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The Killing Season (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

For fans of *True Detective* and *Making A Murderer*, *THE KILLING SEASON* is a page-turning true crime saga, the story of a double murder that went unsolved for more than 35 years, and a chilling portrait of a small town upended by unimaginable violence. In the summer of 1975, the sprawling, valley town of Grand Junction, Colorado, is stunned by the grisly double murders of 24-year-old Linda Benson and her baby daughter Kelley. For Jim Fromm and Doug Rushing, the two young detectives assigned to the case, the investigation is a chance to earn their stripes and prove their mettle. At first, Fromm and Rushing peg the woman's mercurial husband, a pipe-fitter who works outside of town, as the primary suspect. But as their case against Steve Benson unravels, the detectives find themselves short on leads and running out of time. With the city on edge and anxious for answers, a notorious serial killer goes on the lam, and yet another young woman and her children turn up dead. In *The Killing Season*, acclaimed journalist Alex French traces the story of the Benson murders from the night Linda and Kelley's bodies are found strewn across their second floor apartment, to an improbable discovery, made more than 30 years later, that enabled a new breed of detectives to crack the case and bring closure to those who'd watched justice slip away. Writing in taut, atmospheric prose, French has crafted a heart-pounding tale of tragedy, resilience, and redemption set against the burning-red vistas of the American Southwest. Alex French is a freelance journalist. His reportage and oral histories have appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *BuzzReads*, *GQ*, *New York Magazine*, *Grantland*, *This American Life* and a variety of other venues. He lives in Monmouth County, New Jersey, with his wife and two children. Cover design by Adil Dara.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have read a lot of true crime found via the Long Form website, but this was the first Kindle Single I have purchased. At 120 pages The Killing Season is closer to a book than any long read I have encountered, yet it is more of a page turner than many of the shorter pieces. First of all, as a European born in the eighties, I found the depiction of life in the seventies Colorado fascinating. Although concerned mainly with the dark underbelly of the American dream, the story portrays the grittiness and violence of the era in a vivid manner. Setting aside the question of the truthfulness of the picture, at least when it comes to the experience of the majority of the population, the story is nonetheless worth a read for the atmosphere alone. Then there is the surreal subplot regarding a notorious serial killer that makes the whole story seem even more baffling. All the horrible violence, almost always done to women, is telling of how something must be seriously rotten in our western culture. The sole comforting factor is that most of the perpetrators in this story end up getting caught – only ever so often way too late. I was not aware of the crime before and that is probably one of the reasons why I found the story so captivating. Until the very last pages, I had no idea how everything would end. The murder inquiry flushes out all sorts of people and reveals crimes that appear to be connected in the most surprising ways, providing the plot with a novelistic tinge. The only thing I did not like was the way of mixing what could be called facts with odd projections and interpretations. A good example is the way the innermost feelings and thoughts of the investigators are described as if the author had access to them.

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