



# **Dead Ends: The Pursuit, Conviction, and Execution of Serial Killer Aileen Wuornos**

*Joseph Michael Reynolds*

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**The chilling true story of female serial killer Aileen Wuornos, whose violent crimes shocked the nation—and inspired the Academy Award–winning film *Monster*.**

When police in Florida's Volusia County were called to investigate the murder of Richard Mallory, whose gunshot-ridden body had been found in the woods just north of Daytona Beach in December 1989, their search led them to a string of dead ends before the trail went cold six months later. During the spring and summer of 1990, the bodies of six more middle-aged white men were discovered—all in secluded areas near their abandoned vehicles, all but one shot dead with a .22 caliber pistol—and all without any suspects, motives, or leads.

The police speculated that the murders were connected, but they never anticipated what they'd soon discover: The killings were the work of a single culprit, Aileen Wuornos, one of the first women to ever fit the profile of a serial killer. With the cooperation of her former lover and accomplice, Tyria Moore, the police were able to solicit a confession from Wuornos about her months-long killing spree along Florida's interstate highways. The nation was quickly swept up in the drama of her trial and the media dubbed her the "Damsel of Death" as horrifying details of her past as a prostitute and drifter emerged.

Written by the Reuters reporter who initially broke the story, *Dead Ends* is a thrilling firsthand account of Wuornos's capture, trial, and ultimate sentencing to death by lethal injection, that goes beyond the media frenzy to reveal the even more disturbing truth.

## Dead Ends: The Pursuit, Conviction, and Execution of Serial Killer Aileen Wuornos Details

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Author : Joseph Michael Reynolds

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# **From Reader Review Dead Ends: The Pursuit, Conviction, and Execution of Serial Killer Aileen Wuornos for online ebook**

## **Robert says**

### **Good story balanced presentation.**

Very readable and logically presented recounting of this sad saga. Provides background showing she never really had a chance. Nicely done.

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## **Irene says**

I was not very familiar with this case before reading Dead Ends. Sure I have heard the name Aileen Wuornos and knew she was a convicted and executed serial killer, but that's really all I knew. I never knew she was pregnant at such a young age, or tossed out on her own so young.

This was a highly detailed and informative account of how Aileen Wournos was caught, and her subsequent trial and sentencing.. There is no doubt she was guilty but after reading about people who planned to use her story as their own personal jack pot, or ending up with an attorney who called himself Dr. Legal I can't help but almost feel a speck of sympathy, not so much for her but for the childhood she had, and the child she was. I can't help but wonder if her son ever found out who his mother was and for his sake I hope he didn't know. Some questions are better left unanswered.

I received an advance copy for review.

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## **Sandy Kling says**

I felt that the book was poorly written. It seems also that if the investigation was portrayed correctly, there was so much evidence; therefore, the entire case dragged out way too long.

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## **Jennifer Giles Hinojosa says**

I thought this book did a great job of looking into Wuornos and her personality. The murders were covered in good detail and the victims were not just a footnote. I liked that the book also described aspects of the investigation. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in serial killers.

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## **Liz Banks says**

I read this because I wanted to know what kind of woman would become a serial killer. Now I know. It was written by an investigative reporter so it is written in that style. I can't say I liked it. I can say I learned from it.

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## **Erin says**

ARC for review. EPD: June 21, 2016.

I've long been fascinated by the case of Aileen Wuornos, if not the first female serial killer in the U.S. then certainly the most famous. At first I was unsure why there would be a new book about Wuornos so many years after her crimes and her death, and I'm still not really sure why this is being reissued - I didn't realize until after I finished the book that the original copyright was in 1992 with a six page "Postmortem" chapter chronicling Wuornos's death copyrighted in 2004, so I'm still not sure about the 2016 release. In any event, while this might have been the best of the volumes about her back in 1992, the book is mostly just information that could be obtained through a FOIA request - full reviews of the capture of Wuornos and her confession, plus additional information likely pulled from the odd but fascinating duo of documentaries created by Nick Broomfield - if a reader is most interested in procedure (and doesn't mind the writer placing himself into the story a bit) then read this book, but if it's the psychology that interests you, check out the docs instead.

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## **Lisa Bennett says**

A sad story, and a very unfair and wrong conclusion. Aileen killed these men because she was mentally unstable. She was raped by the first one, as well as by any men from the past, including a friend of the family and a relative. She became fearful that all men were the same, so when in a situation with a man while being a prostitute, she feared that they would also rape her, so she killed them. She was mentally ill, and this is so obvious to so many people, but she was sentenced to death by men who feared that they would be next if she was set free. She should have been put in a high security mental hospital, where she could live out her days getting the help she needed for her mental illnesses. She should never have been put to the chair. So wrong, A very interesting and sad book, worthy of a read.

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## **Chris says**

This book was written to give people insight of the mind of a serial killer. I just heard of the case and didn't know much about it so I picked up the book. I learned a lot about case. My conclusions I'm not sure at times I felt sorry for her and at others I said to myself you are one psychotic being to do what you did with no conscious and actually think these men deserved it. I just have to say WOW, guess she got what she wanted when she was first arrested.

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## **Kilian Metcalf says**

Unlike the movie and TV versions, true police work is deadly dull. It's hours and hours of piecing together leads and bits of evidence. The case of Aileen Wuornos was no different. Also unlike master criminals in TV and movies, Wuornos was stupid. She scattered evidence here and there and confessed on tape. The interest is in what made her do the murders and what was she really like. Unfortunately, the answers to both those

questions are banal. She murdered for money and she was dull beyond belief.

It's best not to drill too deeply into the personality of this serial killer. Deep down she is profoundly shallow.

My blog:

The Interstitial Reader

[https://theinterstitialreader.wordpre...](https://theinterstitialreader.wordpress.com/)

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### **Michelle says**

Utterly heartbreaking. Anyone who has read this must see the movie about her called, "Monster". Anyone who has seen the movie must read this book which goes more in-depth about Aileen Wuornos life and reveals perhaps why she lived a life of crime.

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### **E Vikander says**

Dead Ends is the true story of Aileen Wuornos, the 35th female serial killer in the United States. Using primary sources, Reynolds objectively describes the seven murders she committed, her trial, and sentencing. Reynolds broke the story as a Reuters correspondent in Florida and covered the trial, giving him first-hand knowledge of the case. This is a fast-paced book that I could not put down; it is well worth the read.

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### **Marie says**

Wow where to begin....There has always been something about her. I watch Monster, where I first came across Wuornos. Did some browsing and then bought her 1993 interview on dvd before she went to meet her maker. Then I seen this book and I had to read it. It went into so much detail that I didn't know. Especially about her birth parents. She seemed like her dad's twin and thats weird because she never even met him. I believe she has alot of mental issues. As a part of me thinks a person with issues like hers shouldn't have been put to death. But, on the other hand she killed 7 men. They were fathers and husband and sons. She knew what she did. She showed no remorse. Until she died she kept to her story that they raped or abused her. It might of been a bit more believable if she didn't say it was all 7 that abused her. Although, on the other hand...I feel real bad for her. She had such a rough life, I cant even imagine. If she was alive right now, I think I would of definitely wrote to her. All she wanted was to be loved and have someone to trust. Everyone that came into her life screwed her one way or another.

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### **Stephani Elise says**

Very informative and comprehensive.

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## SerialReader says

Someone once said: "*how much suffering one person can inflict upon another before creating a monster*".

The Serial Reader Blog.

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## Brenna says

Although not America's first female serial killer, Aileen "Lee" Wuornos is often considered as such. Technically, according to the FBI, she is the first *textbook* female serial killer (as females had been serial killing for decades in the United States, only limiting their crimes toward those they knew intimately). And author Michael Reynolds was the news writer who broke the story.

"Story" is also an accurate description of his book, *Dead Ends*. In fact, it is arguably a non-fiction novel, with the highly fictionalized conversations and imagined home scenes between the investigators and Aileen Wuornos herself (somewhat along the lines of Norman Mailer's *Executioner's Song*, only not nearly as poetic).

Rather than rely on such fillers as describing the geography of Florida, the political scene during her murder spree of the late 1980s/early 1990s, or other such non sequitur information, Reynolds details each case on an individual basis, following false leads and cleared suspects, just as investigators must have. Of course, there is no way to verify that the words attributed to specific officers and suspects are verbatim (which are, in all likelihood, the products of recollections, perhaps even Reynolds' imagination). This makes for a more fluid read than many other offerings from the St. Martin's True Crime Library repertoire - a substantially superior recounting of the news item.

Yet, it remains within the realm of voyeuristic narrative which draws in the morbidly curious, and repels those to whom the true crime genre does not appeal. While not a spectacular book, it does attain a standard higher than the majority of its ilk.

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