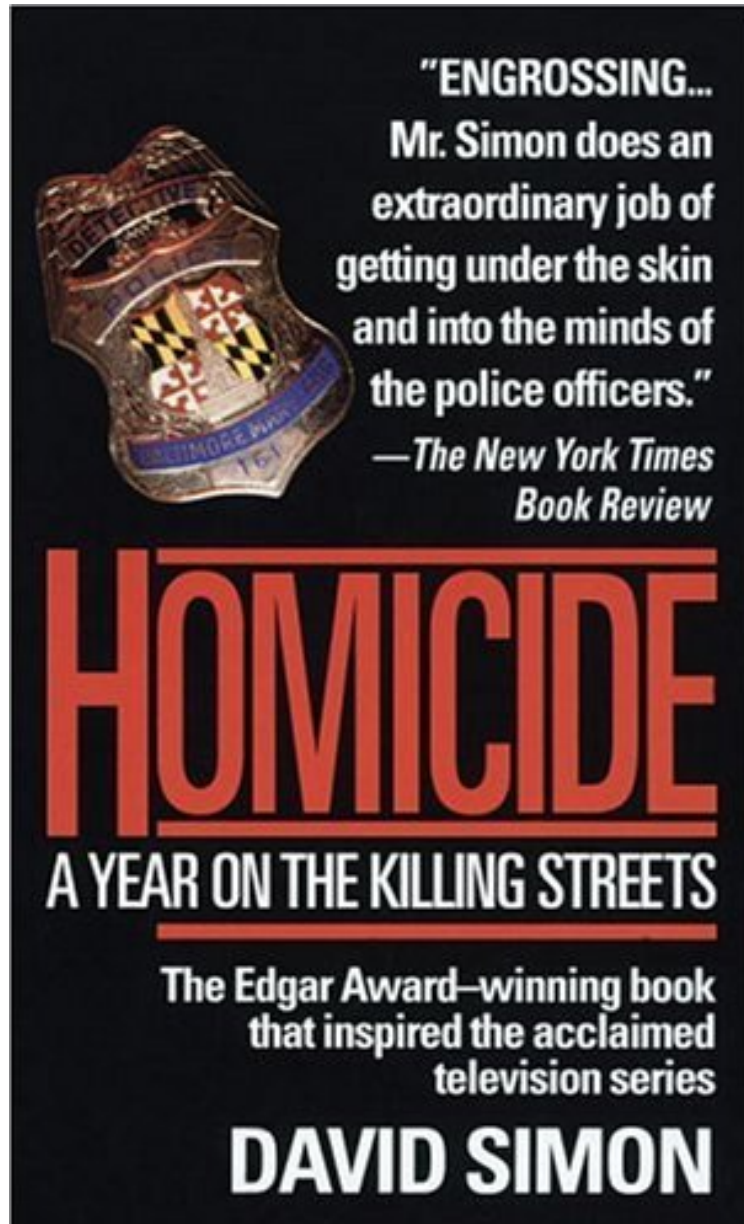


Homicide: A Year on the Killing Streets

David Simon

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David Simon : Homicide: A Year on the Killing Streets before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Homicide: A Year on the Killing Streets:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Engrossing Narrative Nonfiction By Jonesy As a huge fan of The

Wire (I've watched the series through at least 5 times), I can't believe I only read this just now. This book is probably my favorite narrative nonfiction book of all time now, along with *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. It is written much like a novel, with engaging stories and characters throughout. The best part is that, like real life, not all of the storylines get neatly tied off in a bow. Just like life, politics dictates that resources are shifted from one case that has gone cold to the next hot case. The bits about interrogation are also amazing, tackling interview techniques used by cops, discussion around Miranda warnings and the 5th Amendment, and how cops have to work around these limitations. Really awesome stuff. If you have ever been interested in *Law Order*, *The Wire*, Radley Balko, or issues of police brutality or effectiveness, or if you have ever lived in an American city, or in America, I consider this a must-read. Do it!

10 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The detectives come across as real people with personalities and imperfections just like the rest of us. By Mike Grupa. Second time reading this book. Very well written and captures the futility of what modern police departments fight against on a daily basis. The "politics" of law enforcement is explained in terms of public perception and internal police perception especially when the public (media) grabs something and turns it into a circus. The detectives come across as real people with personalities and imperfections just like the rest of us. The book recounts a year during the 1980s and there is some follow-up material which helps close out some of the individual stories. I would highly recommend this book for those highly critical folks that assume the everything a cop does is done out of malice or hate. It brings a sense of everyday realism to the job that few other books can claim. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book on police investigators. By James N. This book honestly should be required reading. Too often citizens do not know what the police have to deal with on a daily basis, or have unreasonable expectations on what constitutes evidence. We watch CSI, *Law and Order*, NCIS, and other procedurals and the guilt of a suspect is without a doubt. There is the proverbial smoking gun. And yet homicide detectives have to piece together cases and find suspects based on intuition, luck, and good old fashioned detective work. Those who earn their living solving homicides routinely see the dark side of humanity, and there often is no happy ending. No reckoning. No justice for the guilty. This is a hard life for those who protect the citizens and try to bring murderers to justice. If you like police procedurals, then this is the holy bible of police procedurals, out of the mouths of Baltimore's finest.

Edgar and Anthony Award Winner. Selected by the Literary Guild. "Remarkable...A true crime classic." ASSOCIATED PRESS. Enter the workday of real policemen. Follow fifteen detectives, three sergeants, and a lieutenant, whose job it is to investigate Baltimore's 234 murders. You will get a cop's-eye-view of the bureaucracy, the highs of success, the moments of despair, and the non-stop rush of pursuits, anger, banter, and violence that make up a cop's life. Now an acclaimed television series, this extraordinary book is the insider's look at what you have always wondered about.

.com This 1992 Edgar Award winner for best fact crime is nothing short of a classic. David Simon, a police reporter for the *Baltimore Sun*, spent the year 1988 with three homicide squads, accompanying them through all the grim and grisly moments of their work--from first telephone call to final piece of paperwork. The picture that emerges through a masterful accumulation of details is that homicide detectives are a rare breed who seem to thrive on coffee, cigarettes, and persistence, through an endlessly exhausting parade of murder scenes. As the *Washington Post* writes, "We seem to have an insatiable appetite for police stories.... David Simon's entry is far and away the best, the most readable, the most reliable and relentless of them all.... An eye for the scenes of slaughter and pursuit and an ear for the cadences of cop talk, both business and banter, lend Simon's account the fascination that truth often has." From Publishers Weekly. Baltimore Sun reporter Simon spent a year tracking the homicide unit of his city's police, following the officers from crime scenes to interrogations to hospital emergency rooms. With empathy, psychological nuance, racy verbatim dialogue and razor-sharp prose, he offers a rare insider's look at the detective's tension-wracked world. Presiding over a score of sleuths is commander Gary D'Addario, "connoisseur of survival" who grapples with political intrigue, massive red tape and "red balls" (major, difficult cases). His detectives include Tom Pelligrini, obsessed with solving the rape-murder of an 11-year-old girl; Rich Garvey, whose "perfect year" is upset by a murder case that collapses in court; and black, cosmopolitan Harry Edgerton, a lone wolf, son of a jazz pianist. This hectic daily log reveals the detective's beat on Baltimore's mean streets (234 murders in 1988) to be brutal, bureaucratic and, occasionally, mundane. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal*. The city of Baltimore saw 234 murders in 1988. Allowed unlimited access to a shift of the city's homicide unit, police reporter Simon chronicles that year. The sociopaths, the crackheads, and their crimes are horrifying, but equal horrors are found in the attitudes of jurors in a case of the shooting and blinding of a policeman and in statistics showing the ultimate legal fates of those apprehended by the unit. Immersing his readers in cases, procedures, politics, and the detectives' personalities, Simon risks being sabotaged by the sheer scope of his account. Still, for those with strong stomachs and the willingness to work to keep the characters and dramas straight, he has produced a riveting slice of urban life. Recommended. - Jim Burns, Pompano Beach City Lib., Fla. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.