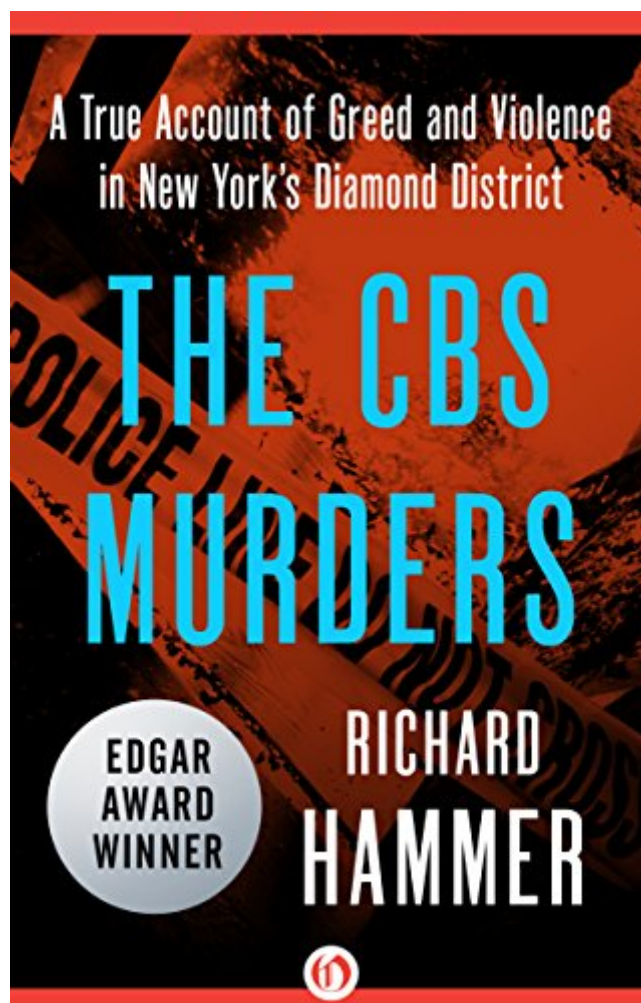


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# The CBS Murders: A True Account Of Greed And Violence In New York's Diamond District



## Synopsis

Winner of the Edgar Award: The gripping account of a gruesome mass murder in gritty 1980s New York and the relentless hunt for a coldblooded killer. On a warm spring evening in 1982, thirty-seven-year-old accountant Margaret Barbera left work in New York City and walked to the West Side parking lot where she kept her BMW. Finding the lock on the driver's side door jammed, she went to the passenger's side and inserted her key. A man leaned through the open window of a van parked in the next spot, pressed a silenced pistol to the back of Margaret's head, and fired. She was dead before she hit the pavement. It was a professional hit, meticulously planned—but the killer didn't expect three employees of the nearby CBS television studios to stumble onto the scene of the crime. "You didn't see nothin', did you?" he demanded, before shooting the first eyewitness in the head. After chasing down and executing the other two men, the murderer sped out of the parking lot with Margaret's lifeless body in the back of his van. Thirty minutes later, the first detectives arrived on the scene. Veterans of Midtown North, a sprawling precinct stretching from the exclusive shops of Fifth Avenue to the flophouses of Hell's Kitchen, they thought they'd seen it all. But a bloodbath in the heart of Manhattan was a shocking new level of depravity, and the investigation would unfold under intense media coverage. Setting out on the trail of an assassin, the NYPD uncovered one of the most diabolical criminal conspiracies in the city's history. Richard Hammer's blow-by-blow account of the CBS Murders is a thrilling tale of greed, violence, and betrayal, and a fascinating portrait of how a big-city police department solved the toughest of cases.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Richard Hammer's THE CBS MURDERS actually has almost nothing to do with CBS. The only connection is that three employees of CBS, who were in the wrong place at the wrong time, innocently stumbled onto a hit in a Manhattan parking garage and were then executed by the hit man. The intended victim, Margaret Barbera, was also murdered, and what the book is actually about is the machinations of a greedy and sociopathic jewelry manufacturer and wholesaler named Irwin Margolies and his equally greedy wife, Madeleine. Besides randomly ripping off friends and acquaintances, the Margolies, with Barbera's help, fashioned a Ponzi scheme with only one victim, the company that was financing what it thought was the expansion of Margolies' business. I had a few minor problems with the book's editing, mainly the picture section. While there are some excellent photos, there are also - for example - pictures of the garage and living room of Donald Nash, a major player in the account, but there are no pictures of Nash. Also, really sloppily, the picture of Margolies is labeled "Margoles"; and most egregiously, a picture of the body of Leo Kuranuki is labeled "Leo Kuranski" instantly changing his nationality from Japanese to Polish. And finally the capitol of Kentucky is Frankfort, not "Frankfurt". I am certain, however, that author Hammer was not responsible for picture section, because his research and writing are as good as it gets. The story is fascinating and fast moving, with no wasted motion, no filler, no attempts at drama, and no embellishment. Hammer writes literately, intelligently, and extremely skillfully. I was so captivated that I read the book at one sitting. This is the second book I have recently read by Richard Hammer, the first one being BEYOND OBSESSION, an outstanding 5-star effort. I liked THE CBS MURDERS even better and recommend it unreservedly. Hammer has numerous other books listed on this site. I plan to continue to read him.

I usually like true crime books. However this book got off to a slow start and I put it down and it took an effort to get back to the book. Richard Hammer's THE CBS MURDERS actually has almost nothing to do with CBS. The only connection is that three employees of CBS, who were in the wrong place at the wrong time, innocently stumbled onto a hit in a Manhattan parking garage and were

then executed by the hit man. As the book progressed I got more into the book and it provided a real account to the murders. In my opinion, the book had a few minor problems with the book's editing, mainly the picture section. While there are some excellent photos, there are also - for example - pictures of the garage and living room of Donald Nash, a major player in the account, but there are no pictures of Nash. Also, really sloppily, the picture of Margolies is labeled "Margoles"; and most egregiously, a picture of the body of Leo Kuranuki is labeled "Leo Kuranski" instantly changing his nationality from Japanese to Polish. And finally the capitol of Kentucky is Frankfort, not "Frankfurt".

A gruesome mass murder in 1980s New York a search for a murderer. This book kept me racing through the pages. A horrible murder based on paid for hire & innocent victims in the wrong place at the wrong time,

From start to finish this account of the grisly crime holds the readers interest. Whilst the murders happened many years ago, the detailed story is worth the read.

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