



REVIEW:

Homicide: The View from Inside the Yellow Tape

By Cloyd Steiger

Homicide: The View from Inside the Yellow Tape: A True Crime Memoir by Cloyd Steiger is exactly what the title states. You cannot get a more exclusive look at the world of the “Murder Cop” than this real life

memoir. I’ve known Cloyd for a number of years since I taught in the Seattle area for over 30 years and Cloyd and I shared many a murder cop story. He is the real deal. I found myself laughing at his humor. Humor is the only drug legal available in this line of business to keep us sane. I thought that his comments about certain people in administrative positions arriving at the scene of a high profile murder investigation and screwing things up were right on target. I also liked the description of the FBI as hyper-regulated. He referred to them as The Federal Bureaucracy of Investigation. Murder Cops are trained to instantaneously react to a situation rather than get clearance from headquarters for every procedure. I also laughed about Seattle Police Chief Norm Stamper’s “Feel Good” policy of having a psychologist ask Cloyd “Do you feel like talking to someone?” after Cloyd handled a particularly nasty child homicide. His answer was classic Cloyd.”*I feel like if I have to talk to someone like you every time something like this happens I’m in the wrong fucking line of work and need to think of a career change*” His court testimony answers were hysterical. The scene descriptions were great and I liked his

reference to some gang banger shot up in a car. Cloyd uttered; ““*Wow. The shootout at the OK Corolla.*” Now that’s funny. But I think Cloyd borrowed my description of certain homicides as “Misdemeanor Murders” when he was describing one of his murders. His explanation of the “No Snitch” culture, which permeates urban life, is a right-on. It is a problem for all murder cops across the country as they attempt to locate witnesses to solve cases in the inner cities. The anti-police rhetoric of the last administration coupled with the stronghold thugs exert on their fellow citizens in these neighborhoods makes the job almost impossible, Sometimes the only way the case is solved is when the perpetrator of today becomes the murder victim tomorrow. I highly recommend this book to anyone with interested in homicide investigation and the internal dynamics behind the Yellow Tape.

I am glad that Cloyd did not retire-retire, but took his experience and knowledge to the State Attorney General’s Office where he is presently The Chief Investigator helping others to see that **Justice is Done.**

Author of Practical Homicide Investigation,

By [Vernon J. Geberth "murdercop"](#)

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★★★★★ from [Vernon J. Geberth](#) on July 2, 2019

Murdercop: Author of Practical Homicide Investigation

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