

Book Review

By Al Hidell

Curt Rowlett, *Labyrinth 13: True Tales of the Occult, Crime and Conspiracy* (2005), published on demand at www.lulu.com

Curt Rowlett is obsessed with the hidden, the obscure, the weird and the strange. He also has a deformity. He has three feet: one in the paranormal camp, one in the true crime camp, and one in the conspiracy camp. As a result, he has written *Labyrinth 13*, a collection of his best internet and magazine articles. The majority of articles concern the paranormal and occult, but conspiracy folks who wish to broaden their horizons should have much to ponder after reading this unique collection.

Rowlett's detailed analysis of the various theories surrounding California's Zodiac killings is particularly compelling. The article includes new information missed by past, more cursory, examinations of the case. For aspiring codebreakers, the author includes the still-unsolved 13-character cipher which the killer claimed would reveal his real name.

In writing this diverse anthology, Rowlett wasn't afraid to tell the reader when his investigation led him to doubt the veracity of a particular theory. While this approach may sometimes be less than tantalizing, it builds confidence in the author's intellectual honesty.

Lastly, the section of appendixes, notes, and resources is quite extensive, at nearly 80 pages. However, if this conjures images of page after page of tiny and boring text, that's not the case here. The commentary, previously unpublished research interviews, and updated information truly enhance the reader's understanding of what they've read.

From phantom black dogs, vampires, and haunted islands, to the Son of Sam, MKUltra, and the death of Curt Cobain, *Labyrinth 13* is certain to tell even jaded conspiracy researchers something new.