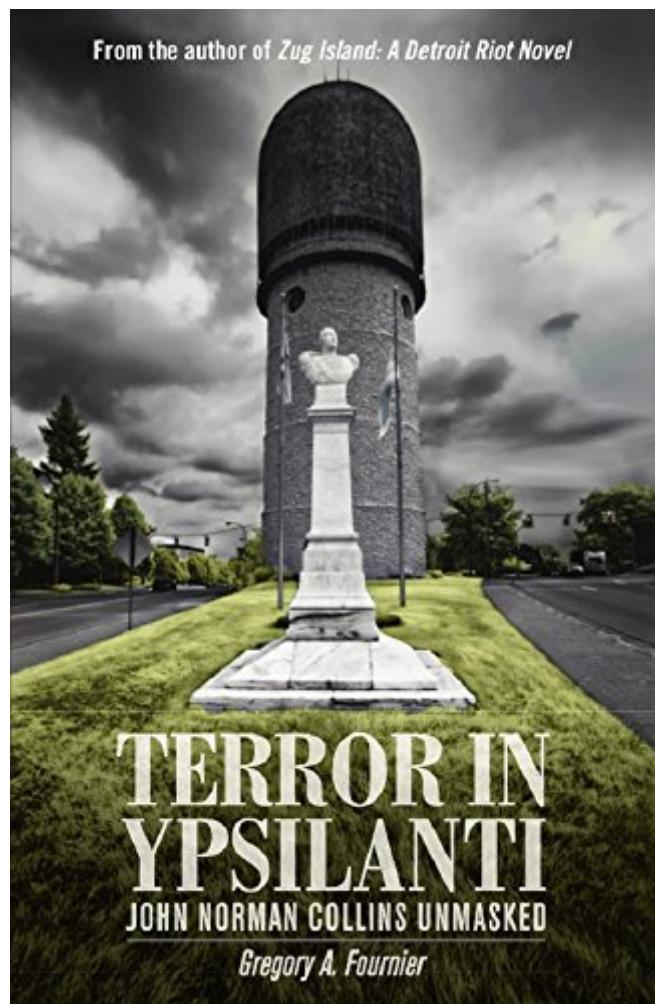


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# Terror In Ypsilanti: John Norman Collins Unmasked



## **Synopsis**

Between the summers of 1967 through 1969, before the term serial killer was coined, a predatory killer stalked the campuses of Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan seeking prey until he made the arrogant mistake of killing his last victim in the basement of his uncle's home. All-American boy John Norman Collins was arrested, tried, and convicted of the strangulation murder of Karen Sue Beineman. The other murders attributed to Collins never went to trial, with one exception, and soon became cold cases. With the benefit of fifty years of hindsight, hundreds of vintage newspaper articles, thousands of police reports, and countless interviews, *Terror in Ypsilanti: John Norman Collins Unmasked* tells the stories of the other victims, recreates the infamous trial that took Collins off the streets, and details Collins' time spent in prison. *Terror in Ypsilanti* compiles an array of physical and circumstantial evidence drawing an unmistakable portrait of the sadistic murderer who slaughtered these innocent young women.

**About the Author**  
Gregory A. Fournier received his bachelor and master's degrees from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti while the Washtenaw County murders were occurring. He lived one block up the street from John Norman Collins and had several unpleasant brushes with him. Like so many other people in Ypsilanti, it was not until Collins was arrested and his photograph ran on the front pages that Greg could link a name with the face. He has first-hand knowledge of the Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor area and many of the people associated with these cases. Greg has appeared on the Investigation Discovery Channel as a guest expert on John Norman Collins for their true crime series *A Crime to Remember* in an episode entitled "A New Kind of Monster." He is the author of *Zug Island: A Detroit Riot Novel* and writes a blog entitled *Fornology*.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I was a student at Eastern Michigan University and read the book, The Michigan Murders, in my senior year on the recommendation of a friend. After finishing the book I wanted more information on the police work, politics and the trial. I have been following Gregory A Fournier's progress on the book and was anxiously awaiting its release. I have read the other book on Collins (The Michigan Murders) and really enjoyed it but this book is so much more extensive in detail and research. You actually get to learn about, what happens in the courtroom and the circus atmosphere surrounding it. I HIGHLY recommend anyone who was a fan of The Michigan Murders to read this book. You will be blown away at the exhaustive research that must have gone into the writing of the book.

Gregory Fournier delivers big time. Carefully researched, details never before revealed, the use of real names as opposed to pseudonyms, and bringing the reader current, make 'Terror in Ypsilanti - John Norman Collins Unmasked' a must read. I highly recommend this book to anyone who has followed this case over the years, or those new to it. This book is the 'real deal'.

Terror in Ypsilanti is a fabulous book. The story is fascinating, especially for someone like me, who was on the West coast during the time the murders happened, so I hadn't heard much about them. Gregory A. Fournier has done a terrific job documenting the details of the murders and the subsequent trial and incarceration of John Norman Collins. The writing is clear and straight-forward, with many relevant bits of information that the author uncovered after years of research woven into the narrative. I found the cold-blooded arrogance of Collins to be both repulsive and gripping - this is a book that is difficult to put down once you start reading. The book includes a map of the drop sites for the Washtenaw County murders and a collection of photographs of the victims, Collins, his parents, and the prosecutors, attorneys, and sheriffs (along with the Dutch psychic), who were all a part of this chilling episode in Michigan state history. I found the three appendices (a breakdown of the time line, a directory of places mentioned in the book, and a list of all of the people who appear

in the book) to be especially helpful. There's also a comprehensive index. This author did his homework, and it shows. Highly recommended.

Mr. Fournier did an excellent job researching, documenting and recounting the events related to John Norman Collin's terror spree. There was quite a bit I did not know and the updates gathered over the last 40+ years added a lot to the story. For those of us who were attending EMU at the time, this story is part of our history and is this book is the only one that tells the full story as we now know it. It is well written and an easy read. Kudos to the author!

The definitive work on Michigan serial killer John Norman Collins!

Greg Fournier put a lot of time and effort into this book and it shows! The book gives the reader a look inside the cold, calculating mind of Michigan's most notorious serial killer. This is a must read for anyone who enjoys the True Crime genre'. I can't wait to see what Fournier writes next.

I read Edward Keyes "The Michigan Murders" and wanted to get an update. That's how I came across this book. It was worth the wait. It's an excellent telling of what happened. As one other reviewer mentioned, I wish we could know more about Collins family situation, a lot was implied in Keyes' book. Fournier did a great job with facts. I was left wanting to more about the emotional angle. It just might be that's impossible though, given the passage of time. I think Keyes' book and Fournier's book complement each other nicely.

I was a high school student living in Ypsilanti at the time of these horrible murders. Terror in Ypsilanti: John Norman Collins Unmasked captures the caution and fear gripping our community in the late 60's. Parents with high school and college aged female children were in constant and agonizing fear of having there kids out of their sight. Some of the details of the murders and condition of their bodies shockingly showed us all that even a clean cut, popular, good looking, but very manipulative college boy like John Norman Collins can harbor a evil murdering monster within his soul. Kudos to Mr. Fournier for a well written book.

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