



# Columbine

*By Dave Cullen*

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**Columbine** By Dave Cullen

## EXPANDED WITH A NEW EPILOGUE

"The tragedies keep coming. As we reel from the latest horror . . ." So begins a new epilogue, illustrating how Columbine became the template for nearly two decades of "spectacle murders." It is a false script, seized upon by a generation of new killers. In the wake of Newtown, Aurora, and Virginia Tech, the imperative to understand the crime that sparked this plague grows more urgent every year.

What really happened April 20, 1999? The horror left an indelible stamp on the American psyche, but most of what we "know" is wrong. It wasn't about jocks, Goths, or the Trench Coat Mafia. Dave Cullen was one of the first reporters on scene, and spent ten years on this book-widely recognized as the definitive account. With a keen investigative eye and psychological acumen, he draws on mountains of evidence, insight from the world's leading forensic psychologists, and the killers' own words and drawings-several reproduced in a new appendix. Cullen paints raw portraits of two polar opposite killers. They contrast starkly with the flashes of resilience and redemption among the survivors.

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## Columbine By Dave Cullen Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. In this remarkable account of the April 20, 1999, Columbine High School shooting, journalist Cullen not only dispels several of the prevailing myths about the event but tackles the hardest question of all: why did it happen? Drawing on extensive interviews, police reports and his own reporting, Cullen meticulously pieces together what happened when 18-year-old Eric Harris and 17-year-old Dylan Klebold killed 13 people before turning their guns on themselves. The media spin was that specific students, namely jocks, were targeted and that Dylan and Eric were members of the Trench Coat Mafia. According to Cullen, they lived apparently normal lives, but under the surface lay an angry, erratic depressive (Klebold) and a sadistic psychopath (Harris), together forming a combustible pair. They planned the massacre for a year, outlining their intentions for massive carnage in extensive journals and video diaries. Cullen expertly balances the psychological analysis—enhanced by several of the nation's leading experts on psychopathology—with an examination of the shooting's effects on survivors, victims' families and the Columbine community. Readers will come away from Cullen's unflinching account with a deeper understanding of what drove these boys to kill, even if the answers aren't easy to stomach. (*Apr. 6*) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Many reviewers were more concerned with coming to grips with the attack rather than assessing the book, but their concern may be a testament to Cullen's work. His reporting fundamentally reframes the event: Columbine, he writes, should be thought of as a failed bombing rather than a school shooting. Furthermore, much of the conventional wisdom about how to prevent such attacks—essentially, watch out for pimply outcasts with a grudge—is confounded by an investigation into Harris's and Klebold's actual lives. Most critics, with Janet Maslin a notable exception, thought that Cullen's account helps us to better wring meaning from the tragedy. In sum, Columbine "is an excellent work of media criticism, showing how legends become truths through continual citation" (New York Times Book Review).

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From [Booklist](#)

\*Starred Review\* Although much has been written about the 1999 shooting at Columbine High School, little of it has helped to explain why two high-school students went on a rampage, killing 13 people and wounding scores of others. Cullen, acclaimed expert on Columbine, offers a penetrating look at the motivation and intent of the shooters, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold. Drawing on interviews, police records, media coverage, and diaries and videotapes left behind by the shooters, Cullen examines the killers' beliefs and psychological states of mind. Chilling journal entries show a progression from adolescent angst to psychopathic rage as they planned a multistage killing spree that included bombs that ultimately didn't detonate. Cullen goes beyond detailing the planning and execution of the shootings, delving into the early lives of the killers as well. He explores the aftermath for the town of Littleton, Colorado: survivors' stories, investigation into how the sheriff's department mishandled the crisis, several ongoing legal issues, exploitation of the shooting by some religious groups and sensationalists, and the school's battle to regain its identity. Cullen debunks several Columbine myths, including the goth angle and a martyrdom story of a girl who proclaimed her belief in God before she was killed. Graphic and emotionally vivid; spectacularly researched and analyzed. --Vanessa Bush

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Gabriel Reyes:**

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? E-book is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or maybe goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They are really reading whatever they acquire because their hobby is definitely reading a book. Consider the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man feel need book after they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you'll have this Columbine.

#### **Patricia Little:**

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Columbine, you are able to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its called reading friends.

#### **Shirley Nichols:**

This Columbine is great e-book for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. This particular book reveal it details accurately using great manage word or we can say no rambling sentences included. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but hard core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having Columbine in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, data in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no book that offer you world within ten or fifteen minute right but this guide already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt which?

#### **Joan Beverly:**

Do you like reading a guide? Confuse to looking for your chosen book? Or your book has been rare? Why so many problem for the book? But any people feel that they enjoy for reading. Some people likes reading through, not only science book and also novel and Columbine or perhaps others sources were given information for you. After you know how the great a book, you feel wish to read more and more. Science book was created for teacher or students especially. Those ebooks are helping them to put their knowledge. In different case, beside science book, any other book likes Columbine to make your spare time a lot more colorful. Many types of book like this.

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