



## Season of the Assassin

*Thomas Laird*

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# Season of the Assassin

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**Season of the Assassin** Thomas Laird

**In 1965, a killer butchered a whole dormitory of student nurses.**

Investigating officer Jake Parisi located a suspect, Carl Anglin, but as soon as the witnesses vanished or died, the FBI got involved — and Jake died in a tragic accident.

Then Anglin disappeared...

Thirty years on and Jimmy Parisi, is a homicide detective, like his father.

A frighteningly similar massacre occurs on his watch, and Jimmy doesn't believe in coincidences.

The hunt for Anglin begins again, and Jimmy discovers that not all the nurses in the original case died — there was one survivor.

But why is she in a mental institution, and why is no one permitted to visit her?

Both Anglin and Jimmy need to find her — Anglin to silence her, Jimmy to put Anglin away.

Will Jimmy be able to put this case and his father to rest?

In this gruesome thriller by author Thomas Laird, the two major American traumas of the '60s — J.F.K.'s assassination and the Vietnam War — collide.

*Season of the Assassin* is the second book in the Detective Jimmy Parisi Thriller series.

Praise for Thomas Laird

‘Although Anglin’s supposed connection with the Kennedy assassination becomes clear early on, Laird keeps the suspense churning as leads fall apart.’ – ***Publishers Weekly***

‘More tightly knit than his even more grisly debut.’ – ***Kirkus Reviews***

‘It’s always good to get in at the start of something major. And I think that Lieutenant Jimmy Parisi ... could be very major indeed. The publishers have come up with a winner here’ - ***Mark Timlin, Independent***

**Thomas Laird** has several short stories published in US literary magazines and a collection of short fiction called *Blue Collar and Other Stories*, also published in the US. He teaches creative writing, literature and composition in central Illinois. *Season of the Assassin* follows *Cutter* in the Jimmy Parisi series.

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## **Season of the Assassin Details**

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## From Reader Review Season of the Assassin for online ebook

### Glen says

I liked this and look forward to reading more from this author. Good characters. And quick pace that moves you along

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### Jo says

Detective Parisi, senior and junior, investigate a mass killing 30 years apart. Totally meh and I couldn't get into it enough to care about the characters or the storyline.

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### Terry says

#### Good read!

Enjoyed it very much. What a twist from the usual whodunits! I won't spoil the ending but be ready for a surprise. Unless you correctly guess well before the grand finale, like I did. All in all, a good read for a dark and rainy winter day.

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### Maddy says

In the course of a homicide detective's career, he or she is exposed to every manner of horrific crime. In order to be able to survive seeing what one human has done to another, the detective tends to dissociate and look at things from a distance so that they can continue to function. But then there is the case from which it is impossible to put oneself at a distance, one in which the detective becomes emotionally involved and, possibly, obsessed. The brutal murder of 7 student nurses in the 60s is the case that has taken over the life of Jake Parisi. The women were subjected to untold terror, being restrained and hearing what was happening to their roommates before facing the same themselves. One woman escaped by hiding under a bed, but she fell into a comatose state and was never able to testify about what happened on that horrible night.

Parisi knows who did it, a sleaze by the name of Carl Anglin. He is more sure of that than he is of the paternity of his own son. He is completely obsessed—he is consumed by trying to bring the perpetrator to justice. No witnesses, no footprints, no trace points to him, but Jake knows he is the one. There are larger things at play. For some reason, Carl Anglin seems to be protected by the government. He is actually living a rather glorious life in the aftermath of the fame of being accused and released. A best-selling book, women, parties—the high life is his. Meanwhile, Jake continues on his own self-destructive course, an alcoholic, a miserable husband, and ultimately faces his own death before he can nab Anglin.

It's 30 years later, 1999, and a murder that is frighteningly similar to the nurse massacre occurs. There's only one person who can pick up on that link, Jimmy Parisi, who, like his father, has become a homicide detective. Jimmy's a very different man from his father, more balanced and smoother around the edges; but

now he is being consumed by the same obsession that ate his father alive. He too feels that Anglin is under some kind of protective veil, the edges of which he tries to lift but is never able to totally uncover. Jimmy knows a lot about the case from having witnessed the impact of the prior murders on his father and goes about reinvestigating the murders in 1969 as well. His only hope is the nurse who is living in a mental hospital, who has never spoken a word since that day. His efforts to bring her back to life are difficult, particularly since he does not want to reveal her whereabouts and have her become victim to Anglin once again.

The book is very well written and uses a unique device in which the chapters alternate between the father in 1968-69 and the son in 1998-99. It's fascinating to see the similarities in the situations they face and the way that they choose to deal with them. Laird does a wonderful job of distinguishing the voice of Jake from the voice of Jimmy. Jimmy's the better human being, but Jake is dogged in his pursuit of justice. Once Jake dies, the book alternates between Jimmy in 1979 and Jimmy in 1999. That didn't work very well for me.

Laird has an assured writing style that carries the reader along, well paced and plotted with characters who were richly detailed. The one thing that kept me from rating the book as "fabulous" was the hypothesis that Jimmy comes up with for the protection that Anglin seems to be receiving. He feels that Anglin was involved in a very large event in US history. I couldn't buy that, as this event has been investigated in minute detail for many years. I would have preferred a fictional explanation instead of trying to tie it to a real event in this way.

I also felt that Laird lost control of the book in its denouement and provided a rather implausible finale to Mr. Anglin. The ending is sticking in my craw a bit, although overall, I found the book to be an excellent read and a fascinating study in character.

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### **Alexis says**

So far it is pretty good, but somewhat repetitive in the same theme. Not too many twists and turns, but it's more about the father-son connection than anything.

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### **Lavenia Otts says**

#### **Loyalty**

This is the story of Homicide cops and a trained assassin of our government. The assassin kills 7 nurses and then 3 more. There's one survivor and they protect her and loyalty proved stronger than evil as they get their evil man.

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### **Patrick Guggerty says**

#### **Too much**

He took to much from the Speck killings, I lived just East of where this occurred my wife live just around the corner on Yates, so needless to say .. He took too much from that terrible scene in writing this novel.

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### **Leona says**

I really enjoyed this book but I am specifically giving it 4 stars because the author used my all-time favorite word - penultimate. Thank you, Thomas!

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### **MARIE MURPHY says**

#### **Two generations after the same evil main**

Different kind of book that I usually read. Love the two time eras 1968 then 1999 Intertwined . Father and son after the same end game. Jimmy is obsessed with closing a case that his Dad could not. Quite a tribute to Jimmy's father's legacy. Very big surprises along the way with much interference from outsiders. Great read

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### **Mary Colipy says**

#### **From start to finish one of the best books i have ever read. the storyline kept me excited and i had a hard time putting the book down for even a minute**

Really great book I loved everything about it the characters the story line it was almost impossible to put it down.can't wait to read another book. By Thomas Laird

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