CROSSING THE LINES

By

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Book Proposal

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**Overview**

 Danger hides where it is least expected. Charles Albright, a paragon husband, teacher, and teammate turns out to be a serial killer with a peculiar obsession with eyeballs. *Crossing the Lines* provides a thorough analysis of Albright’s behavior craftily embodied into an unbelievable story of the investigation and Albright’s further arrest.

**Plot**

        *Crossing the Lines* is a true crime novel, which describes the life and imprisonment of Charles Albright, also known as “The Dallas Ripper” or “The Eyeball Killer.”

        The story builds upon the investigations of the murders of three prostitutes in Dallas, Texas, all of whom were found with their eyes cut out in a surgically precise manner. Marry Pratt was Albright’s first victim, her murder dating back to December of 1990. The other two of his victims, Susan Peterson and Shirley Williams, were killed and mutilated two and three months later respectively. The women’s eyeballs have never been found, and Albright himself has chosen not to share the reason for his obsession with the detectives or the journalists involved in the case. Some of the psychologists who worked with Albright have different opinions as to what he could have done with the eyeballs and why, but the truth will never be revealed to the public.

        In *Crossing the Lines* Albright’s behavior and obsession is closely analyzed in order to create the most viable explanation of who Charles Albright is and why he has decided to end the lives of three innocent women. By the means of contacting the government officials such as defence attorneys, detectives, and FBI agents we would gather information about Charles Albright and his patterns of behavior. What was the way he talked? Did he look people in the eyes while speaking? What were his emotions like when he finally got arrested? Additionally, we are looking for the ways of getting in touch with the people who have known him before he was proven guilty of Shirley Williams’ murder.

        As far as this case is well-known not only in Dallas, but also across the United States, there is a multitude of articles and documentaries we have been able to find so far which provide valuable information both about the investigations and Albright’s background. We believe that one of the main reasons for Albright’s criminal actions was the influence of Delle Albright, his foster-mother. Delle Albright was a frugal woman with exceptionally strict expectations as to Charles’ behaviour. She also taught Charles the art of taxidermy when he was only eleven years old, and presented him with a gun to kill small animals later in his teens. As far as the glass eyes for his taxidermy creations were too expensive, she made Charles use buttons from her sewing kit instead. Thus, Charles used to come to a taxidermy store and “run his fingers through the boxes of eyes,” deeply desiring to have them and “collect them like other boys collect marbles,” but never having a chance to afford them.

        The signs of Albright’s pathological obsession with human eyeballs followed him throughout his life but none of his friends or acquaintances could notice a born killer behind the mask of a friendly young man. In 1990, when Albright was fifty-seven years old, his psychopathic nature finally began to surface. He started buying serial killer book, drawing mutilated women, became aggressive and even violent, all this culminating in the murder of his first victim, Marry Pratt. In a matter of three months one of the most well-respected and deeply-loved inhabitants of Oak Cliff turned into one of the most dangerous serial killers Dallas has ever known, The Eyeball Killer.

**Promotions**

        As has been mentioned earlier, there is a number of articles and documentaries concerning Charles Albright’s case. The most significant and well-known writing on this topic published in 1996 is a novel by John Matthews entitled The Eyeball Killer. Matthews is a former detective of Dallas County Police Department who investigated Albright’s case along with Regina Smith and Stan McNear. We have recently contacted Matthews in search for additional information about Albright and the case itself, and Matthews informed us that The Eyeball Killer movie is going to be released in the year 2018 based off of his novel.

        As far as Albright’s case took place in 1990 and the novel describing it was released in 1996, there are very few people nowadays who are aware of the series of murders. Thus, the idea of our novel would seem new and fresh on the market of true crime writings, and the audience would be attracted by the both the entangled story and the psychological inquiries found in our novel. What is more, numerous studies have proven that most of the teenagers and young people all over the world have grown thirsty for the craftily told stories of inhumane violence, which can also be proved by the increased rate of the production of horror movies in different countries. The deeds described in our novel are unquestionably terrifying, and thus are going to be eagerly investigated by adolescents in many parts of the world.

        Moreover, with the release of the movie The Eyeball Killer people are going to grow far more interested in Charles Albright and what he has done, and thus they will come across our novel as a source of reliable information about the case.

**Excerpt**

        Your every move results in a fascinating chain of events. The threads you touch, even barely, send explosive micro impulses to the fibers of fate and spark serieses of certain sequences. You are caught up in a spider net, and the spider’s four pairs of eyes are glued to the essence of your identity, scrutinizing your motifs and insights until suddenly you realize that you have no room for a mistake. Momentarily, you feel the adhesive cramming fear rising from underneath your chest and suppress its outburst with a gasp of frozen air. A brief laughter finds its way out of your overwhelmed consciousness, and you shake your head with a bitter smile curving the corners of your lips upward.

        It all is a mere game, a playful conflict of the two adversaries. It is not real. It is a deception, built by the treacherous imagination of a modern man. You have to prove it. You have to show them that you are faster, stronger, smarter. You can trick them into believing your play, make them think what you want them to think, make them do what you want them to do. They are toys, which can easily be broken and later replaced by another ones. It is an endless whirlpool of boredom, drowning you in the rules and norms accepted by a foreign society. The boredom, which pushes you to explore the world of forbidden and find the pleasure of living on the edge. How far can you go without them coming after you? How long would it take them to see the real you behind those fancy decorations you have put up to hide your true nature?

        The vision of the crowd is always distorted. You pause and find yourself standing amidst the intricate stratagems and calamities of human life, and the fleeing feeling of absolute power penetrates your body in a hurricane of tiny needles. They all are so stupid. Why can't they just stop and think?

An unpolished diamond. A disregarded artist. Genius cannot exist without an audience; let the whole world contemplate your art.

**Additional information**

        *Crossing the Lines* is written from two alternating major perspectives, one belonging to Charles Albright himself, and another one being drawn from the experience of two police detectives, John Matthews and Regina Smith with a few deviations to the witnesses' points of views. We felt the need to portray the story from two very different angles in order to bring the human side to Albright and also explore his philosophy through his own lenses. The detective piece, in turn, would provide the investigation information and describe in details how one of the most elusive serial killers of Dallas was caught and brought to justice. What is more, we would enrich the book with short excerpts from our interviews with the people involved in the case, in order to show Charles Albright from a number of varying angles.

**Citations**

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44F9Qpz3uXs>
* <http://www.fangoria.com/new/true-grue-the-texas-eyeball-collector/>
* http://maamodt.asp.radford.edu/Psyc%20405/serial%20killers/Albright,%20Charles.htm
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VflJHhjiAmg>
* <http://www.citv.com.au/charles-albright-the-texas-eyeball-killer/>
* http://hubpages.com/politics/The-Texas-Eyeball-Killer-Case
* [http://www.texasmonthly.com/articles/see-no-evil-3](http://www.texasmonthly.com/articles/see-no-evil-3/)/
* Interview with John Matthews

Cold Freezer, Colder Heart

By: Silvana Gomez, Jack Weeden, Adriana Jovsic & Roman

BOOK PROPOSAL

**Overview**

*Cold Freezer, Colder Heart* is a story told through the mental processes and voice of Mitchelle Blair, a mother who murdered two of her four children after realizing that her two middle children were raping, hitting, and abusing her youngest son. This plotline is a psychological thriller that tells the story of a woman whose past memories and recollections overshadowed her maternal instincts when it came to her children. *Cold Freezer, Colder Heart* is a true recollection of the events in Blair’s life that led her to committing the ultimate sin, killing her own children.

This story will be shocking and heart wrenching as we follow the life of Mitchelle Blair’s childhood and how her parent’s abuse and neglect led her to live a non-affectionate, cold life. The reader will be drawn into the facts of her childhood and the reader will be forced to mentally wrestle with whether or not Mitchelle’s childhood forced her maternal instincts to protect her youngest son who was experiencing the same abuse and neglect that she had.

What makes *Cold Freezer, Colder Heart* unique is the fact that the plot line is told through the eyes of the murderer, not the victim nor a witness. We see exactly what is going through the mind of Mitchelle as she is experiencing the abuse as well as inflicting it. This juxtaposition of the situations will give the audience a clear view of how the childhood events influenced her character and personality in her adult life.

This story will be a gruesome and crude plot line that will deliver to the audience the meaning of insanity and to what extent one’s experiences could drive them to do the unthinkable.

**Contents**

1. The Abuse
2. The Life
3. The Secrets
4. The Realization
5. The Abuse Pt. 2
6. The Fate
7. The End

**Chapter Summaries**

(Chapter 1)

“He hit me. He hit me again. I’m bleeding. It burns. There’s a lot of blood. It hurts. I want him to stop, but he won’t. Im begging him to stop and I don’t think he can hear me. I’m scared. I want to scream but I don’t think anyone can hear me. Mommy is lying on the floor downstairs, I think I saw some blood downstairs, kind of like the blood I’m seeing right now. I wish he would stop. Why is daddy hurting me? Why is this happening? What did I do wrong?” This is how the book will open up. We will open with the abuse and rape that Mitchelle experienced as a child to foreshadow what she will do to her children in the future. By starting the book with such a gruesome scene, we will grab the reader’s attention to see what domino effect this scene will unleash.

(Chapter 2)

This is the chapter where we will explain how Mitchelle grew up. Even after being continuously tormented, she was supported by no one, even though her mother whom she thought she could trust turned the other way in these type of situations. We will examine how this repeated offense and overall invasion of her body became a prominent emotion in her life. Because this is something she grew up with, she vowed to never allow it to happen to anyone else, especially her youngest child. She vowed to do what her mother didn’t, to help the victim, instead of acting as a bystander.

(Chapter 3)

 These acts of violence are something that Mitchelle and her mother rarely spoke about because of her realization that her mother was no help at all. Actually, her mother was part of the problem because of the way the adult in the household dealt with such an extreme case of sexual assault. Although Mitchelle and her children had a very different relationship. Since the children could speak, Mitchelle spoke about the obstacles that lay in her past. The things that as a young woman, she had to deal with on her own. But the reason that she did speak about these problems a great deal with her children was simply because Mitchelle promised that she would never let anything like that happen to one of them. So in the book, we will be speaking about secrets, and how they differentiate between the two generations.

(Chapter 4)

 The realization chapter of this book with be solely about how she discovered what the middle children in her family were doing to the youngest. Something so rash as to victimize the youngest child in the family to the extent where Mitchelle had to take the extreme as well to make the actions stop completely. And because this is similar to a problem she faced as a child, she obviously did the things she had to do to make the middle children stop.

(Chapter 5)

 This chapter will explain exactly what Mitchelle did to the children who were guilty of victimizing the youngest. It will be a gruesome chapter, but a piece of the book that is vital to understanding what really happened in that house in Detroit. From tormenting the two children to finally killing them and putting them in a freezer for around two years will all be put in. Yes, many readers like the abstract part of each murder story, but the readers also need the concrete aspect to really allow for the reality to sink in.

(Chapter 6)

 The trial and verdict of Mitchelle is very important because it basically determines much of what the mother believes she did wrong and right during the past few years of her life and what her future will have. Readers will probably not be curious about what the verdict was, because it was all over the news. But because we have done a substantial amount of research, there is a lot more to the trial period of her life that can be used to describe her post action emotions. An example being that she says directly to an interviewer that she would do the same thing again if she were given the chance.

(Chapter 7)

 The conclusion of the book would point out many controversial topics that might be interpreted differently among readers. One being, was killing two of her children the right thing to do since she knew what being victimized like that felt like? This chapter will also consist of the whereabouts of the two living children and how they were affected. And the book will wrap up with how the entire murder story affected America and Michigan all together.

Promotion

Considering how recent the Mitchelle Blair case is there has not been a book published thus far on the gruesome event. Two years have passed since the case was closed and Blair is sentenced to life in jail without bail yet the case is still talked about with articles being published as late at December 2016.  The Mitchelle Blair case is known across the world through social media with articles getting over 100,000 shares. This is not just an ordinary murder; this is a murder that lingers in the minds of all who hear of it due to the horrific violence that hid behind the door of an “ordinary household”.  This book will intrigue all who have an interest in psychology, as it unfolds through the mind of a mother who in trial without remorse admitted to abusing and killing her children allegedly to protected her youngest. This book will give a new perspective to the reader, as the antagonist is the primary voice having no remorse over the crime committed. This book targets aspiring psychology mayors, thrill seekers and all in search for a new perspective on homicide.

Considering the publicity of the case and the initial contribution of social media that lead to this case to be known worldwide social media will play a key role in the promotion of *Cold Freezer, Colder Heart.* Furthermore, social media will also be important for promotion considering that the primary targets for this book are young adults.  Finally, as Berkshire is a well-known boarding school that attracts not only students from across the world, but also has a wide range of well-established alumni again contributing to the promotion of *Cold freezer Colder Heart.*

FLY IN THE WALL

By

Claire Lemker, John Aiello, and Ian Heissenbuttel

Book Proposal

*Fly in the Wall* is a story of psychological mystery since the killer’s motive is unknown.

On September 8th, 2009, a Yale doctoral student, Annie Le, was reported missing. Five days later, the day she was supposed to get married, she was found dead, stuffed upside down inside the wall of a research building on the New Haven campus. A lab technician, Raymond Clark III, plead guilty to her murder, but his motive for the murder is unknown. *Fly in the Wall* is a true report of Raymond Clark’s past that lead to this barbaric murder and the dynamic between Clark and Le in the lab.

 The story is one that many will be fascinated with because of Yale’s prestige and honor. In addition, a brilliant and beautiful woman was brutally murdered for an unkown reason. It is a mystery as to why Clark murdered her, which only can be explained through looking deep in to his upbringing and personality.

Contents

Chapter 1: The Body

Chapter 2: Missing

Chapter 3: A Bright Future

Chapter 4: A Promising Young Woman

Chapter 5: The Murderer

Chapter 6: The Control Freak

Chapter 7: Childhood

Chapter 8: The Research Lab

Chapter 9: The Lab Dynamic

Chapter 10: From the Outside Looking In

Chapter 11: The Lab Technician

Chapter 12: The Alford Plea

Chapter 13: The Motive

Promotion

*Fly in the Wall* will attract a wide media coverage because of how much publicity and news coverage the book’s subject has generated. *Fly in the Wall* has the potential to create considerable public interest, especially since the motive is a mystery. A beautiful and brilliant young doctoral student is brutally murdered at one of America’s most prestigious universities.

To help promote *Fly in the Wall*, I will use forms of social media. By using Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, and Facebook to post things about the book anyone can see them immediately and they can also share my posts, creating more interest. On Twitter I would do a few sessions called “Tweet Me Anything”.  Followers ask any question they want and I would respond to as many as possible. In addition, I would use Google Hangout and Snapchat to do book readings that people are accessible to people who can not come out to them live. I would make a book trailer that I could post on my social media, which would be a brief explanation of my book to spark potential reader’s interests.

The media coverage was extensive when Le went missing and when she was found mutilated. Most people know this story, it happened less than ten years ago. The murder took place at Yale, a shrine to academia and higher education, but even with its serene community, gruesome violence still occurs. Plus, the murderer’s motive is still unsolved. The prestige and honor of Yale combined with the unknown reason for killing is a source of fascination to the public.

Market Survey

 *Fly in the Wall* is the suspenseful story of a solved murder with an unknown cause. Its audience is true crime junkies, Ivy League students or aspiring Ivy League students, and any reader who is curious as to why and what caused this person with a promising life to be killed.

What makes *Fly in the Wall* unique is Yale’s renowned esteem, like Annie Le, many people aspire to go to Yale. A brutal murder creates vast publicity and captivates many people. I selected two books, slightly similar, for there strong element of looking into the psychology of the killers.

*Columbine* by Dave Cullen: This book explores what actually happened at Columbine on April 20, 1999. Cullen uses insight from leading psychologists to pain raw portraits of the two killers who are completely opposite. Like *Columbine*, *Book Title* explores a tragedy that occurred at school, it could happen to anyone. In addition, like Cullen I try to figure out what caused this crime to be committed. What caused the killer to commit this heinous crime?

*In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote: Capote’s reconstruction of the family that was savagely murdered and the investigation that eventually led to the trial and execution of the killers creates, suspense. Capote gives immense details of victims, investigators, and killers. Like wise, the strengths of *Book Title* are its characters, the investigation, and their how their past has affected them.