

Making a Killing (Preview)

C. Carr

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MAKING A KILLING

HOOVER-FROM-HELL AILEEN WUORNOS PLED GUILTY TO SIX COUNTS OF JOHN-ICIDE. BUT WAIT TILL YOU HEAR WHAT THE COPS, HER LOVER, HER LAWYER AND HER NEWLY ADOPTIVE MOTHER DID TO HER. C. CARR REPORTS.

BEFORE SHE HAD A NAME, SHE HAD AN IDENTITY: first female serial killer. In 1990, Florida police announced that they were trailing such a woman, who might be working with a partner, after they discovered the bodies of six middle-aged white men in remote areas of the state. They speculated that the killer posed as a damsel in distress in order to lure men into giving her a ride; then she nibbed and killed them. From the moment she was taken into custody in January 1991, Aileen "Lee" Wuornos became the prisoner of that monstrous image. Few heard her side of the story—that she was a serial victim—and apparently even fewer believed it.

A psychologically damaged person with a lurid history of abuse that began in childhood, Wuornos is ill-equipped to argue on her own behalf. She emerged from the great American underbelly, a ditherer from the age of fourteen, a bottom-of-the-barrel prostitute who worked the highways and an alcoholic who consumed as much as a case of beer a day. For four and a half years before her arrest, she lived in various fleabag motels with a woman lover, the most stable relationship of Wuornos's life. The lover turned state's evidence at her trial.

Hard-bitten, unkempt, unsympathetic, Wuornos admitted to killing seven men. (One body has never been >

Some of the men Wuornos killed—“They were crossing my line”, Richard Mallory, right, Peter Steens, top; David Spears, center. Wuornos after her arrest. Questions of guilt or innocence aside, Wuornos proved eminently marketable as “America’s First Female Serial Killer,” shown far right, in a Florida courtroom.



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[End of Page 72]



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