



Killer Year: A Criminal Anthology

Lee Child (Editor) , M.J. Rose (Contributor) , Patry Francis (Contributor) , Marc Lecard (Contributor) , Derek Nikitas (Contributor) , Gregg Olsen (Contributor) , Jason Pinter (Contributor) , Marcus Sakey (Contributor) , more... Duane Swierczynski (Contributor) , Dave White (Contributor) , Brett Battles (Contributor) , Allison Brennan (Contributor) , Robert Gregory Brown (Contributor) , Ken Bruen (Contributor) , Bill Cameron (Contributor) , Toni McGee Causey (Contributor) , Sean Chercover (Contributor) , J.T. Ellison (Contributor) , Laura Lippman (Contributor) , Douglas Hutcheson (Contributor) , Ed Turner (Contributor) ...less

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Killer Year is a group of 13 debut crime/mystery/suspense authors whose books will be published in 2007. The graduating class includes such rising stars as Robert Gregory Browne, Toni McGee Causey, Marcus Sakey, Derek Nikitas, Marc Lecard, JT Ellison, Brett Battles, Jason Pinter, Bill Cameron, Sean Chercover, Patry Francis, Gregg Olsen, and David White. Each of the short stories displaying their talents are introduced by their Killer Year mentors, some of which include bestselling authors Lee Child, Tess Gerritsen and Jeffrey Deaver, with additional stories by Ken Bruen, Allison Brennan and Duane Swierczynski. Bestselling authors Laura Lippman and MJ Rose contribute insightful essays. Inside you'll read about a small time crook in over his head, a story told backwards with a heroine not to be messed with, a tale of boys and the trouble they will get into over a girl, and many more stories of the highest caliber in murder, mayhem, and sheer entertainment. This amazing anthology, edited by the grandmaster Lee Child, is sure to garner lots of attention and keep readers coming back for more.

Includes:

Introduction by by Lee Child
The class of co-opetition by by M. J. Rose
Perfect gentleman by by Brett Battles
Killing justice by by Allison Brennan
Bottom deal by by Robert Gregory Brown
Time of the green by by Ken Bruen
Slice of pie by by Bill Cameron
A failure to communicate by by Toni McGee Causey
One serving of bad luck by by Sean Chercover
Prodigal me by by J. T. Ellison
The only word I know in Spanish by by Patry Francis
Teardown by by Marc Lecard
Runaway by by Derek Nikitas
The crime of my life by by Gregg Olsen
The point guard by by Jason Pinter
Gravity and need by by Marcus Sakey

Death runs faster by by Duane Swierczynski
Righteous son by by Dave White
Coda by by Laura Lippman
The travellin' show by Douglas Hutcheson
Edison's dead men by Ed Turner

Killer Year: A Criminal Anthology Details

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Format : Hardcover 352 pages

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From Reader Review Killer Year: A Criminal Anthology for online ebook

Marnie Krüger says

Every Year I try to read a book with short stories to discover new authors. This year was not so successful. Most of these stories were so bad, I almost didn't finish this. I'm glad I did though, the third to last story really touched something in me. Marcus Sakey is defiantly someone I would want to read more from.

Here are what I thought:

Perfect Gentleman by Brett Battles

2*

Very predictable

Killing Justice by Allison Brennan

3*

A compelling story of injustice, politics and money I think it could have been great with a bit more flesh, but it was very bare in some places

Bottom Deal by Robert Gregory Browne

4

*

Intriguing story and full; well-developed character

Time of the Green by Ken Bruen

1*

This is crappy, the writing, the story. I just didn't like anything

Slice of Pie by Bill Cameron

3*

A quick gripping read. Would like to read more of his stuff

A Failure to Communicate by Toni McGee Causey

3*

This could have been a terrific story if it weren't for the confusing time jumps. I like the heroine, she's kick ass! I'll try to find more of Toni's work. I think I'll like them.

One Serving of Bad Luck by Sean Chercover

4*

I really enjoyed this one. It was fast and on the edge

Prodigal Me by J.T. Ellison

3*

This was fun, just a shame you get to figure the plot twist out way before it happens

The Only word I know in Spanish by Patry Francis

1*

This was just one long rambling of nothing

Teardown by Marc Lecard

2*

Pretty everyday, nothing special

Runaway by Derek Nikitas

1*

WTF did I just read???

This was just a mess...

From start to finish

The Crime of my Life by Gregg Olsen

4*

This was a quick suspenseful one.

And the plot twist... did not see that coming.

The Point Guard by Jason Pinter

4*

This was really good. A swirl of emotion and a bound to the main character in less than ten pages, this is talent.

Gravity and Need by Marcus Sakey

5*

WOW! Marcus makes all the others look like wane-bees.

This was awesome, deep and you really connect with the characters.

If all the stories was like this I wouldn't have such a struggle finishing this damn book.

Death Runs Faster by Duane Swierczynski

1*

So boring, and the writing is terrible.

Righteous Son by Dave White

1*

Just NO!

Evelyn says

Thirteen debut crime writers from 2007 offer up short stories in this great compendium. Authors include Robert Gregory Browne, Toni McGee Causey, Marcus Sakey, Derek Nikitas, Marc Lecard, JT Ellison, Brett Battles, Jason Pinter, Bill Cameron, Sean Chercover, Patry Francis, Gregg Olsen, and David White. Edited by Lee Child and Laura Lippman.

Not every story is a hit, but overall, this is a great read. I especially enjoyed the new authors' introductions by some of my favorite writers. Each story can be read in one sitting, making it a great choice for those with

limited reading time.

Highly recommend.

Vicki Klemm says

short stories being promoted by popular authors. Nice idea. Some of the stories were good. quick read.

Mauoijenn ~ *Mouthy Jenn* ~ says

Good book filled with great stories from some of the best writers on the subject.

Markus says

Average rating: 2.125 (details below)

„Killer Year“ is a collection of 16 short stories from different authors (mostly newcomers) of the thriller genre. The stories range from 12 to 42 pages in length and from bad to amazing in quality.

Some stories were either boring or annoying (6x 1 star), some were ok (5x 2 stars), some were good (3x 3 stars) and two were really outstanding (1x 4 stars, 1x 5 stars).

Detailed ratings:

Perfect Gentleman, Brett Battles
2 stars

Killing Justice, Allison Brennan
1 star

Bottom Deal, Robert Gregory Browne
2 stars

Time of the Green, Ken Bruen
2 stars

Slice of Pie, Bill Cameron
1 star

A Failure to Communicate, Toni McGee Causey
1 star

One Serving of Bad Luck, Sean Chercover
4 stars

Prodigal Me J.T. Ellison

1 star

The Only Word I know in Spanish, Patry Francis

5 stars

Teardown, Marc Lecard

3 stars

Runaway, Derek Nikitas

3 stars

The Crime of My Life, Gregg Olsen

1 star

The Point Guard, Jason Pinter

3 stars

Gravity and Need, Marcus Sakey

2 stars

Death Runs Faster, Duane Swierczynski

2 stars

Righteous Son, Dave White

1 star

Kim says

A collection of murderous thriller-type stories. and as with every collection there were, for me, hits and misses.

But worth reading to get exposed to new authors of the genre

Sullyaugustine says

4 stars out of 5. This has been near perfect to listen to during my evening walks. It's a collection of short stories by young writers, each introduced by a best selling author of crime or detective fiction. There wasn't a bad story in the bunch, and several of them were outstanding.

Barbara says

I have to admit that I was surprised by how well this collection was done. The short stories includes in this book are all extremely well written- some are very dark (take, for example "Gravity and Need") and some are so well done that I would undoubtedly read a full length novel version (such as "Killing Justice" and

"The Only Word I Know in Spanish).

There were, of course, one or two entries that I didn't like and ended up skimming, but that's inevitable in a collection like this. Most importantly, the stories that I enjoyed far outnumbered the few that I didn't.

Overall, the organization of this anthology was fantastic, starting with the intro written by Lee Child explaining how it came to be and including an introduction to each story by a well known author.

I would absolutely recommend this to anyone who enjoys this genre and will be following up on quite a few of the authors!

Janet Martin says

Anthologies almost never earn 5 stars. By their very purpose and nature they will include things that are 100% to any particular reader's taste. Child, who edits this collection makes it clear that it is intended to be a snapshot of writers new to the genre in 2013, and that the purpose of it is to introduce readers and listeners to some of the new voices in crime fiction. It suits that goal perfectly, and after a gap of several years since the original print anthology was published, it is interesting to note that a couple of folks getting this early exposure have gone on to do great things. Several well known writers submitted stories to "anchor" the book with some recognizable names, and while those stories are good, the ones that have struck chords with me have been some of the new ones. I've been scrambling to find their work.

Cheryl says

I am so saddened by this collection. This is one that I had on my shelf for a little while to read. I finally picked it up not expecting to enjoy every story but the majority. This is because it featured some of my favorite authors as well as the genre of this collection is right up my book reading alley. I read the first three stories with hardly any interest, then I jumped around and picked a few more stories to read and again I could not find myself connecting with any of the stories. This is why I am saddened by this collection. I had high hopes for this anthology. I did not attempt to read any more of the stories in this anthology. In fact, I can not really remember the ones that I did read.

John Hood says

<http://miamisunpost.com/archives/2008...>

Bound Dec. 18, 2008 - Miami SunPost

'Tis the Season...

To Kill Somebody

By John Hood

As if the holidays themselves weren't enough to spur a murderous rage, now we've got a killer recession to add to the equation. And if not being able to buy your blabber-mouthed baby what she's been bugging you about all year doesn't drive you to do someone in, surely decking the halls with useless paper will. I mean, how better to celebrate being flat broke during the High Shopping Days than by putting a bullet into somebody's skull?

Thank Zeus Lee Child and a gang called The Killer Year have come along to commit those most dirty of deeds for us, otherwise we might find ourselves not just broke, but busted too.

I jest, of course. Things really aren't that bad. And even if they are, homicide is not an option. But face it, in these dark times even goody two-shoes' can sometimes be overcome by the impulse to strike someone down. When that happens I whole-heartily recommend going out and picking up a copy of *Killer Year: Stories to Die For...* From the Hottest New Crime Writers (St. Martin's Minotaur, \$14.95). Hell, go ahead and pick up two: one for you and one for the person who wants to kill you.

Brought into being by the same-named collective of crime scribes and lethally edited by the wildly popular British scribbler Lee Child, *Killer Year* brings together 16 of the world's deadliest storytellers, three of whom you might know, and 13 who debuted in '07.

But these darkly-driven cats and kittens aren't just the latest in a dirty line of business; many of them are also young, which in this racket is as rare as murder is commonplace.

According to a Coda by reporter-cum-crime writer Laura Lippman, much of the reason these young'uns are taking such a fancy to crime might be due to Vintage Books' reprinting the high lit pulp of master James Crumley (whose *The Last Good Kiss* is a hard core classic). I concur, and then add that it can also be attributed to Vintage's gobbling up and expanding of Black Lizard's louche list of then-forgottens, specifically the noir of David (Dark Passage) Goodis and Jim (The Grifters) Thompson, as well as the early wildness of the late, great Charles (Miami Blues) Willeford, including a particularly delicious piece of muted mayhem entitled *Cockfighter*.

But as fun as it is to speculate about a writer's larcenous lineage, hidden or otherwise, where these scribblers sprung from will never be as thrilling as what they've done — and what they're doing.

Take *Killer Year* co-founder Brett Battles, whose "The Perfect Gentleman" begins with "You won't like me" and gets deliriously more unpleasant from there. Of course, we like our bad guys to be bad, even when they're on the good side of evil, and Battles' *American Papasan* is as bad/good as they come. That "Gentleman" reads like a Filipino outtake from Bangkok badass John Burdett only makes it that much better.

Or consider Sean Chercover's "One Serving of Bad Luck" and how the cut of a knife really redeems a man, Marc Lecard's "Teardown" and the stumble of fortune, Robert Gregory Browne's "Bottom Deal" with its Vegas sense of justice, and Bill Cameron's "Slice of Pie" with its righteous, hungry loser.

And don't think that *Killer Year* is made only of men either, for Toni McGee Causey ("A Failure to Communicate"), J.T. Ellison ("Prodigal Me") and Patry Francis ("The Only Word I Know in Spanish") can stand up to the bad boys any night of the week. Hell, sometimes they can even push 'em down.

If I had to pick a favorite, it'd have to be Marcus Sakey, first because his Chicago-based *The Blade Itself* was one of the most menacing books I read in '07; and second because his short "Gravity and Need" is not just as heartbreaking as Hitchcock, it got me hankering for more, from him and from *Killer Year* itself. Good

thing there were still two stories to go before I got to the end, otherwise who knows what kind of rage would've overtaken me.

Happy Holidays, killer!

Robin says

Some good stories, some not so good. However, there is something for everyone in this book.

Andrew says

Ok I will put my hand up and admit that I was first drawn to this book with the Lee Child strap line across the top - although it quickly became apparent it is a collection of short stories with afore mentioned Mr Child being the editor and having added a few words as way of an introduction. The story collection is really a show case of the authors who contributed - some are new - some are established all are different, there is no real theme running through the book - with content, style and even length varying considerably - the only thing they have in common is that they are different.

Now as a result there were some stories I really enjoyed there were others that infuriated me (with their style) that I didn't finish them. However all in all I did enjoy the book - was it because they are new crime short stories or was it because they were a change to the recent books I have read I cannot be sure

Tyler says

Short Stories from both new authors and others that are well-known to readers of contemporary crime stories. They are trying to get some publicity for the authors who all seem to have a book that is being plugged in the opening comments for each story.

After reading all the stories, I get the feeling that many of the authors are not as comfortable with the short story format. Either that or they hammered one of these out, leaving the A-list stuff for their own future solo work.

So I'm not sure how representative these are of quality of the author's "real" work. I hope they do represent a feel for what the author would bring to their novels.

I think this did its job because I am looking up a few of these new authors' other novels. The well-known-to-me writers all brought high-quality stuff.

Classic bell curve results here.

Perfect Gentleman Brett Battles

3 stars, interesting but little depth, ends way too easy.

Killing Justice Allison Brennan 1 star, pointless, not a mystery, barely a crime story by the end because of the shrinking lack of consequences.

Bottom Deal Robert Gregory Browne 3 Good, I liked the main character, ends way too easy.

Time of the Green Ken Bruen 4 Stars, not much to it but it is not any longer than it needs to be. Entertaining narrator.

Slice of Pie Bill Cameron 2 Stars, fairly pointless, kind of humorous and makes me want to at least look into

the author's other work but this specific story has basically nothing to it.

A Failure to Communicate Toni McGee Causey 2 Stars, Convoluted timeline which I did not really care enough to try and figure out. A Romantic Crime story, not interested.

One Serving of Bad Luck Sean Chercover 4 stars, good narrator and satisfying story.

Prodigal Me J.T. Ellison 3 stars, entertaining, short story. Good narrator, setting. Too bad the twist has been seen many times.

The Only Word I know in Spanish Patry Francis 4 stars, Good story, the type of story that would appear in a Best of year crime stories(not mine but has that critical appeal).

Teardown Marc Lecard 4 stars, Good characters, story. Ends kind of easy. Probably doesn't deserve 4 stars.

Runaway Derek Nikitas 2 stars, Critics would like this one but I don't because it ends too ambiguously. I think I know what happened but really there is no buildup to that possibility so that is really unsatisfying. If what I think didn't happen, then I have no idea what actually did happen so waste of time. It is sad because it is really well done besides the whole plot thing. Makes me want to give the author another chance. Potential here.

The Crime of My Life Gregg Olsen 2 Stars, Ambiguous ending again, but so ambiguous I have no idea what is going on. This type of story is waste of time for me.

The Point Guard Jason Pinter 3 Stars, Story is nothing but the main character is believable. Good.

Gravity and Need Marcus Sakey 4 stars, Another review compared it to Hitchcock and I agree. Maybe Hitchcock but more depressing.

Death Runs Faster Duane Swierczynski 3 Stars, No story really. The main character is nothing other than a way to describe a 21st century blue-collar nightmare everyday life. You do not want to be this guy. That is quite affecting but if it was tied to a story that paid off a bit more, then it could be great if a little painful to get through. Most of his stories are fairly painful, not escapist.

Righteous Son Dave White 2 Stars, Pointless didn't hate it though.

Zac Stojcevski says

This is not a Lee Child book - an anthology of 13 - yes, how sinister - short stories of various lengths and intrigue. In some instances, the story moved so quickly to the end that I had to re-read the last few paragraphs. In others, there is lasting, haunting imagery. Child appropriately likens this to a smash hits album/cd where there are hits, misses and one hit wonders. Sometimes, the introductions from the coven of crime writers provides a nice touch of sleeve notes for the artist and their entrée.
