



Black Dahlia Avenger: The True Story

By Steve Hodel



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A spellbinding tour de force of true-crime writing, this newly revised edition includes never-before-published forensic evidence, photos, and previously unreleased documents, definitively closing the case that has often been called "the most notorious unsolved murder of the twentieth century."

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Black Dahlia Avenger: The True Story By Steve Hodel Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

For 56 years, the Black Dahlia murder case remained one of the most notorious and high-profile unsolved crimes of the 20th century. Now, Steve Hodel, a 24-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department, believes he has finally solved the case. On January 15, 1947, 22-year-old Elizabeth Short—"The Black Dahlia"—was found dead in a vacant lot in Los Angeles, her body horribly mutilated, bisected at the waist, and posed in a bizarre manner. The horrific crime shocked the country and commanded headlines for months as the killer taunted the police with notes and phone calls. Despite the massive manhunt, the murderer was never found.

Hodel began working on the case after he retired from the LAPD when he chanced upon an intriguing piece of evidence that led him on trail that he had no choice but to follow since it pertained directly to him. As he dug deeper, he came to believe that the killer was also responsible for over a dozen other unsolved murders in the Los Angeles area around the same time. He also found copious evidence of corruption at the LAPD, leading him to accuse the department top brass of covering up the Black Dahlia murder in order to conceal a deeper conspiracy involving crooked politicians and gangsters.

Despite a lack of physical evidence (which had been destroyed), Hodel is able to connect numerous dots and make a plausible case, complete with lurid tales of wild orgies that were attended by celebrities such as the artist Man Ray, the director John Huston, and a host of other Hollywood elites. He also discloses his killer's obsession with the Marquis de Sade and Jack the Ripper and how he modeled his own crimes on their behavior. In particular, there is a disturbing connection between the work of Man Ray and the horrific circumstances of Short's murder. It is doubtful that this will be the final word on the Black Dahlia murder—too much myth surrounds it and much of his evidence is circumstantial—but Hodel's labyrinthine tale adds much to this intriguing case. --*Shawn Carkonen*

Review

...Steve Hodel has come to put the Black Dahlia painfully to rest. Hodel's investigation is thoroughly and completely convincing. So too is this book. As far as I am concerned, this case is closed."(--Michael Connelly, Bestselling author of Harry Bosch series Frontmatter blurb, Black Dahlia Avenger, HarperCollins 5th ed.)

"The best nonfiction book about L.A. crime I have ever read." (Gerald Petievich, author of *The Sentinel* and *To Live and Die in L.A.*)

"This unsparing, chilling account of the actions of a perfect psychopath grips to the end." (Toronto Globe and Mail)

"Hodel tells the story well and with incredible objectivity." (Richmond Times-Dispatch)

"We can only glimpse who Betty Short was—but now we know who killed her, and why." (-- James Ellroy, from his foreword)

"A fascinating family psychodrama; we watch [Hodel's] image of his father morph from flawed but lovable ladies' man to monster." (Newsweek)

"George Hodel, I think is fit company for some of noir's most civilized villains." (--David Thomson, *New*

York Times Book Review)

“Former Los Angeles police detective Steve Hodel has written one of the most compelling true-crime books of all time.” (Seattle Weekly)

“[Hodel] has written an intensely readable account...Has [he] solved the case? I think so.” (--Jon L. Breen, Weekly Standard)

“The most haunting murder mystery in Los Angeles county...has finally been solved.” (-- Stephen R. Kay, L.A. County Head Deputy District Attorney)

From the Author

This HarperCollins edition [July, 2006] of *Black Dahlia Avenger* contains two updated chapters which were added by me after the original hardback publication in 2003. It contains a lot of important new investigative linkage. The most important being the discovery of hidden DA Files which independently confirm my findings and identification of the actual suspect.

My investigation is ongoing and I anticipate the publication of *Black Dahlia Avenger II*, in January, 2012. That will be the sequel to this book and will contain my ongoing seven-year follow-up investigation and a massive amount of new linkage including the presentation of "hard physical evidence" connecting my suspect to a private residence and the actual vacant lot where he posed the surgically bisected body of Elizabeth "Black Dahlia" Short. Stay tuned, lot more to come.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Angela Dickens:

Now a day those who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources within it can be true or not need people to be aware of each info they get. How people have to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Studying a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information especially this *Black Dahlia Avenger: The True Story* book since this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

Kevin Miller:

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Dorothy Payne:

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John Davis:

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