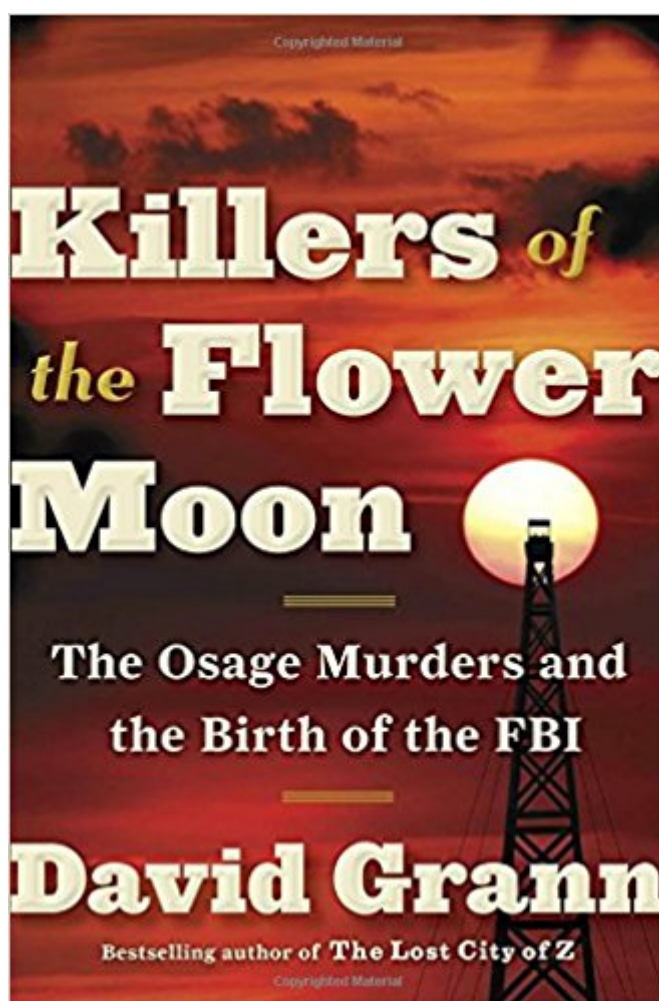


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Killers Of The Flower Moon: The Osage Murders And The Birth Of The FBI



Synopsis

"Disturbing and riveting...Grann has proved himself a master of spinning delicious, many-layered mysteries that also happen to be true...It will sear your soul." — Dave Eggers, New York Times Book Review

From New Yorker staff writer David Grann, #1 New York Times best-selling author of *The Lost City of Z*, a twisting, haunting true-life murder mystery about one of the most monstrous crimes in American history. In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Indian nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, they rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe. Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off. The family of an Osage woman, Mollie Burkhart, became a prime target. Her relatives were shot and poisoned. And it was just the beginning, as more and more members of the tribe began to die under mysterious circumstances. In this last remnant of the Wild West—where oilmen like J. P. Getty made their fortunes and where desperadoes like Al Spencer, the "Phantom Terror," roamed—many of those who dared to investigate the killings were themselves murdered. As the death toll climbed to more than twenty-four, the FBI took up the case. It was one of the organization's first major homicide investigations and the bureau badly bungled the case. In desperation, the young director, J. Edgar Hoover, turned to a former Texas Ranger named Tom White to unravel the mystery. White put together an undercover team, including one of the only American Indian agents in the bureau. The agents infiltrated the region, struggling to adopt the latest techniques of detection. Together with the Osage they began to expose one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history. In *Killers of the Flower Moon*, David Grann revisits a shocking series of crimes in which dozens of people were murdered in cold blood. Based on years of research and startling new evidence, the book is a masterpiece of narrative nonfiction, as each step in the investigation reveals a series of sinister secrets and reversals. But more than that, it is a searing indictment of the callousness and prejudice toward American Indians that allowed the murderers to operate with impunity for so long. *Killers of the Flower Moon* is utterly compelling, but also emotionally devastating.

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Customer Reviews

An Best Book of April 2017: In the 1920s, the Osage found themselves in a unique position among Native Americans tribes. As other tribal lands were parceled out in an effort by the government to encourage dissolution and assimilation of both lands and culture, the Osage negotiated to maintain the mineral rights for their corner of Oklahoma, creating a kind of “underground reservation.” It proved a savvy move; soon countless oil rigs punctured the dusty landscape, making the Osage very rich. And that’s when they started dying. You’d think the Osage Indian Reservation murders would have been a bigger story, one as familiar as the Lindbergh kidnapping or Bonnie and Clyde. It has everything, but at scale: Execution-style shootings, poisonings, and exploding houses drove the body count to over two dozen, while private eyes and undercover operatives scoured the territory for clues. Even as legendary and infamous oil barons vied for the most lucrative leases, J. Edgar Hoover’s investigation — which he would leverage to enhance both the prestige and power of his fledgling FBI — began to overtake even the town’s most respected leaders. Exhuming the massive amount of detail is no mean feat, and it’s even harder to make it entertaining. But journalist David Grann knows what he’s doing. With the same obsessive attention to fact — in service to storytelling — as *The Lost City of Z*, *Killers of the Flower Moon* reads like narrative-nonfiction as written by James M. Cain (there are, after all, insurance policies involved): smart, taut, and pacey. Most sobering, though, is how the tale is at once unsurprising and unbelievable, full of the arrogance, audacity, and inhumanity that continues to reverberate through today’s headlines. --Jon Foro, *The Book Review*

"The best book of the year so far." • *Entertainment Weekly* — "A marvel of detective-like research and narrative verve." • *Financial Times* — "A shocking

whodunit? What more could fans of true-crime thrillers ask? •USA

Today "A master of the detective form Killers is something rather deep and not easily forgotten. •Wall St. Journal "Extraordinary •Time Magazine

I'll keep it simple. I'm horrified and ashamed of the atrocities people will commit to gain extra cash in their pockets. This story needed to be told, and it fascinating the amount of detail that went into describing the horrors of that period of time. Certainly a lot of jumping off points into further readings from history. Reads quickly, easily, and is highly thought provoking. Worth the time. I highly recommend it. One aspect that had it been included, would have really helped solidify some of the information is a time line with events and people. There are so many people involved, and so many connections and mysteries, that I was beginning to forget when something happened and who was involved, or how someone was related, or what their role was. Its not that I forgot, but I would love to refer back to that in conversations about the book. I suppose I could have taken notes, but that didn't occur until later. And so I just leave that as a suggestion. A couple of pages at end of book with a quick who's who.

This is one of the best true crime historical accounts I've ever read. From start to finish it is compelling reading that didn't let me put the book down. A darkly fascinating subject well rendered.

This is one of the most heartbreaking and terrifying books I have ever read. I hope that it becomes a staple of reading lists for American history classes. It is an incredibly well told story of a staggering real world evil in an America only two or three generations removed from our own. You should read it. It won't take long - it is, though it feels crass to say so, a genuine page-turner. And I at least will likely wrestle with it for a long while. Man o man.

Author David Grann spent years doing research and uncovering new evidence in writing Killers of the Flower Moon. Since I was a fan of his from reading The Lost City of Z, I expected this latest book to be the sort of non-fiction I love: the kind that reads like the best fiction. I was not disappointed. What I did not expect was just how infuriated I would become by reading it. Having been a huge horse racing fan when I was a teenager, I knew about the wealth of the Osage Nation in the 1920s. One of the Osage owned a winner of the Kentucky Derby. But that knowledge was just cursory. I had no idea how rich the Osage really were, and I certainly didn't have a clue that the government didn't trust them with all that money. I should not have been so naive. It had to madden

many whites that, although they'd shoved the Osage onto a piece of land they deemed unfit for themselves, oil would be discovered and the Osage would turn out to be the wealthiest people in the world. The one way they had of trying to horn in on this wealth was by declaring that the Osage were not fit to use their own money wisely. In many cases whites were put in charge of the families' money, and they gave their wards allowances (and themselves large fees for their business knowledge). Why on earth should I be so surprised that this greed would escalate to murder? It is the natural progression after all. To this day, the Osage have trust issues, and who can blame them? They tried to get dozens of murders investigated, but instead the killings were covered up. What Grann did in *Killers of the Flower Moon* was to dig deeper and deeper and expose just how huge the problem actually was. As I read, words like horrifying, unspeakable, and several others flashed through my mind. This is an uncomfortable read for anyone with a conscience; nevertheless, it is a fascinating and important one. (Review copy courtesy of NetGalley)

This one I couldn't put down. What an incredible period in Oklahoma history that I never learned about until now. The author captures an era of lawlessness and greed in frontier life and shares a piece of history that almost remained untold. Thank goodness David Grann didn't let this one die. I really enjoyed this book and hope this story is included in future history classes. A cautionary tale demonstrating the level of greed and heartlessness that can sometimes take hold in people's hearts.

This book is remarkable. It's about the "Reign of Terror" foisted upon the Osage Indians by -- well, there is no way to sugarcoat this -- white people. Particularly those who lived in Osage County, Oklahoma. It's such a sad story, and perhaps even sadder, so familiar when it comes to history. People of color getting oppressed by everyone from common white folk to the entire system itself. It's also sadly predictable that this era in American history is never taught in classrooms, despite how sensational the entire episode was. In any event, that aside, the author writes well, researches exceptionally, and tells this story in a clinical but necessary way. I have a lot more to say, but most of it would constitute spoilers. So let me say that I highly recommend this book. Perhaps the best I've read in 2017. 8.5/10.

Before reading this excellent book, the only knowledge I had of the Osage Indian tribe was that they existed. Their oil wealth and the chain of individuals who murdered them to steal it is bone chilling. You need to know this story and the murders primarily in the 1920's that remain unresolved.

This book is a fascinating story of murder and the beginning of the FBI. This is a story of the Osage Indians in the 1920s in Oklahoma. It is the sad tale of disrespect, thief, poisoning, bombing, and many other types of murder by people who were given more power than they should have had. It is about the Federal government deciding who should be allowed to oversee oil birthrights. The pictures included in the book were excellent. The writing and flow of the book were excellent. Also, this historical time, place, and events were unusual and probably not known to most readers. The book tells of greed, brave and honest agents, detective work during the 1920s, and family tragedies. Highly recommended!!! This book deserves an A+++++++

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