, subtly implied again), but I'm getting really angry right now. I bolded the above for emphasis. I guess you are only a good person if you are the PERFECT VICTIM. At least that's what I'm getting from what little context is in the book. EW.

My actual facial expression while reading this.

-There were a lot of random mentioning of other serial killers at that time. It felt random without any

cohesion. It was a bit off-topic, imho.

I'm sure there is a lot more to comment on, but my brain is feeling angry at me, so I think that this is enough for now.

I'm 3000% done with everything about this book. BYE.

Sue says

Well-written, I did enjoy all the very small chapters. Story is sad because this predator's crimes were so gruesome. Now rotting in San Quentin, I would have NO problem pulling the plug on this guy.

Ronnie Cramer says

In a word: creepy.
