CHAPTER ONE: THE INVESTIGATION

"Put yourself in the position of the hunter. That's what I have to do."
—John Douglas, FBI criminal profiler

Let's start by reviewing the basic terms used by criminal profilers in an investigation. Some of them you might be familiar with from TV shows like *Criminal Minds, NCIS, CSI,* and *Law & Order.*

UNSUB is an abbreviation for Unknown Subject.

MO refers to the modus operandi, or method of operation. MO covers the practical details of how, when, and where a crime is carried out, such as the time and place it occurs, the approach to the victim, the restraints and weapons used, and the types and level of injury inflicted on a victim.

The *signature* is a psychological profile of a crime scene. Investigators look at what the crime scenes reveal about the UNSUB's personality, motivation, and ways of expressing himself.

A *serial rapist* is a criminal who has committed three or more stranger rapes with a cooling-off period in between.

A *serial killer* is a criminal who has committed three or more stranger murders with a cooling-off period in between. The cooling-off period distinguishes him from a mass murderer or spree killer.

In this book, we'll take advantage of what FBI profilers, forensic psychiatrists and psychologists learned through interviewing serial killers. While your chances of encountering a serial killer are thankfully slim, every serial killer was a serial rapist first. Forensic research established they have the identical predatory mind-set. "Behavior is personality," says veteran profiler John Douglas. For that reason, "The better women understand these processes and issues, the better they will be able to recognize these behaviors and combat them."

In investigating a sexual homicide, the police refer to the **three crime scenes**.

1. The first crime scene is where *the approach* by the UNSUB takes place.

2. The second crime scene is where the UNSUB *commits* the rape-murder.

3. The third crime scene is where the UNSUB *disposes* of the body and *removes*

evidence.

By analyzing the evidence from the first crime scene, the police can decide whether the UNSUB is a *persuasion predator* or a *force predator*. A persuasion predator uses verbal means (the con) to lure a victim to the second crime scene. A force predator is less socially adept. His MO is to catch a victim by surprise with a display of brute force.