



REVIEW:

American Predator: The Hunt for the Most Meticulous Serial Killer of the 21st Century

By Maureen Callahan

This book was an extensively researched and well written account of a unique Serial Killer. Israel Keyes was an evil psychopathic serial killer who had

committed multiple crimes including rape, arson, burglary and bank robbery. He was an opportunist offender who managed to stay under the radar by cleverly slithering through society as an anonymous snake. He certainly did not fit the FBI's general profile of your standard Serial Killer.

I commanded The Bronx Homicide Task Force, I have worked homicide investigations, I continue to consult on cases and have trained nearly 75,000 professional in Practical Homicide Investigation where the philosophy is "Do it right the first time. You only get one chance," I was frustrated as I read what has become all too familiar to me over the years; Tunnel Vision and a preconceived determination of what occurred; Failure to Protect the Crime Scene, Failure to Manage the Crime Scene Process, Failure to Conduct a Proper Neighborhood Canvas to locate possible witnesses; Failure to Obtain Video Surveillance tapes; Failure of law enforcement agencies to work together as a Team; Command Interference; Inappropriate Actions on the part of the Federal Prosecutor who was looking for personal fame, which I have seen throughout my career.

Maureen Callahan weaved all of these factors into a very compelling Major Case Investigation by gathering all of the materials from the individual investigators and court records through Freedom of Information, which in some cases proved embarrassing to the agencies. Callahan effectively portrayed the in-fighting which took place and the attempts by some to cover up foolish mistakes or protect fragile egos.

Callahan was able to effectively describe an understanding of the unique Alaskan law enforcement dynamics and the power structure. I taught my Practical Homicide Investigation seminar in Anchorage in 2008 and 2011 and learned quite a bit about how things are done much differently in the lower 48 as well as the local and federal interaction.

That's probably where FBI Agent Payne learned my "Do it Right the First Time. You only get one Chance." The FBI is famous for borrowing and usurping phrases, tactics and procedures and proclaiming them as their own. At least they are consistent.

I highly recommend this book. I had read Callahan's excerpts in the New York Post in June, 2019 and decided that this book would be well worth the read.



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★★★★★ from [Vernon J. Geberth](#) on July 19, 2019

Murdercop: Author of Practical Homicide Investigation