



The Serial Killer Whisperer: How One Man's Tragedy Helped Unlock the Deadliest Secrets of the World's Most Terrifying Killers

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From New York Times bestselling author Pete Earley—the strange but true story of a man who suffers a traumatic brain injury and as a result is given the ability to converse with the world's most terrifying criminals.

After suffering a horrific head injury, fifteen-year-old Tony Ciaglia discovered he could no longer control his emotions or social responses and found himself incapable of feeling disgust at the antisocial behavior of others. Eventually therapy and medication helped Tony largely overcome his emotional instability, and when his therapist suggested he develop a hobby, Tony acted on a whim and wrote to an imprisoned serial killer. To his astonishment, the killer wrote back.

Tony's hobby eventually turned into a full-blown obsession, and soon he was corresponding with dozens of serial killers who revealed heinous details about their horrendous crimes—even those they'd never been convicted of. The killers opened up to Tony; they trusted him, considered him a friend. Unable to feel disgust at the revolting stories, Tony began to fear that the potential for killing without guilt lurked within him, and he became suicidal. Ultimately, Tony found redemption and purpose by helping law enforcement officials solve crimes his connection uncovered, and before long, investigators from around the country were calling on him for assistance with cold cases.

The Serial Killer Whisperer is not only the story of how Tony learned to use his gift in the interest of justice, but it is also an inspiring—albeit sometimes terrifying—tale of healing and closure for a man who has struggled to lead a normal life.

The Serial Killer Whisperer: How One Man's Tragedy Helped Unlock the Deadliest Secrets of the World's Most Terrifying Killers Details

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Unlock the Deadliest Secrets of the World's Most Terrifying Killers Pete Earley

From Reader Review The Serial Killer Whisperer: How One Man's Tragedy Helped Unlock the Deadliest Secrets of the World's Most Terrifying Killers for online ebook

Kimberly Jackson says

Pete has wrote a fantastic book that I really enjoyed. The Serial Killer Whisperer is a book that will have you thinking twice about how you treat others around you. Tony was a young man who was in a bad accident that left him with a major brain injury. To his surprise writing to Serial Killers made him believe in himself once again. What he does is amazing but the end was even better. I would recommend this book to anyone!!

Andrea Hickman Walker says

Interesting, but rather disappointing in that his quest to find remains and evidence of other victims seems not to have had any positive results.

Lee says

As a person with a fair interest in serial killers, I was intrigued by this book, written about Tony Ciaglia, who suffered a severe head trauma as a teenager. His communication skills were very strongly impaired and he was unable to control his anger at all.

In his thirties, Tony saw the commonly quoted fact that most serial killers that have been caught and profiled suffered head injuries as children, although not as serious as the one he had. Tony began corresponding with many serial killers in prison in hopes of gaining some insight into himself.

I didn't think that would happen, but I did enjoy seeing the growth that Tony accomplishes by his correspondence and eventual meeting with some of the killers. Over the course of the book, his communication skills improve greatly, he learns to control his temper to some degree, he learns to interpret the behavior and letters of the killers with help from his family, and he learns empathy toward the victims.

For those of a similarly morbid mind, the serial killers featured are Arthur Shawcross, the Genesee River Killer (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_S...); Joe Metheny, the Cannibal Killer (<http://www.murderpedia.org/male.M/m/m...>); Tony Gore (<http://www.serialkillercalendar.com/D...>) and Robert C. Hansen (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_H...). The book does present correspondence that tells the killers' side of the story, including gory details. Most of the killers seem to be the kind who get the thrill from the kill itself and from mutilation and necrophilia afterwards.

A pretty good read.

Laura Cowan says

It's a good story, I enjoyed reading it, it's fairly well written (though quite disorganized) and I have a couple of complaints. First is with the title/subtitle. It's incredibly misleading. SPOILER: Tony doesn't get any secrets from any serial killers until the epilogue. The EPILOGUE!!! Sure he talks to them often by mail and phone but is he told secrets? No. It's more like he's cannon fodder the way they detail their kills to him, but hey, no one should expect stories about rainbows from these guys.

The second complaint is about the scope of the book. The subject AKA "The Whisperer" keeps up correspondence with over 40 serial killers & misc. murderous felons during the course of the story. How many do you get to hear about in any detail? Three. Yep, 3. There are two more introduced in the last two chapters and one of them refuses to talk to the guy. One more has a couple paragraphs in the epilogue. Gotta love that epilogue :/

It shoulda been called "Tony and his Serial Killer Pen-Pals; How One Mans Traumatic Brain Injuries Allowed Him To Connect With Psychopaths"

Tony says

Hello Everyone.

My name is Tony Ciaglia, and I am a traumatic brain injury survivor. I am also the subject of this book, The Serial Killer Whisperer. I love to go online and read the mixed reviews of this book. I do understand that because of the controversial subject matter, this book is not for everyone. Some have questioned the sanity of my parents and brother as to how they could let me engage in such a hobby talking with such heinous people. I can assure you all that I have the most loving family anyone could ever ask for and all of this was done in a controlled atmosphere.

I have been through hell and back as the result of a horrendous jet ski accident that left me in a coma for almost two months. The real story here is a story of struggle, recovery, love of a family, courage, and faith. My story was meant to provide faith to those that may be struggling right now, and hopefully touch people in a way that they have never been touched. For those of you that missed that part of the story, I'm sorry.. maybe you can read it again. =)

Now for the serial killers. I think we are all interested in that darkness, some just don't want to admit it. Whenever I tell people that I write with serial killers I usually get a disgusted look, and then they have a million questions for me. It's ok, I don't mind it and it's okay to admit that you have a strange fascination. Our justice system puzzles me. They set out to convict a man or woman for the terrible crimes or murders that they committed. Once they get a conviction for one or two murders, that's all they care about. Personally, if a man or woman killed 25 people and they were convicted of two, then I want to know what happened to the other 23. It's only fair to the families right? So, that's what I did. I set out on a mission to find out what happened to the "forgotten ones" and to see if I could help people understand these men and women so that they can be avoided.

Now, I did not write this book, Pete Earley did. I did, however, provide him with ALL of the information that is in that book so I guess you could call him a glorified ghost writer in this case. His style and order for this book may not appeal to all. What you need to understand is that I demanded that the story be told the way that I lived it, and the way that the letters were received. I know that it's a tough book to read, but out of respect for the victims and their families, I didn't want any part of the book be sugar coated. I hope you all can find some respect in that.

I'd like to close this by saying that I am humbled by all of your feedback and respect all of your opinions whether good or bad. My family and I poured our heart and soul into the pages of this book and I hope that each of you were able to walk away with something from reading it.

I have a personal webpage at www.tonyciaglia.com and you can contact me through there if you have any questions at all. I do read them all and will do my absolute best to respond to all questions. Also, I appeared on The Doctors on Monday March 26th. In case you missed it, you can find it at www.thedoctorstv.com

Remember to always live in the calm after the storm.

Respectfully,
Tony Ciaglia

Rissa says

3.5 ??

Very interesting to say the least.

Ishmael Seaward says

Interesting but disappointing in many ways. I was hoping for some more insight along the lines of "The Science of Evil", but not so far. I'm about 2/3's of the way through the book.

A young man (Tony) has a horrific accident, suffering traumatic brain injury (TBI). The damage manifests itself as periodic fits of uncontrollable rage, defensiveness, memory issues, and social miscues, all of which alienate him from his former friends and society at large. His parents and brother stick by him, and with their help, and the help of psychiatrists and a psychologists, begins to come to grips with how to manage his new persona.

In the course of his recovery, he decides to befriend serial killers (SK) via a letter writing campaign. The ostensible reason is to see if he can establish a connection with each SK because they and Tony have something in common: uncontrollable rage and feelings of alienation. And based on that connection, Tony will elicit better understanding of why they did what they did, and also obtain more detailed confessions. He does, in fact, establish relationships with about 24 such killers. One of them is Shawcross, with whom he has an extensive correspondence and actually visits. Shawcross does provide very detailed descriptions of what he did (Warning: not for the squeamish.), but very little of the why and the wherefore, at the time of the killings. They do provide some information about their childhoods and how damaging some of them were, but how those events actually drove them to commit such horrific crimes is not apparent from their confessions. Some described what they were feeling, "uncontrollable urge" according to David Gore, others were less clear, some just blocked it out.

At the point where Shawcroft has died, Tony and his family are discussing the confessions provided by Shawcroft. Tony finally realizes that Shawcroft's confessions are the alternate reality that Shawcroft created in his mind, and those alternate realities are not new to the investigators or to the psychologists who interviewed and studied these people. So it seems that Tony has been manipulated into publishing the alternate realities of these SKs.

Update & conclusion: Tony spends a fair amount of time corresponding with David Gore, but in my opinion, doesn't seem to gain much, other than a map that purports to show where Gore hid his trophies. Which were

hair clippings. Gore never explains why the hair clippings, or why even trophies, much less why he committed such crimes.

By the end of the book, when Tony is trying to create a relationship with Hanson, Bryan Tompkins enters the script. Based on Bryan's information, there is a realistic hope that Tony may have helped uncover the location of some of Hanson's victims, and that more victims of other SKs may be located. It is also apparent that Tony is getting more comfortable with his new persona. I also think that Bryan Tompkins would have made for a more interesting subject. He is definitely more introspective and more open about sharing his thoughts and feelings. But his appearance is all too short.

Carol says

Serial Killer Whisperer seems a must for fans of true crime. That's me even though I haven't read many in the past few years. This may be due to the subject matter or it's possible I haven't found a case that interested me.

My plan while reading Serial Killer Whisperer was not to review the book on GR. I was reluctant to share that I actually read this going so far as to suggest it to a GR friend through a message who I knew would want to read it rather than sharing my thoughts by posting any comments. I suppose I was taking the easy way out. If you didn't know I read it, you couldn't think "What's wrong with that woman?" as Serial Killer Whisperer ranks as one of the most disturbing, even nauseating, true crime books I have read however it is one that will remain with me.

When Tony Ciaglia was in his early teens he was in a freak wave runner accident, one that left him brain injured. His traumatic brain injury resulted in friends dumping him and as he grew older was the cause of severe mood swings, problems with relationships; many of the general issues that you would expect when the brain gets slammed as his did. I think it was when he was in his thirties that his therapist suggested he get a hobby to help control the emotional ups and downs. The hobby Tony chooses was an odd one. He decided he was going to correspond with prisoners, but not just any of the myriads of those behind bars. He chose to start a correspondence with serial killers. Gaining his family's approval of the plan by promising that he will not only let them read what he sends but also allow them to read what responses he sends out several letters. Tony soon has what I hate to call a pen pal relationship with some of the most celebrated serial killers, one in which he and they share a great deal of personal information, what could be perceived as a friendship. He has a phone installed, one he calls "the murder phone", used only to take calls from these killers.

It is the correspondence itself that causes the most difficulty for this reader, as it is extremely graphic. Many readers question whether the detail shared here is necessary or if you can really call Tony a whisperer. I listened to the book and know for me that hearing the text verbatim describing the murder of the victims made the reality even worse. I did skip parts. After listening to the author's note, I think I would have to agree that quoting the letters was necessary for an understanding of the subject matter. It's possible that fewer letters could have been shared with the same results. Peter Earley expresses that he regrets any pain or additional suffering this may have caused the victim's families and assures the reader that no one was paid for their cooperation nor would any criminals profit from sale of book. He also notes that what is in quotes was taken directly from the letters but letters were not always quoted in their entirety. It is difficult when listening to know where the quote marks are making this a better choice to read. Alan Sklar provides brings just the right sinister narration to the reading of the letters. Earley also notes that all names are real except for a few which were changed by request or necessity and that a map that is described leading to one killer's trophy stash has been changed in order to keep others from trying to find it. Earley also states that he has constructed the narrative flow as factually as possible.

Note that I do not name the names of these serial killers. If you are interested you will hear enough about them without me giving them the time of day.

There is a fascination with serial murder. I became interested in true crime back in the 70's when three young girls disappeared near my home. As a young mother of two little girls it was all the more horrible to read about. To this day those girls and their killer(s) have not been found and their cold cases are being looked at once again. Remember this was also the time that Ted Bundy was killing and soon after Michael Ross was in the news. In 1980 a young woman, sister of a young man in our town, was strangled and murdered and dumped in a swamp. I became interested in hopes of finding out what goes on in the brain of serial killers but that question has never truly been answered by anything I've read. Psychologists give many reasons why we read about these crimes. Dr. Robert Simon explains it this way in the book.

...*"Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde nature of serial murders that fascinate us. Most serial killers appear outwardly quite ordinary like your neighbor or mine living normal everyday lives in which just as we do they fill the car with gasoline, hold down a job, and pay taxes," Simon explained in a professional article. "From behind this veneer of ordinariness their Mr. Hyde personality, representative of the darkest aspect of humanity, jumps out to torture and kill victims—and to transfix us."*

Suffice it to say I have read true crime and will probably do so again.

What moved me forward in Serial Killer Whisperer was Tony's story itself. Here was something tangible, something you could grab onto and have a chance at understanding. Tony Ciaglia's TBI is the fascinating aspect of this book. How he and his family struggle and deal with TBI and Tony's determination to find purpose in his life made the book worth reading. Tony worries that his injury could mean he has the traits of a serial killer but soon learns that there is much that separates him and his prison acquaintances. He realizes that he has the ability "to get those killers to share their innermost thoughts and secrets" and that this does allow some information to be revealed to help lawmakers that would not have been if not for his efforts.

There are interesting statistics given throughout. At the time of this publication, 2012, here is just one that gives pause for thought:

"The most recent figures from law enforcement that there at least 50 serial killers on the prowl at any given time in the United States. Some claim the number could be as high as 200. The FBI has estimated that serial murders could claim an average of 11 lives a day in the United States during the twenty-first century."

I would have appreciated a more thorough wrap-up by Earley in the epilogue. There were several loose ends but I guess that's the nature of the stories being told. I'll probably seek out information about Tony Ciaglia in the future to see where his hobby takes him.

Wanda says

I am sorry I read this awful book. It contains a plethora of morally bankrupt narrative composed by some of the most monstrous killers on death row. Unlike others, I did not consider it pornographic, so much as boring. These are empty people who think and act in horrible ways. They do not need an audience for their rants and their reliving of their vicious deeds. I was not particularly shocked as others have been because this book contains no more shocking material than the average Ann Rule book. It's just that the murders themselves describe their deeds in their own empty, affectless way. As far as Tony and his family -- oh please. I cannot believe that this family encouraged this guy to correspond with AND TO VISIT these monsters. They kept much from the police and they played at "Criminal Minds" which is kind of perverse.

The most disgusting aspect was that Tony shared details of his sex life in his correspondence with these killers. And we are supposed to think he is an upstanding guy who helped the cops?? I think not. Don't bother with this one.

Nicola Mansfield says

Reason for Reading: Various reasons really. First of all I have an interest in serial killers. Secondly, I was intrigued by Tony Ciaglia's brain injury and what led him to write to serial killers and finally I enjoy books that contains letters.

This book is not for the squeamish. It contains brutal letters from serial killers describing their crimes in graphic detail. Without having read the book, one will first wonder what purpose this serves. Is it gratuitous and voyeuristic or does it serve some higher purpose? It is completely possible to read the book and skip the letters that describe murders, not all the letters do. What the letters do though, all of them, is let one inside the mind of a serial killer in a way that the public has never seen before. When serial killers posture for interviews or psychologists they are performing for an audience and act and behave in certain ways that these narcissistic people need to do so. But with Tony Ciaglia, he was/is able to get to the real person inside these monsters, most of them are still monsters on the inside, but Tony got their defenses down, treated them non-judgementally as people and they responded in kind, treating Tony as a "best friend".

The first part of the book deals with Tony's teenage accident which caused Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) from which he was never expected to recover. Recover he did though and we are taken through the journey of his recovery and the effect this had on his family and the after effects that defined the "new" Tony. A more child-like person, but with sudden violent rages. With much psychological work and the right medications, Tony is leading a relatively normal life today. I found this part of the book fascinating. Something in the "new" Tony starts his obsession with writing to serial killers, befriending them and getting them to talk openly about things that had never come out to officials before. After Tony's accident he had a near death experience where he met God and became a very religious Catholic. His family was Catholic but not exactly practicing. He believed that God had sent him back for a purpose and this was his purpose, to help find information on cold cases and bring closure for families by using his gift with these men. The end of the book contains a personal message from Tony where he speaks of his calling.

A riveting book to read. The graphic letters are hard to read, but they and the other more mundane or waxing philosophical letters from the serial killers are quite insightful into the harrowing sickness of their minds. I enjoyed reading the book, was mostly taken with Tony himself. He has a child-like naivete about him, yet he didn't lose any of his intelligence in the accident, even though it is harder for him to express himself intellectually. A very interesting book on two accounts. For the insight into the psychological make-up of the mind of a serial killer and the psychological insight into the mind of a TBI victim and survivor. Recommended for those interested in psychology and those with the stomach to read the graphic details.

Katherine says

This book was an impulse read - it was on display at the library and the inside cover said something about the author being a Pulitzer Prize finalist a few years ago (gets me every time) and I thought I'd try it. I'm so sorry I did.

At fifteen, Tony suffered a brain injury as the result of an accident. The best parts of the book followed his

recovery and struggles to live with damage to his frontal lobe, which left him impulsive, aggressive, and with little self-insight. He has a supportive, loving family and girlfriend and his struggles to cope would have been awe-inspiring if they hadn't been undermined by the rest of the book.

Tony begins writing friendly letters to serial killers. And many of them write back, revealing details of their unthinkable crimes. I must say that this book does require a very strong stomach; it is much more disturbing than the other true crime books I've read. Certainly the crime details are god-awful and graphic, but I did at least expect that going in and it actually isn't what was most upsetting about this book.

What was most upsetting is these horrific crimes are presented in letters written by the serial killers themselves. The serial killer point of view is so skewed and sick and fantasy-based (their victims wanted it, deserved it, etc.) that I cannot understand the point in giving this view a voice. And that's what this book does, upping the ante on true crime shock value. Imagine the contrast between a journalistic style of reporting vs a fantasy story in which the serial killer is the hero and the victim all at once and you'll understand why this book turned my stomach. (ETA: Their points of view are all the SAME! Once you've read about one, you've read about them all - just the crime details change: it's not their fault, society is against them, and their victims shouldn't have been in the wrong place at the wrong time anyway.)

Unfortunately, that same conclusion took Tony over four years of correspondence to get to. I held out, however; surely some good would come from all of this? A case will be solved, a body will be found, a family will be given closure? Oh no. Although Tony certainly gets detail upon detail of crimes--real, embellished, or imagined often remains unclear--not one case is solved or even reopened as the result of Tony's friendship (although one is now being investigated by retired volunteer detectives). But then on more than one occasion Tony and his parents decided that they wouldn't bother the police with details they had discovered. Arg!!

I wish this book had focused more on Tony's struggles to cope. Instead this book gives attention to a very sick point of view. And I can't for the life of me understand why.

Jenni DaVinCat says

I don't even know where to go with this review. This book was morbidly fascinating. If ever you were looking to see what a serial killer thinks about himself when he/she is not being interviewed by the cops or the media, then this is the book to go to. This gives you a full look into the minds of some relatively well known names, and what motivated them to do what they did. How it made them feel, how things progressed, how they all essentially blame women in some way, shape or form.

It's fucked up. There is really no other way to put it.

If you love true crime, you will love this book.

It easily could have been 5 stars, but I found the third person narrative storytelling to be childish. Maybe it was supposed to be that way to mirror the child-like behaviors of both Tony and the serial killers. But then again, maybe not. Either way, the writing didn't flow as well as it could have. It was stunted and read like a children's book (though most certainly NOT in content!).

I really wanted to like Tony more, as well. He overcame so many health issues in order to be where he is at this point, as the book states a number of times. They seem to want to force that down our throats so that we maybe ignore that Tony has the most amazing and patient family who took time away from life

for...basically ever in order to accommodate Tony and his newfound needs. They were also lucky enough to have the money to support ALL of that. I understand that he cannot control certain aspects of his personality anymore, and that's fine. I may not be able to empathize, but I can sympathize. Unfortunately, as the book continued, my sympathies began to wear thin. I know, I probably sound terrible being critical of someone who has gone through such a traumatic experience, but I also realize that it could totally be the way the author shaped Tony to be. None of my issues with Tony stem from his injury or inability to control himself afterwards.

Towards the end there is an epilogue in which Tony made a comment that one of the killers "lived as a coward" and "died like one too"(many of the people he wrote to were on death row). While I don't disagree with the statement, it makes me think Tony is totally two-faced. He has spent years writing to these people and acts as if some of them are his best friends. He tells them that they are. I don't know about you guys, but I wouldn't go around talking shit like that about my friends. Tony was the one who made the choice to be friends with them, despite knowing their crimes.

Yeah, Yeah, I know...they're serial killers. They're terrible people and I'm not taking their side nor agreeing with a single one of their crimes. They're disgusting and awful. That epilogue was just like a complete reversal of what the entire book spent doing.

Side note: Did anybody else find Tony's relationship with his girlfriend to be creepy? He stalked her until she gave in. She would literally hide at work, and he would STILL wait for her. At the time, she was 19 and he was in his 30's(as far as I understand it, the ages could be mistaken). He also gave serial killers explicit details about their sex life. Umm.....What?

Tlingit says

???????????????? POSSIBLE SPOILERS ??????????????????

I'd already written this review until my browser crapped out. GRRRRR. Anyway, to sum it up: Good story, good composition, basic writing, dumb title. I'd seen a movie called "Dear Mr. Gacy" this Spring. It's a true story about a young guy who wrote to some serial killers: Dahmer, Manson, Ramirez, and Gacy. And he didn't just write to them he got involved with them. The people here who have issue with Tony's parents and their involvement would do good to see this movie (I haven't read the book so until I do I can't say I recommend it). It's a contrast to Tony and his family and their style and involvement.

I wouldn't call Tony's TBI a lucky occurrence. I would call the fact that his family is supportive a lucky occurrence and juxtaposed with some of the serial killers lives it lends a good contrast to the story and the reality between the recovering TBI person and the incarcerated defective convict. I found in some of the former reviews people judgmental and disgusted, not only with the serial killers but with the main character. That just made me laugh because c'mon the lurid title to this book can't be ignored and in my opinion is more offensive than the descriptions. You knew what you were getting into when you got this book. If you didn't like the descriptions why force yourself to read?

There was action in the book as well as the letters. I too wished there were more cold cases solved at the end but maybe this story is not over. There were so many things that could have been included but for time and story continuity weren't. The fact that the serial killers and (at pivotal period in his life) Tony felt alienated from society and reacted to it was a point that is presented in many serial killer stories but told better here with them writing to him.

I think the book deserved more than just 3 stars but this rating system is limited. It's worth a read. It took me a night and a day. I wished there was more.

Cecily Kyle says

This is every reason why I love reading about serial killers. To try to get into their minds and understand what makes them tick. Would be lying if I didn't say I was a little jealous of Tony and his correspondence. However, I don't think I would ultimately be able to handle it and be able to sleep at night. Really interesting story and really messed up!
Great Read

Shaun says

This is a hodge-podge of oddness.

I'll be the first to admit that I am somewhat fascinated by true crime books, mostly to the extent that they explore the darker side of human nature. The blurb on the back of this book also reminded me of a character from *Hannibal* the TV series, Will Graham, a sort of savant who has an uncanny ability to empathize, allowing him to feel and think like the killers he is attempting to profile.

Needless to say, the main character in this book (Tony) is no Will Graham, and thus this wasn't quite what I expected. The book opens with Tony's story, describing how a freak WaveRunner accident changes this young boy's life. The days, weeks, months, and years that follow are filled with a number of challenges that include severe emotional outbursts. In an effort to cope, Tony is encouraged to find a hobby, which he does, a letter writing campaign in which he eventually befriends some of the most horrific predators of our time.

The book then becomes a mix of Tony's journey, excerpts from the bizarre correspondence, and vignettes of some of the murders his pen pals have committed.

For starters, I felt that Tony's fascination goes beyond reasonable curiosity and his family's support of his hobby is almost as bizarre as the hobby. Tony repeatedly refers to his pen pals as his friends and seems to take what they tell him at face value. He seemingly lacks insight into himself let alone the killers he befriends. In fact, Tony becomes so drawn into these relationships that he arranges to meet a couple of the convicts.

Secondly, the correspondence provided is disturbingly graphic and almost gratuitously so since it's clear that much of what is being shared by these murderers is either not true or embellished. The letters are also filled with such hateful and crude language as to be offensive to the average person.

Eventually Tony decides to use his relationship with the killers and the insights he's supposedly developed to help solve cold cases and thus give closure to a number of families, but the whole thing still just feels off.

I have eclectic reading tastes and am often drawn to the morbid...but this just left me feeling dirty. There was no payoff here. Nothing profound or interesting. This was rolling around in dirt for the sake of getting dirty. There is no moral to the story and that is its major weakness in my opinion.

Honestly, I think many of these killers saw/see Tony as a gift. Through their correspondence they were able to relive their crimes to a self-proclaimed captive audience (and a rather naïve one at that). From what I've read about this group of individuals, Tony gave them exactly what they craved, which I find kind of icky. He

reminded me of the women who often write to these types of men with hopes of pursuing a romantic relationship, claiming that they realize these men are simply misunderstood. There is some suggestion that Tony is actually (at least ultimately) the manipulator in these exchanges. But then again, if both parties are being insincere than I don't really see the point.

This was okay considering what it is. I'm not sure I would recommend it, unless you happen to be a hard core reader of books that examine the serial murder, and even then...I'm just not sure.
