Incident at Big Sky

By Sheriff Johnny France & Malcolm McC

Genre: True Crime

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Incident at Big Sky by Sheriff Johnny France & Malcolm McC is True Crime Edgar Award Finalist: The “exciting” true story of the abduction of biathlete Kari Swenson and the five-month manhunt to bring her tormentors to justice (The New York Times Book Review). Former rodeo cowboy Johnny France had been sheriff of Madison County, Montana, for three years when Kari Swenson, a Bozeman resident training for the World Biathlon Championship, went missing near Big Sky Resort in July 1984. Her friends feared that Kari had been attacked by a grizzly bear, but the truth was far scarier: She’d been kidnapped at gunpoint by father-and-son survivalists Don and Dan Nichols. The pair had been living in the wilderness off and on for years and hoped to make Kari a “mountain woman” and Dan’s bride. But the plan went horribly wrong from the start, and after a deadly firefight with rescuers, the kidnappers vanished into the rugged terrain of the Spanish Peaks.

As Montana’s summer froze into brutal winter blizzards, SWAT teams, forest rangers, and antiterrorist units searched the backcountry but sighted the mountain men only once. Then came the call about a strange campfire on a slope above the Madison River. Sheriff France decided to go into the forest to face the fugitives—alone. The resulting showdown made him “perhaps the most famous Western sheriff since Wyatt Earp . . . a modern legend” (Chicago Tribune). Incident at Big Sky is an “amazing . . . exciting retelling of a modern crime” that made headlines around the world (The New York Times Book Review). In a voice as distinctive and compelling as the Montana landscape, France takes readers on a high-stakes adventure so bizarre and unforgettable it could only be true.

More Recommended Books

Mississippi Mud

By: Edward Humes

NOW UPDATED WITH EXPLOSIVE COURTROOM DETAILS. . . . The riveting true-crime account of the heartbreaking murder that shook a Southern city to its corrupt foundation BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI: After the fatal shooting of one of the city’s most prominent couples—Vincent Sherry was a circuit court judge; his wife, Margaret, was running for mayor—their grief-stricken daughter came home to uncover the truth behind the crime that shocked a community and to follow leads that police seemed unable or unwilling to pursue. What Lynne Sposito soon discovered were bizarre connections to the Dixie Mafia, a predatory band of criminals who ran The Strip, Biloxi’s beachfront hub of sex, drugs, and sleaze. Armed with a savvy private eye—and a .357 Magnum—Lynne bravely entered a teeming underworld of merciless killers, ruthless con men, and venal politicians in order to bring her parents’
assassins to justice.

**Dangerous Odds**

By: Marisa Lankester

DANGEROUS ODDS is the explosive, never been told, behind the scenes look into the world of illegal sports betting, revealed by an insider, who happens to be a woman. Marisa Lankester, a young beauty with a privileged New York upbringing, stumbles into the backdoor of the largest illegal sports betting organization in the U.S., run by Ron "The Cigar" Sacco. Marisa, a thrill seeker, maneuvers herself into this mob run "men only" bookmaking operation and with her looks and brains, becomes a trusted insider. Along the way, Marisa falls in love with Sacco’s business partner, charismatic Tony. In an attempt to evade the wrath of the FBI, Marisa and Tony relocate Sacco’s operation from Los Angeles first to Las Vegas and then to the Dominican Republic where gambling is legal. What begins as a fun and exciting ride on the Caribbean island, where the tall, blond beauty also becomes a top model, morphs into a twisted nightmare. It is also the romantic tale of a beautiful, smart young woman whose love for a charismatic and handsome Italian-American leads her down the road into crime, incarceration and rape. DANGEROUS ODDS is the ultimate page-turner that draws the reader into what is the adrenaline pumped and genius world of sports gambling.

**Killing for You**

By: Keith Elliot Greenberg

Killing For You is True Crime veteran Keith Elliot Greenberg's shocking, authoritative account of a brutal double murder. A KILLER PLOT Twenty-six-year-old actor Daniel Wozniak was unemployed, facing eviction, and deep in debt for his upcoming wedding. So he devised a diabolical plan: He asked his neighbor Sam Herr, a young war veteran, to help him move some things into the attic of an empty theater. There, Wozniak shot Herr twice in the head before taking his ATM card and cell phone. Hours later, Wozniak performed on stage with his fiancée in a local production of the musical Nine, convinced that he had gotten away with murder... A DRAMATIC LAST ACT Wozniak dismembered his victim’s body and hid the pieces. Then he lured Herr’s college friend Juri “Julie” Kibuishi to Herr’s apartment and shot her twice in the head. The police immediately declared Herr a prime suspect—just as Wozniak had planned. But when Herr was declared missing, and his ATM withdrawals led authorities to Wozniak at his bachelor party, the actor was forced to play the role of a lifetime in a shocking murder investigation that would be his greatest—and final—performance...

Includes 8 pages of photos

**Jours de crime**

By: Pascale Robert-Diard & Stéphane Du

"Celui-là, je vais le tuer." L’accusé est un homme – plus rarement une femme – qui, un beau jour, s’est dit que la seule chose à faire pour rendre sa vie meilleure était d’en supprimer une autre. Peu à peu, l’idée du crime s’est imposée, un scénario s’est élaboré, la main s’est armée. » Ici, tout est vrai. Les mots d’une fillette face à l’homme qui a tué sa mère, les confessions d’un fou, le vertige d’un aveu. On voit Guy Georges, Yvan Colonna, les innocents d’Outreau, des juges, des avocats, des jurés. La gouaille des voyous se mêle à la verve des grands du barreau. On pleure et on rit, on éprouve de la colère ou de la tendresse, on est devant le nu de la vie. Car aux assises, la justice décape, même ceux qui n’ont rien à cacher.

**Angels of Death**

By: Gary C. King
The Accused: 13-year-old Derek King and his 12-year-old brother, Alex, Sunday school students with choirboy looks. After midnight on November 26, 2001, someone bludgeoned Terry King to death while he slept, and set his Florida home afire. By the time the firefighters extinguished the blaze, King's sons, Alex, 12, and Derek, 13, were at the home of their forty-year-old friend, Ricky Chavis, a convicted child-molester. By the next afternoon, following confessions, both boys were charged as adults in their father's slaying. Chavis was tried separately for the same crime—incredibly by the same attorney who would prosecute Alex and Derek, and argue two contradictory theories. The Victim: Their own father. When Alex divulged his sexual relationship with Chavis, the trial took a sensational turn. So did Alex and Derek, who recanted their confession and blamed Chavis to no avail. A jury convicted the boys of second-degree murder, but the judge threw the verdict out. Chavis was acquitted. But the case wasn't over. As more disturbing revelations came to light, as criminal motives became more complex, and as the line between guilt and innocence was crossed, a stunned nation watched in disbelief to learn the ultimate fate of the... Angels of Death.

The Murder of Sonny Liston

By: Shaun Assael

On January 5th 1971, former heavyweight champion Sonny Liston was found dead at his Las Vegas home. Liston’s death, labelled an overdose, has long hung over Las Vegas and the boxing world, leaving unanswered questions about his ties to mob kingpins, drug lords, billionaire hoteliers and powerful promoters. Against the backdrop of the pivotal era in the history of Las Vegas when the mob turned a sleep desert oasis into a gambling paradise, The Murder of Sonny Liston is both a riveting murder hunt and a stunning portrait of a city that was home to the Rat Pack, race riots and glittering high-rises along the strip.

The Great Heist: The Story of the Biggest Bank Robbery in History: And Why All the Money Was Returned

By: Jeff McArthur

On a sunny September morning in 1930, six men entered the Lincoln National Bank in Nebraska's capital city armed with revolvers and Thompson submachine guns. In eight minutes they emerged with more than 2.7 million dollars, the largest take of any bank heist in history. A nationwide search for the bandits would lead Nebraska authorities through the rough, gangland streets of Chicago and East St. Louis, and deep into the heart of the Capone organization. The Great Heist not only chronicles the search for the bandits and the trials that followed, but the incredible story of how they got the money back.

Blood Echoes

By: Thomas H. Cook

Edgar Award Finalist: A true-crime account of a vicious massacre and the legal battles that followed. It was not a clever killing. On May 5, 1973, three men escaped from a Maryland prison and disappeared. Joined by a fifteen-year-old brother, they surfaced in Georgia, where they were spotted joyriding in a stolen car. Within a week, the four young men were arrested on suspicion of committing one of the most horrific murders in American history. Jerry Alday and his family were eating Sunday dinner when death burst through the door of their cozy little trailer. Their six bodies are only the beginning of Thomas H. Cook’s retelling of this gruesome story; the horrors continued in the courtroom. Based on court documents, police records, and interviews with the surviving family members, this is a chilling look at the evil that can lurk just around the corner.

Female Serial Killers
By: Peter Vronsky
In this fascinating book, Peter Vronsky exposes and investigates the phenomenon of women who kill—and the political, economic, social and sexual implications buried with each victim. How many of us are even remotely prepared to imagine our mothers, daughters, sisters or grandmothers as fiendish killers? For centuries we have been conditioned to think of serial murderers and psychopathic predators as men—with women registering low on our paranoia radar. Perhaps that’s why so many trusting husbands, lovers, family friends, and children have fallen prey to “the female monster.” From history’s earliest recorded cases of homicidal females to Irma Grese, the Nazi Beast of Belsen, from Britain’s notorious child-slayer Myra Hindley to ‘Honeymoon Killer’ Martha Beck to the sensational cult of Aileen Wournos—the first female serial killer-as-celebrity—to cult killers, homicidal missionaries, and our pop-culture fascination with the sexy femme fatale, Vronsky not only challenges our ordinary standards of good and evil but also defies our basic accepted perceptions of gender role and identity. INCLUDES PHOTOGRAPHS

Blood & Ghosts: Haunted Crime Scene Investigations

By: Katherine Ramsland & Mark Nesbitt
Katherine Ramsland, a forensics expert, and Mark Nesbitt, a paranormal investigator, examine tales of ghosts and murder, police psychics, and scientific experiments. What if forensic and paranormal investigation deliberately crossed paths? Can forensics aid ghost hunters, and might ghost hunters who use these tools one day assist in the cause of justice? The answers to these questions are explored within the pages of "Blood & Ghosts". Forensics is an applied science and many of its sub-disciplines have a kinship with ghost hunting: its tools and technology were devised to record and analyze evidence or behavior. Given this shared approach to solving mysteries, it makes sense to see how these disciplines could be brought together. From missing persons to mass and serial murder, it’s time to use all of our best resources to solve crimes.
Incident at Big Sky describes the kidnapping of Kari Swenson by a mountain man and his son, and recounts the police search for the two. In the wilderness of Montana's Big Sky country, a young woman Olympic athlete, Kari Swenson, was kidnapped at gun point while on a training run. Searchers found her chained to a tree and guarded by two 'mountain men,' Don and Dan Nichols, father and son who had left civilization a dozen years before. In the ensuing confrontation, Kari was badly wounded by the younger Nichols and a rescuer was coldly shot and killed before the Nicholses made thei