The Innocent Killer: A True Story Of A Wrongful Conviction And Its Astonishing Aftermath
Synopsis

In The Innocent Killer, Michael Griesbach tells the story of one of the nation's most notorious wrongful convictions, that of Steven Avery, a Wisconsin man who spent 18 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. But two years after he was exonerated of that crime and poised to reap millions in his wrongful conviction lawsuit, Steven Avery was arrested for the exceptionally brutal murder of Teresa Halbach, a freelance photographer who had gone missing several days earlier. The "innocent man" had turned into a cold-blooded killer. Or had he?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When he starts discussing the Halbach death this author claims that Steven Avery answers his door in a towel and that Teresa "didn’t think much of it". Anybody listening should wonder how he knows this. Well, he doesn’t. And that is how the rest of the book continues. A bunch of spewing of words with nothing to back it up. I really hoped there would be something presented that would give clout to the prosecution side, but that didn’t happen. He really just repeated everything Ken Kratz claimed. He mentions a "horrific crime scene" but doesn’t describe it. The rest of the book is like this, just making comments without supporting it. He basically states that it is impossible for law enforcement, or more specifically those involved in this case, to do anything wrong. But he sure does talk about the failures of the state in the first case. In the first case he goes on and on about the failures of the justice system, but then in the second case he implies that the justice system is not flawed. It’s weird. I really wanted him to play devils advocate and show me how Steven Avery is guilty. He didn’t do that. He really is just repeating what is on file with the state. No educated thoughts of his own, except that he believes everything that is on paper. When Steven is
exonerated again, I can't wait to see how this guy writes that book.

The first 80% of the book was a well written engaging piece that you don’t want to put down. It deserves 5 stars. However, coverage of the investigation and trial of the subsequent murder was horrible. Given Avery’s previous wrong conviction, this investigation should have been "by the book". In my opinion it was almost worse than the investigation done in the wrongful conviction. Points were just glossed over by the author so poorly that an uninformed reader would reach the conclusion that Avery was indeed guilty of the murder. Perhaps Griesbach will explore in a sequel but his closing clearly seemed to me he sided with the prosecution, and although mentioned, he likely succumbed to the same temptations that overtook the prosecution in both the initial wrongful conviction and the subsequent murder prosecution. An entire book could be dedicated to the subsequent murder investigation, prosecution and conviction. If done in an unbiased manner, the reader would truly be left scratching their head and wondering did they really wrongfully convict the same man twice? However, it seemed to me Griesbach had formed an opinion and didn’t appear to leave this door open to further explore.

Say I hadn’t been caught up in the recent Netflix binge sensation concerning the Steve Avery story and I just picked this up to read as true crime. It is pretty bad. First, it was written by a prosecutor who decided he wanted to take a turn at authoring. Those usually don’t turn out very well. You need a tenacious investigative journalist in order to write really good TC, IMHO. There isn’t enough information in here! The best case scenario is to have someone reinvestigate all the potential police and court misconduct that may have gone on here. I would much rather have Avery and his nephew sitting out free and guilty than incarcerated forever for something that they may (likely?) not have done. Pretty bad writing. I would say skip this and do your own internet research if this case is causing you to stay up all night and talk about it all day to everyone you know, ad nauseam.

If you are expecting a fair assessment of the trial that is well covered in the Making a Murderer Netflix documentary, then you will be very sadly disappointed. The book follows on from the failure of law enforcement throughout the whole case, and tries to make an atrocious miscarriage of justice look acceptable. It is disappointing that it has made it to the bookshelves, and it is not worthy of publication - unless of course you feel injustice is worth celebrating. Stay clear of this book. Best to wait for the ‘guilty killers’ to be freed and read the real truth, much of which was exposed in the documentary. More useful books would be ‘The Innocent Victims’, ‘The Guilty Innocent’ & ‘Framing
If you are curious about purchasing this book, DO NOT DO SO. If you would like to see how misleading and untrue this book is, just see for your own eyes on facebook. search for "the innocent killer" from the facebook search bar. Make sure and read all the comments on all the posts and Michael Griesbach’s responses. This book is NOT a true crime book, it is based on misleading false facts. Also this book shows how grossly unethical Michael Griesbach is as he has worked for Manitowoc County since 1991, The same Manitowoc county that wronged Steven Avery from 1985-2003 and is now capitalizing on his own departments notoriety.

So full of lies it was laughable. This guy is setting himself up for a lawsuit and I hope he gets one. Someone trying to insert himself into a hot case for money. Don’t waste your hard earned money on this piece of fiction. Just watch Making a Murderer on Netflix and read the news if you want the truth. Michael Greasebach is a killer of literature.

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