



# MURDER SPARKED BY RHPS OCCULT!

The following excerpts were taken from People Magazine, Dec. 1, 1986.

**A**n eerie calm hangs over death row at Oklahoma State Penitentiary, where Sean Sellers, 17, passes his days penciling poems and reflections in a spiral notebook. The youngest among 66 condemned men, Sellers looks more schoolboy than savage killer: Affable, intelligent, self-absorbed, he could be just another sandy-haired teenager on the cusp of manhood. But the seeming innocence belies a past as lurid as anything ever invented by horrormeister Stephen King. When he killed a convenience store clerk, when he murdered his own mother and stepfather as they slept, he was, he says, paying homage to Satan.

An exceedingly bright student, the boy took comfort in reading. At first science fiction and tales of the supernatural were his staples; later, a baby-sitter introduced him to books about Satanism, and he found himself attracted to the occult. When as a 12-year-old he discovered the role-playing game Dungeons & Dragons, it fueled his darkening fantasies.

When Vonda and Paul reassembled the family in Oklahoma City in the fall of 1984, their son was elated. Reunited with Richard, he introduced him to Satanism and found a handful of new friends willing to explore the occult. By February 1985 he was ready to dedicate his life to the powers of darkness. In a solitary ceremony in his bedroom, he lit candles, burned incense and wrote in his own blood, "I renounce God, I renounce Christ, I will serve only Satan . . . Hail Satan."

In the summer of 1983, the Bellocattos moved to Greeley, Colo., where Paul had found a new job, and Sean left his soul mate behind. Sellers' unhappiness was eased by a summer romance with a girl he met at church camp. When his girlfriend severed the relationship that winter, Sean thought of killing himself, then turned to Satanism for solace. "I was mad at God," he says. In his journal he wrote, "Deep down I want power . . . the unruling [sic] power of the supernatural."

Sean found kindred spirits at an occult bookstore and midnight showings of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Satanists, he says, are easily recognizable by their "evil taint," but Sean further identified himself by a symbolic dress code: He wore his left shirt-sleeve rolled up and kept his left pinkie fingernail long, sharpened and painted black.

On Sept. 8, 1985, Sean says he and Richard prepared themselves for the ultimate act of fealty. After a sacrificial ritual, Richard—as Sean remembers it—stole his grandfather's .357 Magnum, and the two drove to a convenience store in search of Robert Bower, a clerk who once refused to sell them beer. When Sean aimed the gun, fired and missed, Bower "was terrified. I guess he looked in my eyes and knew I was going to kill him." Sean fired again, wounding Bower, who then ran to the back of the store. Richard blocked him. "Richard yelled, 'Do it!' I fired and the guy fell . . ." says Sean.

After the murder, explains Sean, "I plunged into Satanism with everything I had 'cause that had opened a new portal." In the following weeks his psychic frenzy intensified. While working as a bouncer at a teenage nightclub, he fell in love with a 15-year-old named Angel. "First Ezurate was attracted to her sexuality. Then Sean really started to love her," he remembers. "I was obsessed with Satanism and Angel."

After returning from the pizza parlor where he worked part-time, he began his nightly devotions: Taking off his clothes, he put on black underwear and a black hooded cape. He lit candles and incense, poured blood into the chalice on the makeshift altar and began an invocation. At some point, Sean says, he slept. When he awoke he found Paul's .44 revolver in his own room. From there it was only a matter of tiptoeing into his parents' bedroom with the stealth of a *ninjutsu* assassin. "My heart started beating fast, and then everything went calm," Sean now recalls. "I pointed the gun at my dad's head and fired. I pointed the gun at my mom's head and fired."

Richard, who was originally charged with murder, testified for the prosecution at Sean's trial. He swore that Sean stole the gun and that he waited outside the store and played no part in the crime. In return for his testimony Richard received a five-year deferred sentence for being an accessory after the fact.

Ironically he has re-embraced Christianity with much the fervor he brought to worshiping Satan. Spiritually reborn, he holds no malice toward the friend who bore witness against him. "I love Richard," he says. His lawyers are appealing the death sentence, but Sean seems resigned to it. "Now that I remember all this, of course I want to die. But the Lord has given me a burden to reach out and help other people so no one else will follow in my footsteps."

—Written by Michelle Green, reported by Civia Tamarkin

### Sean Sellers

Your story about Sean Sellers mentioned how a devil worshipper found "kindred spirits" at *The Rocky Horror Show*. Please understand that *Rocky Horror* has no connection to the Devil and does not promote satanism in any form. Please don't confuse "cult" with "occult."

Jeff Cook  
 Mike McChesney  
 Pullman, Wash.

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 The Boston Outcast \*  
 will not be here \*  
 this week. \*

### LAST WEEK at MBC

ATTENDANCE DOOR PRIZE  
 FRI 62  
 SAT 117

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 The pupils for the eyes of reason  
 grow weak when the lids are closed.