The Dark Side of Creativity

With few exceptions, scholarship on creativity has focused on its positive aspects while largely ignoring its dark side. This includes not only creativity deliberately aimed at hurting others, such as crime or terrorism, or at gaining unfair advantages but also the accidental negative side effects of well-intentioned acts. This book brings together essays written by experts from various fields (e.g., psychology, criminal justice, sociology, engineering, education, history, and design) and with different interests (e.g., personality development, mental health, deviant behavior, law enforcement, and counterterrorism) to illustrate the nature of negative creativity, examine its variants, call attention to its dangers, and draw conclusions about how to prevent it or protect society from its effects.

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The Dark Side of Creativity

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For John Baer, colleague and friend, who has shown me
the good side of creativity in all that he does
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For Colin, Moe, and Howie, friends whose scholarship is
apparent throughout this volume
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For AJ, without whom …
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