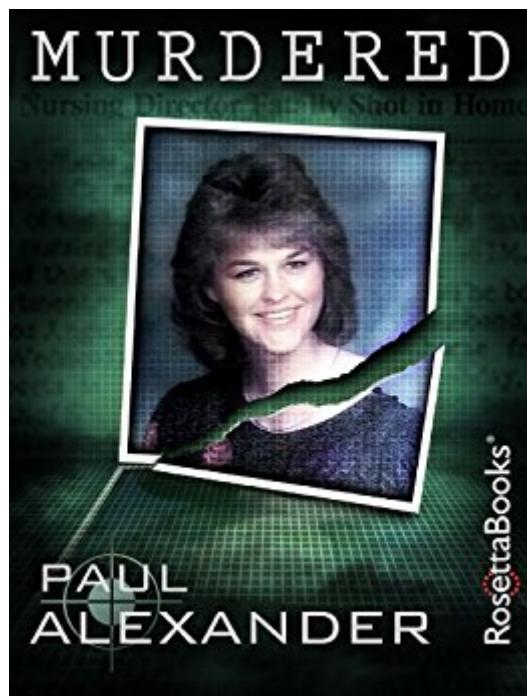


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Murdered (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

LA Police Officer Stephanie Lazarus became the center of national attention in a sensational trial in Los Angeles in March 2012 as the accused murderer of Sherri Rasmussen, her ex-lover's new wife of only three months. What had once seemed unthinkable, had suddenly become a reality. Nels Rasmussen, the victim's father, had, some twenty years prior, pleaded with LAPD to take a look at Lazarus as a possible suspect. His daughter had said that Lazarus had been "stalking" her, but Rasmussen was summarily dismissed by police and told that he should "Stop watching so much television." After five years, he simply gave up. The story here begins on the night of February 24, 1986 and involves three people, certainly one of them innocent; the victim--Sherri Rae Rasmussen--was bludgeoned, bitten, beaten, and then shot to death in what was made to look like a botched robbery. Yet the only thing missing from the scene was a marriage certificate. In 2009, the Cold Case squad in the same building as Officer Lazarus re-opened the Rasmussen case and examined the DNA swabbing from the bite-marks on Rasmussen's arm. They discovered that the saliva could only have come from a woman. Then, they started to investigate Lazarus based on Rasmussen's suspicions on record in the file. This is a book that one wishes were fiction. It is written point-of-fact, with all of the details of the case laid out neatly before the reader in police procedural style. The reader becomes the jury. The most shocking part of the story is the identity of the killer.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR In true crime, Paul Alexander is the bestselling author of the Kindle Singles *Murdered, Accused and Homicidal*. A leading journalist for many years, Alexander has published eight widely praised books—among them *Rough Magic*, a biography of Sylvia Plath; the bestseller *Boulevard of Broken Dreams: The Life, Times, and Legend of James Dean*; and *Salinger: A Life*—and over one hundred major articles for publications ranging from *The New York Times* to *Rolling Stone*.

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Customer Reviews

This is a true crime story that opens with a murder, jumps ahead in time, and goes backward as a cop tries to solve the mystery. It's a gripping, fast-paced tale that probably sheds more light on the inner workings of the LAPD than illuminates anything shocking about the act of murder. I'd never heard of this case, but have read and enjoyed my share of true crime stories. I enjoyed getting a little insight into how a detective deals with an old case and the intricacies and politics behind investigating one of your own. The murder itself is of course disturbing, but the way Alexander unveils it is fascinating if you're the type to appreciate a sometimes grisly tale.

This was an interesting account of the brutal murder of a young woman, whose [alleged] murderer was shielded by the LAPD's "Big Blue Wall." The case has not come to trial yet, so it is not necessary that it take us all the way to the outcome. However, this Kindle short ends so abruptly that you don't realize the essay is over for a few moments as you try in vain to get your device to turn the page. According to a trial watch blog:*****Stephanie Lazarus Pretrial Hearing 11UPDATE September 29th: The next pretrial hearing is December 2nd, 2011. Sprocket. The Associated Press is reporting that the Stephanie Lazarus case has been postponed until January, 2012. Jury selection was originally slated to start October 24th, 2011. This is what happens when I totally miss a hearing. As soon as I know when the next pretrial hearing is scheduled, I will update this entry. Lazarus is accused of murdering Sherri Rae Rasmussen, the wife of John Ruetten, Lazarus' ex-boyfriend, in February, 1986. Prosecutors allege DNA evidence collected off of the victim's body and torn fingernails found at the scene link Lazarus to the murder*****So no, the outcome is not assured; however, DNA and other evidence *strongly* suggests Lazarus as the killer of Sherri Rasmussen. Final evaluation: Don't buy it. Read the tru.tv version for free. I'm sorry I wasted \$0.99 of my Christmas money on this worthless essay.

I felt a wee ripped off when I purchased this copy through my Kindle. I could not believe that this was so skimpy. This could have been an extended article rather than considered a "Kindle Single". Please re-write this book to its entirety. Compelling story. Follow up on the story, the back ground. Make us experience what the atmosphere was like in the 1980s. Involve yourself into the product. Turn this into something flying off the shelves. You can do much better. I rather YOU finish this story than that Diane (know it all) Fanning, or M. Phelps (what's his name). Do not be a generic author. Bleed for the story. Feel for this story. Bring it to life. Investigate and remain devoted to the story. It is worth it~ don't let some other careless jerk take it, or at least be fair and give it to an author who will truly know how to shape this case into a true-crime novel. I do not question your writing talent, but, please do not become the lazy stable horse of a writer that has come in to the American book world. Go back to the drawing board, give it a go and build it up. Its in you. Just be your best critic and critique your with impunity. It is in you!

This story really worked because it was a compelling story on its own. Even if it had not been written in a long journalism piece it would still have been a story that I would have wanted to read. The story of a woman murdered, the case unsolved, yet the murderer was so blatantly obvious is something that is gripping from the plot line alone. However, what the author did really well for the reader was present a detailed step by step account of the actual murder, to the final resolution when the murderer is finally captured. The opening scene is amazingly descriptive for having been a murder that nobody witnessed and only one person heard any noises coming from the house, yet hadn't walked over to see what was going on. She describes the scene from Sherri Rassmussen staying home from work, lounging in her room for the most part of the morning and then coming downstairs to find an intruder. She gives a detailed description of her home as well which helps the reader get a better picture in their head of how the murder took place. As it was apparent by the crime scene, Terri had fought for her life and managed to escape from the murderer a few times before eventually being killed. Paul Alexander describes the fight for her life in a heart pumping scene that has you on the edge of your seat wondering if she is going to make it out alive even though by the title of the story, "Murdered", it is pretty apparent that it will not end in Sherri's favor. I wonder however, how he was able to cultivate all of the details that occurred during that time, since it was Sherri all alone in her home and the murderer ended up pleading "not guilty". As the story progressed I found that the author could have given more into what became of John Ruetten after his wife was killed. He is mentioned in the back-story of how Sherri's murderer came into the

picture but he is not mentioned again until the end of the story where Alexander gives a short paragraph explaining that he had returned to the love affair he had been having prior to his marriage to Terri. I found that this could have been a very compelling part of the story and I wish that Alexander would have divulged further into this aspect of Terri's murder. While Alexander was very detailed, explaining which rooms the murder occurred, where Terri drug herself to the front door, how she tried to escape, and how she tried to fight back, it was not the type of writing that could be described as highly illustrative or vivid. There were not sensual details explained in the story, merely facts, however it worked for this type of "Law and Order"-esque piece. It wasn't supposed to be a fluffy, painted picture type of character profile piece, it was supposed to a murder mystery type of short story and it was. I felt it had the perfect combination of character development within the story as well, giving a little bit of the past for each main character involved but not too much detail into the past. I think that the format for the Kindle Singles is pretty easily accessible and works well on my Ipad, however I didn't know anything about it until we were assigned to purchase and read one for class. They need to be more advertised so that people who are interested in purchasing and reading long form journalism know where and how to do so. I also think that \$1.99 for a small piece is a little bit excessive. It may drive away customers who are willing to pay between \$5.99- \$10.99 (as I am) for an actual novel but it seems a little pointless to purchase a story that you will most likely read only once, maybe twice for almost 2 dollars. It might work better if there were perhaps a membership fee or a one time fee that allowed readers to download a certain amount of singles per month or possibly per year. This may create a bigger customer following and drive in more money for the Kindle Singles part of .com. As far as stories, I am interested in all sorts. I like the option to download a variety of different pieces and I feel that provides that currently. It depends on what mood I'm in or what I style of writing I feel like reading at the moment, which is why a membership fee might be beneficial for people who are busy but like to have the option to just go online when they have a free moment and download something quick and different to read each time.

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