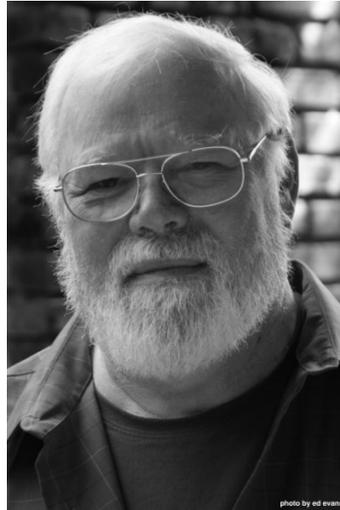


NYT Bestselling Author/Retired LAPD Homicide Detective

# Steve Hodel



[www.stevhodel.com](http://www.stevhodel.com)

## BIOGRAPHY

Steve Hodel was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. He served four years as a medic in the U.S. Navy, and then joined the Los Angeles Police Department in 1963. After six years in uniform patrol, he transferred to Hollywood Division Detectives where he worked all of the "tables": Burglary, Robbery, Auto-Theft, Juvenile, Crimes against Persons and was then permanently assigned to the Homicide Detail.

During his career at Hollywood Homicide, Steve promoted to Detective II and in 1983 was the senior field homicide detective. During his years of service he received more than 75 commendations and handled over 300 separate murder investigations and had one of the departments highest "solve rates." Steve promoted to Detective III (the highest attainable rank in detectives) and retired from LAPD in 1986.

HODEL INVESTIGATIONS was established in 1986. Steve has been a licensed California Private Investigator, conducting mainly criminal defense investigations, for the past 23-years. He worked over six-years as lead investigator on a high-profile international murder case which resulted in an innocent man (Yoshikuni Okubo) being released from prison in Tokyo, Japan and reunited with his family, after five years of detention.

Steve's first book, *Black Dahlia Avenger: A Genius for Murder* published in 2003 with new updated investigative chapters added to the HarperCollins paperback edition in 2004 and 2006. *Black Dahlia Avenger* is a *New York Times* Bestseller, a *NYT* Most Notable Book and was nominated by the Mystery Writers of America for an Edgar Award in the Best Fact Crime category.

Steve's sequel, *MOST EVIL: Avenger, Zodiac, The Further Serial Murders of Dr. George Hill Hodel*, published by DUTTON – PENGUIN GROUP on September 21, 2009. His third book, *Black Dahlia Avenger II*, will publish in 2012 and provides his investigative updates from 2005-2012. Steve resides in his hometown of Los Angeles, California

## **Talks/PowerPoint Presentations**

Since the publication of BDA in 2003, Steve has given dozens of talks and PowerPoint presentations on his investigation, which is regularly updated as new evidence and linkage continues to be uncovered. [Two new chapters have been added to the HarperCollins paperback edition.]

Steve has given talks to:

Pompidou Centre, Paris France  
Los Angeles Jonathan Club  
Los Angeles California Club  
Los Angeles Police Department Historical Society  
Adventurer's Club of Los Angeles  
California Association of Criminalists  
Pepperdine Law School  
Italian American Criminal Defense Attorneys Association  
California Association of Licensed Investigators  
Men of Mystery, Guest Speaker, Irvine, CA  
FBI National Academy Associate, Illinois Chapter  
South Bay Bar Association  
Numerous California Public Library presentations

## **Television Appearances**

1. THE VIEW (2003)
2. DATELINE NBC "Black Dahlia" Josh Mankiewicz (2003)
3. COURT TV "Who Killed the Black Dahlia?" Josh Mankiewicz (2003)
4. CBS 48-HOURS "Black Dahlia Confidential" (2004)
5. A&E Bill Kurtis COLD CASE FILES "Black Dahlia" (2006)
6. NBC Universal (France) The Truth About The Black Dahlia (2006)

7. CNN Anderson Cooper-360 "Black Dahlia" (2006)
8. Discovery Channel "MOST EVIL" (2007)
9. The Travel Channel "Hidden Cities- Los Angeles "The Black Dahlia" (2011)
10. SyFy Ghost Hunters Season 9, "Historic Sowden- Black Dahlia House" (2012)
11. *Sinister, The Movie*, Lionsgate Films, "True Crime Author Interview" (2012)
12. Univision, KMEX, Leon Krauze Special Investigation, "La Dahlia Negra" (2013)
13. NBC News, Patrick Healy, "Buster Cadaver Dog/Sowden House, Special Investigation (2013)

***Black Dahlia Avenger: A Genius for Murder*** ( Arcade Pub.  
2003, HarperCollins updated chapters-2004,2006)

In 1947, California's infamous Black Dahlia murder inspired the largest manhunt in Los Angeles history. Despite an unprecedented allocation of money and manpower, police investigators failed to identify the psychopath responsible for the sadistic murder and mutilation of beautiful twenty-two-year old Elizabeth Short. Decades later, former LAPD homicide detective turned private investigator Steve Hodel launched his own investigation into the grisly unsolved crime—and it led him to a shockingly unexpected perpetrator: Hodel's own father.

A spellbinding tour de force of true-crime writing, this newly revised edition includes never-before-published forensic evidence, photographs, and previously unreleased documents, definitively closing the case that has often been called "the most notorious unsolved murder of the twentieth century."

To the above publisher-written overview, I will add what for me was a second and equally shocking discovery. The fact that the Black Dahlia Murder- was not a standalone crime. (Lost in time and perpetuated as myth was the fact that all Southern California law enforcement agencies: LAPD and LASD (police and sheriffs) and the DA's investigators were aware and actively investigating at least five of the murders as probably being connected.)

I have dubbed, these —*The Los Angeles Lone Woman Murders*.

All of them committed by one man, my father, Dr. George Hill Hodel. How many? Difficult to say, however, I believe from 1943 to 1949, he committed somewhere between 7 and 20 serial murders in the Los Angeles and Southern California area. In BDA I break these suspected murders into separate "categories". (Category I -Definites,--Category II -Probables and Category III -Possibles.)

In a letter, included in BDA's original publication in 2003, one of the LADA's most respected Head Deputy DA's, Stephen Kay, confirmed that in his opinion, at least two of these murders (Elizabeth Short "Black Dahlia" and the Jeanne French "Red Lipstick") "were solved." Head DA Kay went further, indicating that if Dr. George Hill Hodel had still been alive, and had all the witnesses still been available, based on the evidence, he "was confident he could win the case in a jury trial."

***Most Evil: Avenger, Zodiac and the Further Serial Murders of Dr. George Hill Hodel***  
(Dutton Pub. 2009)

A headline-making new book from the bestselling author of *Black Dahlia Avenger*.

When veteran LAPD homicide detective Steve Hodel discovered that his own late father, Dr. George Hill Hodel, had known the victim in the infamous Black Dahlia murder case of 1947 Los Angeles, the ensuing three-year investigation became the New York Times bestseller, *Black Dahlia Avenger*. Publication led directly to the discovery of a cache of hidden documents, covered up for decades, that confirm George Hodel had long been law enforcement's number one suspect in Elizabeth Short's grisly death.

But for Steve Hodel, that revelation was only the beginning. With twenty-four years of experience investigating homicides as an LAPD detective he instinctively knew that if his father was capable of that level of cruelty, it probably didn't begin or end with the Black Dahlia. Steve Hodel has devoted the last decade to examining the evidence of his father's fascinating and mysterious life, and the shocking new revelations that have come to light in the last five years are the subject of *Most Evil*. His findings indicate that Dr. George Hill Hodel was among the most prolific serial killers in history, beginning as a young man and continuing to kill throughout his long life of ninety-one years. Among his crimes are dozens of unsolved murder cases stretching back sixty years.

*Most Evil* compiles an astonishing amount of never-before-seen visual, circumstantial, and forensic evidence to prove Hodel's case. This relentless, compelling, and persuasive investigation will revolutionize the way we think about some of the most intriguing, brutal, unsolved, and previously unconnected murders in American history—and it may change our understanding of serial killers altogether.

To view 7 minute video on Steve Hodel and his investigations go to-

[BEYOND THE BLACK DAHLIA](#)

***Black Dahlia Avenger II: Presenting the Follow-Up Investigation and further Evidence Linking Dr. George Hill Hodel to Los Angeles's Black Dahlia and other 1940s—LONE WOMAN MURDERS.*** (Thoughtprint Press 2012)

After the 2003 publication of his NYT bestseller and MWA Edgar nominated true-fact crime book, *Black Dahlia Avenger: A Genius for Murder*, and receiving a "Case Solved" legal opinion from many of LA's top law enforcement officials—which included a then active Head Deputy District Attorney and LAPD's Chief of Detectives—Hodel didn't stop there.

In BDA II bestselling author and veteran homicide detective Steve Hodel presents his five-year follow-up investigation [2006-2011] into Los Angeles's 1947 Black Dahlia and other serially connected 1940s *Lone Woman Murders*.

In this investigative sequel he identifies the actual Dahlia murder residence and *presents hard physical evidence connecting Dr. Hodel to evidence found near the body at the vacant lot.*

In BDA II the author's follow-up investigation provides us with a careful deconstruction of the Dahlia Myth—exposing and correcting the Black Dahlia Murder's Three Greatest Urban Myths:

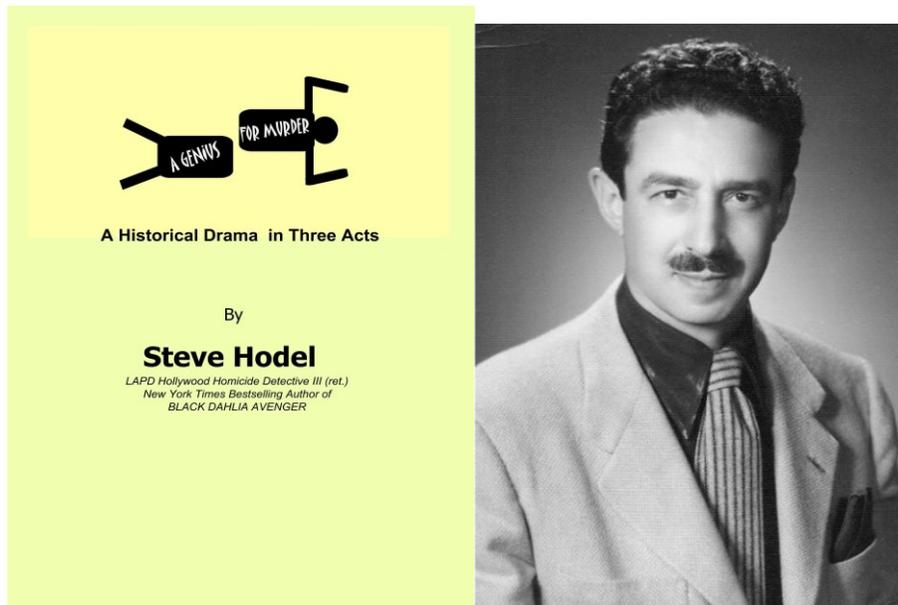
Myth No. 1- "It was a standalone murder."

Myth No. 2- "There was a "Missing or Lost Week."

Myth No. 3- "The case was never solved."

**Includes 250 photo-exhibits and the never before published Unabridged 1950 DA/Hodel-Black Dahlia Surveillance Transcripts. [146 pages]**

***A GENIUS FOR MURDER: A Historical Dramatization in Three Acts*** (Thoughtprint Press 2013)



**George Hill Hodel M.D.**

The play is a historic reconstruction and dramatization of the actual people and events in the life of Dr. George Hill during the years (1945-1950) preceding his flight from the U.S. to avoid prosecution for the murder of Elizabeth "Black Dahlia" Short.

**Original 1947 LAPD Information Wanted Bulletin on Elizabeth "Black Dahlia" Short**

**SPECIAL**

Issued Daily  
Except Saturday  
Sunday & Holi-  
days by Police  
Printing Bureau

**Daily Police Bulletin**

For Circulation  
Among Police  
Officers  
Exclusively

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
CHIEF'S OFFICE, City Hall (Phone Michigan 5211—Connecting all Stations and Depts.) C. B. HORRALL, Chief of Police

Vol. 40 Tuesday, January 21, 1947 No. 14

**WANTED INFORMATION ON ELIZABETH SHORT**  
**Between Dates January 9 and 15, 1947**



**Description:** Female, American, 22 years, 5 ft. 6 in., 118 lbs., black hair, green eyes, very attractive, bad lower teeth, finger nails chewed to quick. This subject found brutally murdered, body severed and mutilated January 15, 1947, at 39th and Norton.

Subject on whom information wanted last seen January 9, 1947 when she got out of car at Biltmore Hotel. At that time she was wearing black suit, no collar on coat, probably Cardigan style, white fluffy blouse, black suede high-heeled shoes, nylon stockings, white gloves full-length beige coat, carried black plastic handbag (2 handles) 12 x 8, in which she had black address book. Subject readily makes friends with both sexes and frequented cocktail bars and night spots. On leaving car she went into lobby of the Biltmore, and was last seen there.

Inquiry should be made at all hotels, motels, apartment houses, cocktail bars and lounges, night clubs to ascertain whereabouts of victim between dates mentioned. In conversations subject readily identified herself as Elizabeth or "Beth" Short.

Attention Officers H. H. Hansen and F. A. Brown, Homicide Detail.

**KINDLY NOTIFY C. B. HORRALL, CHIEF OF POLICE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**