

PART 2

HELTER



SKELTAR

**THE SHOCKING STORY OF
THE MANSON MURDERS**

VINCENT BUGLIOSI WITH CURT GENTRY

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**HELTER
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**THE TRUE STORY OF
THE MANSON MURDERS**

VINCENT BUGLIOSI
PROSECUTOR OF THE TATE-LA BIANCA TRIALS
WITH CURT GENTRY



arrow books

THE KILLERS

“You couldn’t meet a nicer group of people.”

Leslie Van Houten, describing the Manson Family to Sergeant Michael McGann

“At twelve o’clock a meeting round the table
For a seance in the dark
With voices out of nowhere
Put on especially by the children for a lark.”

The Beatles, “Cry Baby Cry,” “White Album”

“You have to have a real love in your heart to do this for people.”

Susan Atkins, telling Virginia Graham why she stabbed Sharon Tate

October 15-31, 1969

THE PHYSICAL DISTANCE between Parker Center, headquarters of the Los Angeles Police Department, and the Hall of Justice, which houses the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, is four blocks. That distance can be traversed in the time it takes to dial a telephone.

But it isn't always that easy. Though LAPD and LASO cooperate on investigations that involve both jurisdictions, there exists between them a certain amount of jealousy.

One of the LaBianca detectives would later admit that he and his fellow officers *should* have checked with LASO homicide detectives in mid-August to see if they had any similar murders. But it wasn't until October 15, after most of their other leads had evaporated, that they did so.

When they did, they learned of the Hinman murder. And, unlike Sergeant Buckles of the Tate team, they found the similarities striking enough to merit further investigation.

There had been some recent developments in the Hinman case, Sergeants Whiteley and Guenther told them. Less than a week before, Inyo County officers had raided isolated Barker Ranch, located in an extremely rugged, almost inaccessible area south of Death Valley National Monument. The raid, based on charges ranging from grand theft to arson, had netted twenty-four members of a hippie cult known as the "Manson Family." Many of these same people—including their leader, Charles Manson, a thirty-four-year-old ex-con with a long and checkered criminal history—had also been arrested in an earlier raid