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Killers Of The Flower Moon: Oil, Money, Murder And The Birth Of The FBI



Synopsis

"A fiercely entertaining mystery story and a wrenching exploration of evil" (Kate Atkinson) From the best-selling author of *The Lost City of Z*, soon to be a major film starring Charlie Hunnam, Sienna Miller, and Robert Pattinson, comes a true-life murder story that became one of the newly created FBI's first major homicide investigations. 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 this was just the beginning, as more and more members of the tribe began to die under mysterious circumstances, and many of those who dared to investigate the killings were themselves murdered. As the death toll climbed, the FBI took up the case. It was one of the organization's first major homicide investigations, and the bureau badly bungled it. In desperation its young director, J. Edgar Hoover, turned to a former Texas Ranger named Tom White to unravel the mystery. Together with the Osage, he and his undercover team began to expose one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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's 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.

If you are following the current investigation by the FBI special prosecutor - you will love this book. This is the same kind of scenario - corruption, greed, and power being taken down by a special prosecutor - the first one. This is how the FBI got started and it includes the early days of Hoover and his mix of agents; some actual Texas Ranger cowboys and the rest inexperienced college boys. The special prosecutor is a straight-arrow Texas Ranger who is incorruptible and determined to uncover the why Osage Indians who became oil rich are dying like flies and their millions going to white neighbors, relatives, bankers, and politicians. Well written and fascinating and thoroughly researched. It even includes information that is still be uncovered today by Osage descendants. I loved it.

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.

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