

## TRUE CRIME

---

True crime is a genre of non-fiction that focuses on real-life crimes, usually violent in nature, and the individuals involved in them. This can include murders, kidnappings, robberies, and other criminal activities. It has gained in popularity in recent years as many develop an interest in this type of genre and in the criminal justice system.

In true crime, authors may explore the psychology behind crimes, examining the motives of the perpetrators and the consequences of these crimes.

## TOP THEMES

---

There are many themes in the true crime category: the crime itself, the investigative process including forensics, the offender with a focus on behavioral science or profiling, the impact on the victim, and finally some type of resolution to the crime if possible.

## RISKS OF WRITING TRUE CRIME

---

There is a certain amount of risk writing about true crime. First and foremost are the legal risks. An author can be liable for defamation, violation of the right of privacy or copyright infringement if they do not practice ethical journalism and relay factual information.

### Where to find these books:

Books are located in their respective sections under the author's last name.

**Non-Fiction**=Call number  
**Large Print**= LP Call number  
**Reserve Today** = the library does not own a copy of this title, but it is available at another library in our system.

**Get book recommendations:**  
[westlinnoregon.gov/library/personalized-book-recommendations](http://westlinnoregon.gov/library/personalized-book-recommendations)

Descriptions provided by  
Novelist Plus, a free book  
recommendation database  
accessible through [LINCC.org](http://LINCC.org).

June 2023

### CONTACT



503-656-7853



[w1ref@lincc.org](mailto:w1ref@lincc.org)



[westlinnlibrary.org](http://westlinnlibrary.org)

 West Linn Public Library

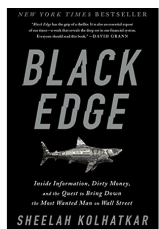
ADULTS

## TRUE CRIME



**American Predator: The Hunt for the Most Meticulous Serial Killer of the 21st Century**  
by Maureen Callahan (364.1523 CAL)

A gripping piece of investigative journalism that takes us deep into the investigation behind one of the most frightening serial killers in modern American history, and into the ranks of a singular American police force: the Anchorage PD. Most of us have never heard of Israel Keyes. But he is one of the most ambitious, meticulous serial killers of modern time. The FBI considered his behavior unprecedented.



**Black Edge**  
by Sheelah Kolhatkar (364.168 KOL)  
The "black edge " of the title refers to insider information used by hedge fund traders to cheat. The subject of this book is Steven A. Cohen's former firm, SAC Capital, which pled guilty in 2013 to criminal insider trading and paid a \$1.2 billion settlement.

Cohen avoided personal liability and he emerged unscathed and ready to return to trading other people's money.

**The Devil in the White City**  
by Erik Larson (LP 364.1523 LAR)

The true tale of the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago and the cunning serial killer who used the magic and majesty of the fair to lure his victims to their death. The murderer was Henry H. Holmes, a young doctor who, in a malign parody of the White City, built his "World's Fair Hotel" just west of the fairgrounds--a torture palace complete with dissection table, gas chamber, and 3,000-degree crematorium.

**Duped :Double Lives, False Identities, and the Con Man I Almost Married**  
by Abby Ellin (306.7 ELL)

Abby Ellin was shocked to learn that her fiancé was leading a secret life. From her first date with the Commander, she was caught up in a whirlwind. Within six months he'd proposed, and they'd moved in together. But soon, his exotic stories of international espionage began to unravel. Finally, it all became clear: he was lying about who he was.

**I'll Be Gone in the Dark : One Woman's Obsessive Search for the Golden State Killer**  
by Michelle McNamara (364.1532 MCN)

For more than ten years, a mysterious and violent predator committed fifty sexual assaults in Northern California before moving south, where he perpetrated ten sadistic murders. Then he disappeared, eluding capture by multiple police forces and some of the best detectives in the area. Three decades later, a true crime journalist was determined to find the violent psychopath she called "the Golden State Killer."

**Killers of the Flower Moon**  
by David Grann (364.1523 GRA)  
1920s Oklahoma. The richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Indian nation after oil was discovered beneath their land. Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off. The family of an Osage woman, Mollie Burkhardt, became a prime target. Her relatives were shot and poisoned. Many of those who dared to investigate the killings were themselves murdered. It became the FBI's first major homicide investigation... and the bureau badly bungled the case.

**Mind Hunter: Inside the FBI's Elite Serial Crime Unit**

by John Douglas (363.25 DOU)  
He has confronted, interviewed and researched dozens of serial killers and assassins, including Charles Manson, Richard Speck, John Wayne Gacy, and James Earl Ray - for a landmark study to understand their motives. To get inside their minds. This special agent was the man who ushered in a new age in behavioral science and criminal profiling.

**Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a College Town**

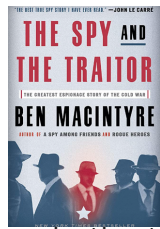
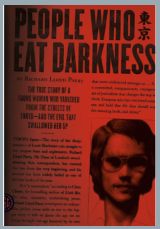
by John Krakauer (362.883 KRA)  
In the United States, rape is an extremely under-reported and rarely prosecuted crime. In Missoula, a journalist takes an incisive look at the statistics surrounding the crime on college campuses, using Missoula, Montana, and the University of Montana as his framework. In doing so, he holds a magnifying glass to the culture surrounding rape and sexual assault in our country at large.

**The People Who Eat Darkness**  
by Richard Lloyd Parry (364.1523 PAR)

An award-winning foreign correspondent, chronicles the 2000 disappearance, massive search, long investigation, and the even longer murder trial behind the gruesome murder case of Lucie Blackman in Japan.

**Scoundrel**  
by Sarah Weinman (364.1523 WEI 2022)

In the 1960s, Edgar Smith, in prison and sentenced to death for the murder of teenager Victoria Zielinski, struck up a correspondence with William F. Buckley, the founder of National Review. Buckley, who refused to believe that a man who supported the neoconservative movement could have committed such a heinous crime, began to advocate not only for Smith's life to be spared but also for his sentence to be overturned. So begins a bizarre and tragic tale of mid-century America.



**The Spy and the Traitor**  
by Ben MacIntyre (327.1241 MAC)  
This book recounts the exploits of Oleg Gordievsky, the KGB agent turned British spy responsible for "the single largest 'operational download' in M16 history." The author shows Gordievsky expertly navigating the "wilderness of mirrors" that made up the daily existence of a Cold War spy. In this telling, Aldrich Ames, the CIA agent turned KGB operative who gave up Gordievsky's cover, functions as a foil and a vehicle for moral comparison between the KGB and M16.

**The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher**  
by Kate Summerscale (364.1523 SUM)

Traces the 1860 murder of three-year-old Saville Kent who was found at the bottom of an outdoor privy with his throat slit. His death launched a national obsession with detection throughout England, and nearly destroyed the career of Jonathan Whicher, a top Scotland Yard investigator. The case inspired the birth of modern detective fiction.

**Unmasked: My Life Solving America's Cold Cases**  
by Paul Holes (363.2509 HOL 2022)

How does a cold-case investigator detach from the horrors of his work? An icon in the true crime world, the cold case investigator who finally caught the Golden State Killer provides an insider account of some the most notorious cases in contemporary American history and opens up to the most intimate scenes of his life.



**We Keep the Dead Close**  
by Becky Cooper (364.1523 COO)

1969: the height of counterculture; the year Harvard would begin the tumultuous process of merging with sister school Radcliffe; and the year that Jane Britton, an ambitious graduate student in Harvard's Anthropology department, would be found bludgeoned to death in her apartment. Forty years later, Becky Cooper, a curious undergrad, will first hear whispers of the story.

**Women Who Kill**  
by Carol Anne Davis (Reserve today)

From the mass poisoner to the sexual sadist, from profit killings to crimes committed just for twisted thrills, the author explores the dark and disturbing world of the female serial killer. In depth analysis of individual cases, including new information from the minister who heard Myra Hindley's confession, provides an invaluable insight into the psychology behind these atrocities.