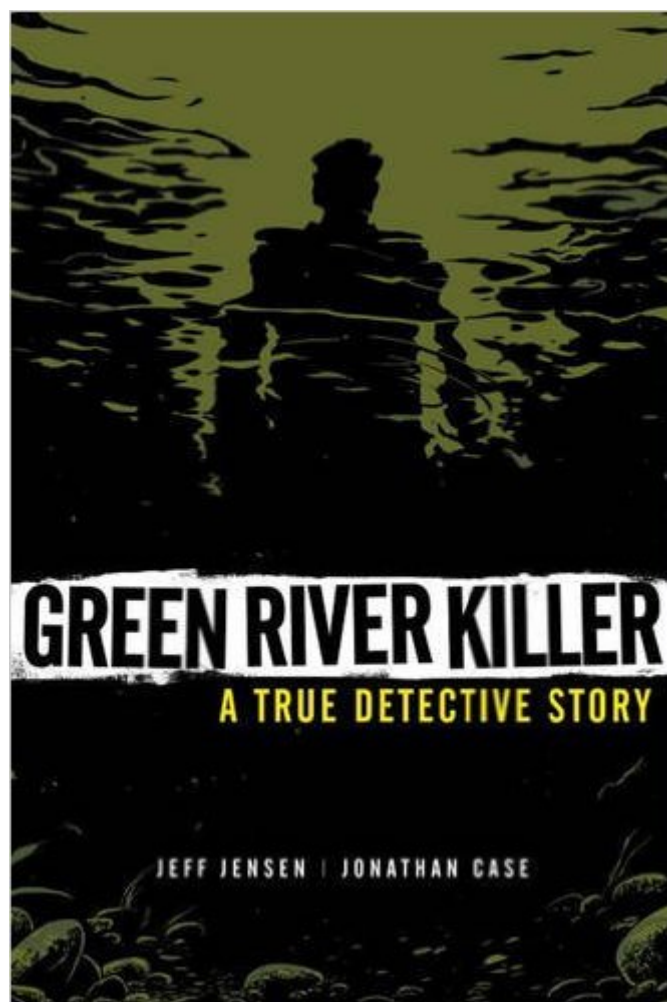


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Green River Killer



Synopsis

The story of one of America's most notorious killers is revealed in this true-crime comic unlike any other! Throughout the 1980s, the highest priority of Seattle-area police was the apprehension of the Green River Killer, the man responsible for the murders of dozens of women. In 1990, with the body count numbering at least forty-eight, the case was put in the hands of a single detective, Tom Jensen. After twenty years, when the killer was finally captured with the help of DNA technology, Jensen spent 180 days interviewing Gary Leon Ridgway in an effort to learn his most closely held secrets--an epic confrontation with evil that proved as disturbing and surreal as can be imagined. Written by Jensen's own son, acclaimed entertainment writer Jeff Jensen, *Green River Killer: A True Detective Story* presents the ultimate insider's account of America's most prolific serial killer. Praise for a previous edition of *Green River Killer*: "The story Jeff Jensen has to tell about Tom Jensen's pursuit of the Green River Killer, with its artful shifts back and forth in time, operates on two levels: as a spellbinding true-crime story and as a son's deep, loving appreciation of his father's life, work, and code of honor. I finished this book feeling as though I'd read a relentless thriller and a moving memoir: two gifts in one." -Ken Tucker, *Entertainment Weekly* "Terrific. It's got the scariest opening sequence I've read in years, and the novel as a whole makes compelling stay-up-late reading. Great, creepy stuff." -Stephen King

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Let me preface this review by saying that I don't "get" graphic novels, particularly non-fiction graphic novels. I do understand where they could be useful in explaining complicated matters to children,

but I don't understand why anyone else would choose a graphic novel over a traditionally formatted book. They are just not my thing. That said, I truly enjoyed this book. In fact, I enjoyed it so much that I am going to give the entire genre another try. The story begins with a brief flashback to give us a sense of the depravity of the Green River Killer, Gary Ridgway. Moving quickly, the story then jumps to the early life of Detective Tom Jensen, demonstrating his sense of duty to keep lawbreakers off the streets, as well as his deep commitment to family. Weaving across the decades, the story follows Jensen as his team first identifies a possible serial killer is on the loose, through mounds of evidence and false leads, finally resting suspicion on Ridgway. At that point, the real story is just getting started. Once identified as the only really viable suspect, they must then gather enough evidence and/or a confession to put Ridgway away for life. Sprinkled with vignettes from Jensen's personal life, we are reminded that he is an ordinary man who has been tasked with an extraordinary burden. We are reminded of the passing years through the subtle aging of the characters in the graphics (wonderfully rendered by Jonathan Case) and the introduction of new technology, new babies and the loss of old friends. I enjoyed that the graphics do not seem to fight the story for your attention. They work hand in hand together to tell a creepy and compelling tale. My verdict: Read it! Even if you are not a fan of graphic novels, this one is worth a second look- especially for True Crime aficionados. However, I don't recommend reading it right before bed in a strange place. See more reviews at [...]

I picked up "Green River Killer" after the author Jeff Jensen appeared on an episode of RadioLab (podcast) dealing with evil and people who do bad things. My recommendation for this book/graphic novel comes from the ability of Jeff to tell the story in a way that illustrates the common denominator between altruists and psychopaths: empathy. Aside from "The Walking Dead" series, I have never read a story where the hero shows no greater empathy and the villain shows complete lack of empathy. In "Green River Killer", Jeff recounts the past thirty years where his father was the primary detective on the Green River case. Although there are numerous flashbacks, the story primarily takes place in 2003 when Jeff's father has to travel around with the recently captured Green River Killer - Gary Ridgway - to isolate locations where he left or dumped bodies and murdered some of his victims. Overall it is written and illustrated very well where I highly recommend to anyone interested in crime or mystery.

This was a great read. I read it in one sitting. Not that it was a spectacular feat, it only took about an hour. There are a lot of pages, but not a crazy amount of dialogue. The art is very good and does a

great job of making you experience the grim nature of the material without ever becoming exploitative. The writer is the son of one of the detectives and the story is more about his father than the killer, but the way he uses the subject matter to tell a great story while also expressing his respect and love for his father is exceptional. I just really enjoyed this book.

An unusual take on the true story of the man who killed dozens of prostitutes in Seattle. The author is the son of the detective who caught the serial killer and then spent about six months basically living with the guy as the killer tried to recollect where he left the bodies, part of a controversial plea deal that spared him the death penalty. What makes it unusual is how mundane the killer is. He can't remember major details of killings and constantly gets wrong where he left bodies, not because he's really innocent but because he's simply forgotten - he'd moved on with his life, getting married and having kids. The murders and the victims simply weren't that important to him, and he saw himself as a good guy, ridding Seattle of what he referred to as "trash." This makes the graphic novel a little dull despite the subject matter, but all the pieces fit together when the epilogue kicks in and the author inserts himself. No one would believe the story if it weren't true. I liked how it turns out that the detective and the killer were both married at the same chapel, so the detective remarries his wife in Hawaii in order to minimize their connection. Anyway, it's a thoughtful book with simple drawings. Bechdel test: fail. Grade: B+

My youngest son, whom is not really a big reader, read this book in 3 hours and loved it! I am almost done with it and am finding it very interesting. I never heard of this serial killer and living in Montana, so close, find it very fascinating! Recommend this book for everyone!

I found this excellent graphic novel after reading about a similar book, Derf Backderf's My Friend Dahmer. As a long-time reader of the true crime genre, I was intrigued by this pair of books, which take such personal (though very different) looks at two lost souls. Like many of the reviewers of this book, I have limited experience with graphic novels. The format doesn't turn me off though. This ended up being a terrific read. The book opens with a brief and horrifying look at Ridgeway's early life, which is contrasted with a loving flashback to the courtship of author Jeff Jensen's parents. His father, Tom, was involved in the case from 1984, up through 2003 when he participated in the long and taxing process of corroborating Ridgeway's confessions. I remember how controversial the arrangement was at the time. Shouldn't someone who so casually took the lives of so many women be subject to capital punishment? I admire what the prosecutors did, and Tom Jensen's persistence

in following the case through to its end. Another reviewer made a good point about the striking difference between the detective's empathy and Ridgeway's apparent complete lack of it for his victims. That's part of the heart of this book, the illustration of that difference. Jonathan Case's art complements the story well. It's very expressive. What I appreciate about the graphic novel format is its compactness. I'm a compulsive reader, going through 5-10 books a week. I don't always remember them very well, but I have to say that this book made a strong impression on me. I'll remember it for a long time. I recommend it to readers of Ann Rule, and of Robert D. Keppel's *The Riverman*.

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