

Which is the most effective way to dispose of a troublesome corpse? Eat it? Dip it in a vat of acid? Feed it to pigs? Turn it into sausages? Or just pop it in the furnace?

All are the tried and tested methods of cold-blooded killers who compounded their original crimes of murder with deliberate and macabre mutilations.

THE BUTCHERS covers more than thirty such cases, from Catherine Hayes who set a trend in dismemberment in 1726 when she hacked off her husband's head and tossed it into the Thames, to Dennis Nilsen who was doing much the same to his victims in 1983; from Marcel Petiot's quicklime pits in Occupied Paris, to New York's infamous Albert 'The Cannibal' Fish.

However meticulous and ingenious, none of them got away with murder! And, as this fascinating book shows, only painstaking investigation and forensics led to the final unmasking of the sadists and psychotics who sought such bloody concealment of their crimes.