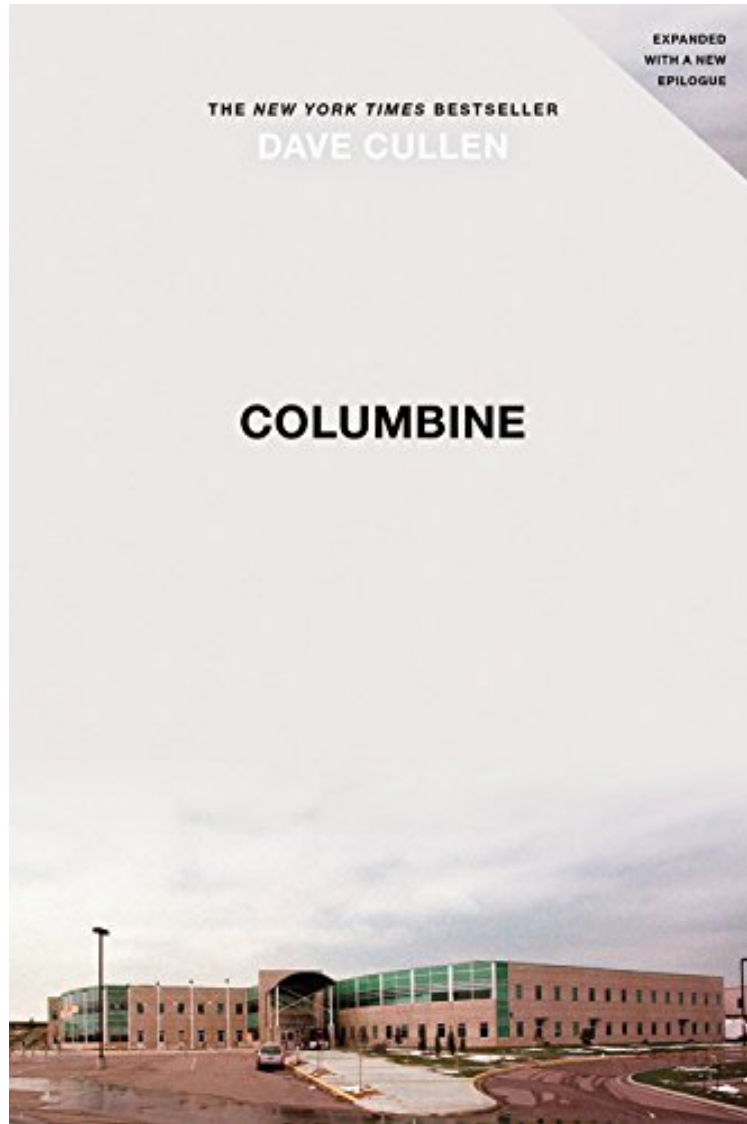


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Columbine

Dave Cullen

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Dave Cullen : Columbine before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Columbine:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dave Cullen is obviously a talented investigator and writer. ...By Peter B. PhillipsDave Cullen is obviously a talented investigator and writer. The book is a nonfiction masterpiece of research, documentation, and written presentation. I'm looking forward to his new book in 2018!Oh, and the book was delivered very promptly and brand new as advertised.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. UnrealBy

smithml26One of the best written books I have ever read, no politics, no sides just the story of a horrible tragedy that shocked the world. A must read for anyone whom has kids or works with kids on a daily basis.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Truth of the TragedyBy Mary M. HashagenAfter reading this book, I feel I have a more truthful understanding of the events which occurred at Columbine High School in Spring of 1999. This understanding comes from the facts and interpretations provided by Dave Cullen, as he logically explains the motives and mindsets of the killers, victims, and media. Cullen begins by explaining the killers Eric and Dylan. In the beginning, he uses the boys' journals, tapes, and family interviews to negate the media's portrayal of the boys. He shows the boys are not entirely outcasts at their school and participate in normal teenage dilemmas such as finding prom dates. He uses interviews from family members and acquaintances to explain Eric's inescapable charm and Dylan's defeating shyness. He later uses F.B.I. agent Dwayne Fuselier's examinations of the boys to explain Eric's cool disposition to be caused by the inability to feel human emotion, or psychopathy. Cullen also uses Fuselier to explain Dylan's depression, which lead to his acceptance of Eric's idea to commit suicide. Next, Cullen gives the reader details about each victim's pain both during the tragedy and afterwards. Specifically, he gives graphic information concerning victims such as Patrick Ireland's experience of being shot in the head, and his determination to escape the school during the shooting. Cullen goes on towards the end of the book to narrate the victims' lives after the shooting such as Patrick's graduation, and later marriage. Finally, one of the most devastating parts of this book is the media's role in the tragedy. Cullen explains how the media misinformed the public because of its insistence to report as fast as possible. News reporters took information from unreliable students, who were oblivious as to even the existence of the shooters, while also broadcasting false facts from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. Cullen explains how the media, himself included, created false identities of the boys, while also placing the blame in numerous undeserving places. Overall, I highly recommend this book for those who are interesting in learning the actual occurrences before, during, and after the Columbine shooting. Although the format, which switches points of view rapidly, is not ideal, the facts in this book are overpoweringly enthralling. For prospective readers I also recommend having a box of tissues nearby, because the experience of the victims can become overwhelming.

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.

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . 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 MagazineMany 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).Copyright 2009 Bookmarks Publishing LLCFrom Booklist*Starred * 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