

top true crime podcasts right now

The Allure of True Crime Podcasts: Unpacking the Top Picks

top true crime podcasts right now captivate millions with their deep dives into the darkest corners of human behavior, unsolved mysteries, and the pursuit of justice. These audio narratives offer a unique blend of investigative journalism, compelling storytelling, and the inherent human fascination with the macabre. From meticulously researched cold cases to explorations of serial offenders, the best true crime podcasts provide an immersive experience that keeps listeners hooked, pondering the complexities of motive, evidence, and the legal system. This article will guide you through the most prominent and critically acclaimed true crime podcasts, examining what makes them stand out in a crowded market and why they continue to dominate the charts, covering a range of styles from investigative series to episodic explorations of different cases.

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The Evolution of True Crime Podcasts

The landscape of audio storytelling has been profoundly shaped by the rise of true crime podcasts. What began as a niche interest has blossomed into a mainstream phenomenon, with podcasts covering every conceivable angle of criminal activity. Early pioneers laid the groundwork by focusing on in-depth investigations and compelling narrative arcs, proving that audio could be just as powerful,

if not more so, than visual mediums for storytelling. The accessibility and portability of podcasts have allowed this genre to reach a global audience, fostering online communities and sparking renewed interest in historical cases.

This evolution has also seen a diversification of content. While serial killer documentaries and unsolved mysteries remain popular, there's a growing emphasis on exploring wrongful convictions, systemic injustices, and the psychological underpinnings of criminal behavior. The collaborative nature of podcasting has also led to innovative formats, including multi-host discussions, listener-submitted theories, and direct engagement with legal experts and victims' families. The technology facilitating high-quality audio production has democratized the creation process, allowing independent producers to compete with major media outlets.

Criteria for Evaluating Top True Crime Podcasts

Identifying the top true crime podcasts requires a nuanced approach, considering several key factors that contribute to their success and impact. Foremost among these is the quality of investigative journalism. Thorough research, access to reliable sources, and a commitment to factual accuracy are paramount. A compelling narrative structure is equally important; the best podcasts weave intricate plots, develop well-rounded characters (both perpetrators and victims), and maintain suspense without resorting to sensationalism.

The hosts' presentation style also plays a crucial role. Whether it's a single, authoritative narrator or a dynamic duo of hosts, their ability to convey complex information clearly, empathetically, and engagingly is vital. Technical production quality, including crisp audio, effective sound design, and seamless editing, further enhances the listening experience. Finally, the ethical considerations surrounding the reporting of sensitive material, particularly concerning victims and their families, are increasingly important in distinguishing truly responsible and impactful podcasts from those that exploit tragedy.

Must-Listen Investigative Series

Investigative series represent the pinnacle of true crime podcasting, offering deep, multi-episode dives into specific cases that often span years of research and interviews. These podcasts are characterized by their meticulous attention to detail, their exploration of complex legal proceedings, and their commitment to uncovering new angles or shedding light on overlooked aspects of a case. They often feature original reporting, interviews with key figures, and a narrative that unfolds with a deliberate pace, allowing listeners to become deeply immersed in the investigation.

One of the hallmarks of these series is their ability to tackle intricate legal battles, examining evidence, trial testimonies, and the appeals processes that follow. They frequently go beyond the sensational headlines to explore the systemic issues that may have contributed to the crime or its investigation, such as police misconduct, judicial biases, or societal pressures. The best examples of this genre don't just recount facts; they analyze them, offering listeners a richer understanding of the criminal justice system and the human stories behind the headlines.

Compelling Episodic True Crime Narratives

Beyond the extended investigative series, there exists a robust category of episodic true crime podcasts. These shows typically tackle a new case or a distinct facet of true crime in each installment, making them highly accessible for listeners who prefer self-contained stories. Despite their shorter format, these podcasts maintain a high standard of storytelling and journalistic integrity, often relying on strong narrative voices and concise, impactful reporting.

The variety within episodic true crime is vast. Some focus on a particular theme, such as notorious heists, historical cold cases, or baffling disappearances. Others offer a broader spectrum, presenting a diverse range of criminal events from different eras and locations. The strength of these podcasts lies in their ability to quickly establish a compelling premise, present the key details of the case, and leave the listener with lingering questions or a sense of resolution, all within a single episode or a short arc of two to three parts.

Key characteristics of successful episodic true crime podcasts include:

- Clear and concise storytelling that respects the listener's time.
- Engaging hosts who can guide the narrative effectively.
- Thorough research even for single-episode cases.
- A respectful approach to the victims and their stories.
- Often, a strong focus on the "why" – exploring motivations and psychological profiles.

Podcasts Focusing on Unsolved Mysteries

The enduring allure of unsolved mysteries forms the backbone of a significant segment of the true crime podcasting world. These podcasts delve into cases where the perpetrator remains at large, the victim's fate is unknown, or the circumstances surrounding an event defy easy explanation. The appeal lies in the inherent puzzle, the desire to see justice served, and the exploration of the unknown. Podcasters in this category often act as armchair detectives, meticulously presenting evidence, interviewing witnesses, and encouraging listener participation in finding answers.

The best unsolved mystery podcasts are not about speculation for its own sake. They are grounded in factual presentation, piecing together timelines, forensic evidence, and witness testimonies. They often highlight the frustrations faced by investigators and families, the passage of time, and the limited resources that can hinder progress. By revisiting these cold cases, these podcasts aim to bring them back into the public consciousness, potentially generating new leads or providing closure for those affected. The collaborative aspect, where listeners are invited to share theories and information, can sometimes lead to breakthroughs, adding a dynamic layer to the listening experience.

The Rise of Victim-Centric True Crime

A crucial development in the true crime podcasting genre has been the increasing emphasis on victim-centric narratives. This approach shifts the focus from sensationalizing the perpetrator or the crime itself to honoring the lives of those who were affected. These podcasts prioritize the victim's story, their relationships, their aspirations, and the profound impact their loss had on their loved ones and communities. The goal is often to humanize the victim, ensuring they are remembered as more than just a statistic or a case file.

This shift involves careful and ethical reporting, often working closely with victims' families and friends to ensure their stories are told with respect and dignity. It means avoiding gratuitous details and focusing on the broader context of the victim's life and the justice they were denied. This approach not only provides a more compassionate listening experience but also serves as a powerful reminder of the real human cost of crime. It encourages empathy and understanding, moving beyond mere morbid curiosity to a deeper reflection on societal issues and the importance of remembering and honoring those who have been wronged.

Ethical Considerations in True Crime Podcasting

As the popularity of true crime podcasts continues to soar, so too does the importance of ethical considerations in their production and dissemination. The sensitive nature of the subject matter demands a responsible approach that prioritizes respect for victims, their families, and the pursuit of justice. This includes meticulous fact-checking, avoiding sensationalism, and ensuring that the narrative does not inadvertently re-traumatize those affected by the crimes.

Key ethical guidelines for producers of true crime podcasts often include:

- Obtaining informed consent when possible from individuals directly involved or their families.
- Presenting a balanced perspective, acknowledging the complexities of a case.
- Avoiding the glorification of perpetrators or violence.
- Being transparent about the sources of information.
- Considering the potential impact of the podcast on ongoing investigations or legal proceedings.
- Prioritizing the dignity and privacy of victims.

Adherence to these principles is vital for maintaining the credibility and integrity of the genre and for fostering a more empathetic and constructive dialogue around crime and its consequences.

Staying Updated on New True Crime Releases

The world of true crime podcasts is constantly evolving, with new series and episodes being released regularly. Keeping pace with the latest additions to this popular genre requires staying informed about various sources. Following reputable podcasting news outlets, subscribing to newsletters from podcast platforms, and actively seeking recommendations from fellow enthusiasts are effective strategies.

Many podcasts also announce upcoming seasons or new investigations on their own social media channels or through dedicated websites. Engaging with online communities dedicated to true crime, such as forums or social media groups, can also provide valuable insights into trending topics and highly anticipated releases. Furthermore, most podcast apps offer features to discover new content based on your listening history, which can be a powerful tool for unearthing hidden gems within the vast true crime landscape.

FAQ

Q: What are some of the most critically acclaimed true crime podcasts that focus on unsolved mysteries?

A: Critically acclaimed podcasts focusing on unsolved mysteries often excel in deep research and respectful storytelling. Shows that meticulously re-examine cold cases, interview original investigators, and present evidence without sensationalism are highly regarded. Many listeners praise podcasts that encourage community involvement in solving these lingering puzzles, while always maintaining a focus on the victims.

Q: How do top true crime podcasts balance engaging storytelling with factual accuracy?

A: Top true crime podcasts achieve this balance through rigorous journalistic practices. This includes extensive fact-checking, corroborating information from multiple reliable sources, and clearly distinguishing between established facts and reasoned speculation. They often employ skilled narrative writers and editors who can weave a compelling story without sacrificing the integrity of the evidence or the truth of the events.

Q: What makes a true crime podcast stand out in such a saturated market?

A: A true crime podcast stands out by offering a unique perspective, exceptional storytelling, and strong ethical considerations. This could be through a particularly insightful host, exclusive access to key figures, a novel approach to presenting evidence, or a deep commitment to victim advocacy. High production quality and consistent release schedules also contribute to a podcast's ability to capture and retain an audience.

Q: Are there any top true crime podcasts that specifically focus on wrongful convictions?

A: Yes, several top true crime podcasts dedicate their entire series or significant episodes to exploring cases of wrongful conviction. These podcasts often delve into the flaws within the justice system, the forensic evidence that was misinterpreted or fabricated, and the tireless efforts of advocates working to exonerate the wrongly accused. They highlight the human cost of these miscarriages of justice.

Q: What is the trend towards victim-centric true crime podcasts, and why is it important?

A: The trend towards victim-centric true crime podcasts signifies a move towards more empathetic and respectful storytelling. It prioritizes the lives, experiences, and humanity of those who were harmed, rather than solely focusing on the perpetrator or the sensational aspects of the crime. This is important because it honors the memory of victims, avoids re-traumatizing their families, and can foster a deeper understanding of the impact of crime.

Q: How can I find new and emerging top true crime podcasts that aren't yet mainstream?

A: To find new and emerging podcasts, explore niche online communities, follow independent podcast reviewers, and utilize the discovery features within your podcast app. Many emerging podcasts gain traction through word-of-mouth within dedicated fan groups on social media or forums. Subscribing to newsletters from podcast networks or creators focused on the genre can also alert you to promising new shows.

Q: What ethical considerations should listeners be aware of when consuming true crime content?

A: Listeners should be aware of the ethical implications of consuming true crime content, including the potential for it to sensationalize violence or exploit victims' stories. It's important to seek out podcasts that demonstrate a commitment to accuracy, respect for those involved, and avoid harmful stereotypes. Being mindful of the source of information and how it is presented can help in making informed choices about which content to engage with.

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top true crime podcasts right now: Entertainment, Journalism, and Advocacy Lindsey A. Sherrill, 2023-02-13 In this book, Lindsey A. Sherrill explores the exponential growth of true crime podcasting, including the role of the ubiquitous Serial podcast in the growth of the industry. Using both demographic population analysis and interviews with podcast hosts and producers, Sherrill demonstrates that true crime podcasts exist as hybrid organizations, with diverse goals ranging from entertainment to criminal justice reform advocacy to journalistic inquiry. These competing motivations of podcast producers are explored, along with the ethical quandaries that emerge in the process of telling true crime stories. Sherrill traces true crime podcasting back to the infancy of the medium and examines the influences, innovations, and events that created the true crime podcast ecosystem, as well as its influence on real cases in the United States. Scholars of communication, sociology, and media studies will find this book of particular interest.

top true crime podcasts right now: The Devil Shops on Sunday Destiny Ford, Angela Corbett, 2024-06-25 A USA Today Bestselling Series! Journalist and editor of The Branson Tribune, Kate Saxee, has a lot going on. Her mom is in a war with a neighbor, Kate's trying to navigate her love life after a memorable night, and it looks like a serial killer might be on the loose in her small rural community that's getting bigger by the day. Utah's population is booming and new houses are being built even more often than new Mormon/LDS temples. When human remains are found on a piece of Branson Falls property being developed, everyone thinks the bones belong to a lost hiker. But when more human remains are found, it quickly becomes clear that this was no accident. Rumors are swirling that the remains could have been victims of a notorious serial killer, and that attracts the attention of a popular true crime podcast, the Murderoonies, who descend on Branson Falls to cover the case and help Kate investigate. And they're not just covering the crime, they're also very interested in Kate's love life. Drake is the legal representative for the real estate developers, and Hawke is assisting law enforcement, which means Kate is working closely with them both. Given what happened at the Halloween party, that's about as awkward as hussy Kate in church. Kate's focused on finding out who's responsible for the dead bodies, and she's digging up secrets all over town. Someone wants the information she's uncovering to remain hidden, and they'll do anything to make sure it stays that way...even if it means burying more bodies. A Kate Saxee Mystery Series Reading Order The Devil Drinks Coffee, Book 1 Devilishly Short #1 The Devil Wears Tank Tops, Book 2 The Devil Has Tattoos, Book 3 The Devil Shops on Sunday, Book 4 Devilishly Short #2 (Coming July 2024) The Devil Gets Divorced, Book 5 (Coming Fall 2024)

top true crime podcasts right now: Diversifying the Space of Podcasting Alexis Romero Walker, Tegan R. Bratcher, 2025-01-15 As the podcast studies field continues to gain momentum both within academia and in practice, scholars have been mapping and exploring the podcasting landscape from a variety of perspectives. This edited volume highlights the diverse spaces that podcasts embody and create, amplifying the unique and understudied perspectives and voices of podcasting. Through a multitude of interdisciplinary approaches, contributors explore the various cultural, racial, and identity-based markers undergirding the richness of the platform and argue that by understanding diverse content and content creators, we enrich the field of podcast studies as a whole. Scholars of media, communication, cultural, podcast, and critical race studies - among others - will find this book to be particularly useful.

top true crime podcasts right now: Big Name Fan Ruthie Knox, Annie Mare, 2025-02-25 When two A-list celebrities famous for their on-screen chemistry as TV detectives (think: sapphic Mulder and Scully, or queer Rizzoli and Isles) are reunited to investigate a real-life Hollywood murder, fans who have been 'shipping the leading ladies for years might just get the ending they've always wanted... Bexley Simon and Sam Farmer aren't detectives, but they play them on TV. Well, played, past tense. The iconic cult hit that was Craven's Daughter ended five years ago, and their friendship died along with it. Fans were disappointed that the pair's legendary chemistry went unfulfilled—and crushed that the actual spark between actresses Bex and Sam didn't pay off, either. The network never intended for two women to get romantic, in life or onscreen, despite the fans. But the bigger tragedy was the loss of their dear friend, makeup artist Jen Arnot, whose accidental death

cast a pall over the series' last episodes. Now the network has decided on a reunion special, and Bex and Sam are thrust together once more as hosts of a rewatch podcast that will feature favorite episodes. Their first guest—a megawatt star who played a murder victim early on—drops a bombshell. Among the millions of pixels of fanfic written about the show online, one truly prolific author, known in the fiction world as the show's Big Name Fan, was an insider, almost certainly someone from the cast or crew. As the podcast moves along—and the spark between Bex and Sam threatens to burn down the studio—the pair realize they're faced with two actual mysteries: Who is their Big Name Fan? And was Jen's death an accident, or did someone want her dead? Sifting through clues as they question cast and crew, the duo will need to separate fact from fiction as they make their personal partnership into unmistakable canon . . .

top true crime podcasts right now: The Routledge Handbook of Digital Sport Management Michael L. Naraine, Ted Hayduk III, Jason P. Doyle, 2022-12-01 The Routledge Handbook of Digital Sport Management provides students, researchers, and practitioners with a contemporary roadmap of the impact of digital technologies in sport management, at all levels and in all sectors, in a global context. Divided into three sections addressing digital transformations, digital tools, and emerging digital issues, this book explores the impact of digital technology in the core functional areas of sport management, such as sponsorship, event management, and human resources. It introduces essential digital innovations such as esports, social media, VR, wearables, analytics, and artificial intelligence, and examines the debates and issues that are likely to shape and transform sport business over the next decade. The only book to survey the full sweep of digital sport management, this book is an essential reference for all serious students of sport business and management, any researcher working in the nexus of sport business and digital, and all managers, policy-makers or associated professionals working in the sport industry.

top true crime podcasts right now: Toxic Wives Christine Seifert, 2023-02-21 In the latter half of the 1800s, widespread suspicion and anxiety emerged when wives of all ages and social status were accused of killing their husbands with poison. However, what seemed like a massive spike in murderous wives across the United Kingdom and United States may not have been a spike at all, but rather a poison panic caused by hungry newspapers and mass hysteria. This work explores several high-profile cases of women on trial for murdering their husbands with poison. Lust, money and power were often central to the accusations, and the sensational news coverage set off a century-long witch hunt. No woman was safe from suspicion during this untold chapter in the history of crime.

top true crime podcasts right now: The Deepest Fake Daniel Kalla, 2025-07-29 From internationally bestselling author Daniel Kalla, whose thrillers are “impossible to put down” (Amy Stuart, #1 bestselling author of *Death at the Party*), comes a razor-sharp psychological thriller about a CEO whose carefully curated life is falling apart. His wife is cheating, someone is stealing from his AI company, and he's just been handed a fatal diagnosis. He'd end it all, if only he could trust his own reality. Liam Hirsch has it all—a loving family, a thriving career as CEO of an AI company, financial security, and a bright future. But when he's diagnosed with a terminal illness, just weeks after discovering his wife's infidelity, his perfect life unravels. As he grapples with his fate, he prepares to face his final days on his own terms. However, unexplained events inside his company make him question everything—including his diagnosis. In a world of deepfake videos, synthetic voices, and digital deception, couldn't these technologies be weaponized against him? What if nothing is as it seems? With time running out, Liam turns to Andrea DeWalt, a private investigator contending with her own feelings of betrayal, to help him uncover a conspiracy that threatens his life, his family, and their future. In a world where nothing is as it seems and every digital footprint can be manipulated, who can Liam trust?

top true crime podcasts right now: The Podcast Pantheon Sean Malin, 2025-09-16 Spanning the most popular podcast genres—true crime, comedy, sports, relationships, and more—culture critic and *Vulture's* Start Here columnist Sean Malin introduces the first comprehensive canon in podcast history. Featuring a foreword by award-winning actor and producer

Jon Hamm. The Golden Age of podcasts is upon us. With over fifty official podcast networks, more than three million programs of every imaginable category available for download, and tens of millions of unique listens and views every week in the US alone—plus, our favorites being adapted into dozens of beloved films, TV series, and books—podcasts are now part of the fabric that makes up our everyday global media. Finally, here is an exclusive insider's perspective told through 101 different shows across dozens of genres. The Podcast Pantheon is the first book of its kind: A resource for discovering podcasts and learning more about how this multibillion-dollar industry came into being from the geniuses who created it. Delving into genres of all kinds—including fashion, food, health, sex, tech, and more—Malin profiles all the top podcasts, from Serial to Comedy Bang! Bang!, guiding fans to: Find out more about their favorite shows and how they got started. Learn about each podcast's influences and impact on culture, history, future shows, and the industry at large. Hear exclusive stories and enjoy never-before-seen behind-the-scenes photos from favorite hosts. Discover hidden gems, whether an entirely new podcast, a new-to-you genre, or something reminiscent of an old favorite. Readers will find podcasts worth listening to and get expert advice on the best episodes to start with, solving one of the biggest and most intimidating hurdles when trying to dive into a longstanding show. Malin's easy-to-read profiling and titillating exploration of 101 podcasts offers something for everybody, whether you've been listening to podcasts for years, are new to them, or are looking to start your own. **EXPERT KNOWLEDGE:** A culture critic since 2007 and the writer behind Vulture's hit podcasting column Start Here, Sean Malin has interviewed and connected with the world's top podcasters, including Marc Maron, Conan O'Brien, Nicole Byer, Ira Glass, and Jenna Fischer and Angela Kinsey, among many others, and has the inside scoop on the most popular and award-winning podcasts. **A MUST-HAVE LISTENER'S COMPANION:** Dip in and out of this enticing guide that's perfect for beginners and serious listeners alike. Profiled podcasts include: WTF with Marc Maron My Favorite Murder Conan O'Brien Needs a Friend Office Ladies Why Won't You Date Me? The Accessible Stall Stuff You Should Know Wait, Wait . . . Don't Tell Me! How Did This Get Made? Fresh Air The Moth S-Town Hollywood Handbook Doughboys Bad with Money Welcome to Night Vale And many more! **FAN FAVORITES AND NEW DISCOVERIES:** Sean Malin reveals fascinating information about 100+ shows and their talented hosts, tells you where to listen, and offers his favorite episode pick for each. His wide-ranging and comprehensive overview gives ample opportunity to discover something new to dive right into. Perfect for: Podcast enthusiasts and new listeners Those in search of new podcasts to devour Podcast creators and anyone interested in starting their own podcast Foodies, artists, entrepreneurs, fashionistas, parents, teachers, fitness enthusiasts, newshounds, and many more Gift-giving to podcast junkies and pop culture fans Media professionals, scholars, educators, historians, and consumers

top true crime podcasts right now: What Not to Wear to a Graveyard Debra Sennefelder, 2020-09-08 After trading her Manhattan digs for her upstate hometown, fashionista Kelly Quinn has big plans for her grandmother's consignment shop. But this All Hallow's Eve someone is already dressed to kill . . . A socialite's missing dog has made front page news in Lucky Cove—complete with a hefty reward. But between renovating the consignment shop, planning her costume for a 1970s themed Halloween party, and scouting a location for a fashion shoot, Kelly doesn't have time to search. Yet a visit to the local colonial-era cemetery—ideal for the moody atmosphere she's after—soon turns up the precious pooch. Kelly's looking forward to collecting the check—until she makes a gruesome discovery in an abandoned farmhouse: The dog's owner, stabbed through the heart. Kelly can't help wondering why Constance Lane was traipsing around the farmhouse in stilettos. But as Kelly gets decked out in a vintage disco caftan, that isn't the only fashion misstatement spooking her. Hidden in the dead woman's past is a secret that could be the motive for the murder. And as the Halloween party gets started, even a menacing clown and a threatening bearded lady can't keep Kelly from trick or treating for the truth—even if it means her last dance . . .

top true crime podcasts right now: The Baddest Batch Andrew Vaillencourt, 2025-06-16 Trudy MacArthur enjoys the simple things: Her baking, her husband, and the quiet rhythm of small-town life. But a chance encounter at the local bake shop leads Trudy and her husband Ted into

something far more dangerous than either of them expected. The local authorities don't want questions. The people involved expect silence. But Trudy refuses to look the other way, and Ted? Well, there's a reason people usually leave him alone. It doesn't take long for things to spiral out of control. Impossible choices force the couple into roles they never imagined. They're not cops, not private eyes, not heroes. But they are smart, stubborn, and far more dangerous than anyone realizes. Fast, dark, and laced with dry humor, *The Baddest Batch* is a story about love under pressure, quiet people with sharp edges, and the lengths we go to when the rules stop working

top true crime podcasts right now: When Devils Sing Xan Kaur, 2025-09-16 *When Devils Sing* is a rural, atmospheric YA horror is perfect for fans of Stephen King. In a small town in the American South four unlikely allies investigate a local teen's disappearance – but what they discover festering at the core of their community is far more sinister than they could've ever imagined . . . When Dawson Sumter goes missing, all he leaves behind is a smattering of blood in room 4 of the debt-ridden motel owned by Neera Singh's family. Disappearances like this aren't uncommon in the rural Georgia town of Carrion. Especially during the Cicada Festival, which takes place every thirteen years when a cicada brood returns from underground, shrieking their deafening screams. Desperate to find out if Dawson is still alive, Neera joins forces with three other local teens: Isaiah, clandestine true crime podcaster; Reid, son of the wealthiest man in the region; and Sam, estranged daughter of the local hitman. As they find themselves entangled in a messy web of secrets and lies, they discover just how deep the rot in Carrion goes . . .

top true crime podcasts right now: Out of the Clear Blue Sky Kristan Higgins, 2022-06-07 From New York Times bestselling author Kristan Higgins comes a funny and surprising new novel about losing it all—and getting back more than you ever expected. Lillie Silva knew life as an empty nester would be hard after her only child left for college, but when her husband abruptly dumps her for another woman just as her son leaves, her world comes crashing down. Besides the fact that this announcement is a complete surprise (to say the least), what shocks Lillie most is that she isn't heartbroken. She's furious. Lillie has loved her life on Cape Cod, but as a mother, wife, and nurse-midwife, she's used to caring for other people . . . not taking care of herself. Now, alone for the first time in her life, she finds herself going a little rogue. Is it over the top to crash her ex-husband's wedding dressed like the angel of death? Sure! Should she release a skunk into his perfect new home? Probably not! But it beats staying home and moping. She finds an unexpected ally in her glamorous sister, with whom she's had a tense relationship all these years. And an unexpected babysitter in, of all people, Ben Hallowell, the driver in a car accident that nearly killed Lillie twenty years ago. And then there's Ophelia, her ex-husband's oddly lost niece, who could really use a friend. It's the end of Lillie's life as she knew it. But sometimes the perfect next chapter surprises you . . . out of the clear blue sky.

top true crime podcasts right now: The Mediated World David T. Z. Mindich, 2023-12-11 A full-color interdisciplinary exploration of how media and mass communication shape society and how students can take control of their media futures. Today's students have a world of knowledge at their fingertips and no longer need books to list names and dates. What they need is the story of how everything fits together and the critical tools to take charge of their place within that story. David T. Z. Mindich's *The Mediated World* charts the story of media as it has shaped human life and as it infuses every aspect of our modern existence. Mindich's engaging narrative style focuses on concepts and real-world contexts to promote the media literacy students need to understand their personal relationships with media. Empowered as media consumers, creators, and curators, students realize their responsibility to work within the vast world of media to create more positive and productive futures. The second edition of this text brings historical media and overarching themes to life for students. Each chapter opens with a contemporary vignette that meets students in the current moment before encouraging them to consider the past. "Application" sidebars suggest practical activities that allow students to delve deeper into topics while "Reflection" boxes encourage students to think critically about their own media use. With a strong emphasis on media literacy that treats students as media stakeholders who have a vested interest in understanding its

workings and effects, Mindich's text is the perfect book for a generation of students looking to take charge of their futures in this mediated world. New to the Second Edition: New chapter-opening vignettes connect with students in the current moment before welcoming them to consider the past. New Chapter 8, "Representation and the Lives that Matter in the Media," encourages students to think critically about which people get to be heard and which are overlooked. New Chapter 13, "Hot and Cold Video Games," critically explores a powerful media force in students' recreational lives. Expanded discussions on current cultural, political, and technological references, engaging with controversies. Features Full color layout with photos and graphics to enrich students' reading experience. Integrated focus on representation in media reminds students of the pervasive impact of bias across society. Margin keyword definitions help students develop critical vocabularies. Three different feature boxes (Reflection, Application, and Now and Then) reinforce concepts and engage students' critical thinking skills. Chapter learning objectives, chapter summaries, and discussion questions reinforce historical frameworks and key concepts. Access ancillary materials at <https://textbooks.rowman.com/mindich2e>. For instructors: a test bank, lecture notes and slides, and a sample syllabus. For the students: chapter flashcards, a digital glossary, and videos and links.

top true crime podcasts right now: Killer Story Matt Witten, 2023-01-17 How far will she go to catch the killer—and make her podcast a hit? Talented and idealistic young reporter Petra Kovach is on the brink of being laid off from her third failing newspaper in a row. To save her job, she pitches the launch of a true crime podcast about a sensational, unsolved murder. Years earlier, an alt-right YouTuber was killed in her Harvard dorm room, and the case went cold. Petra knew the victim—she was once her camp counselor and loved her like a little sister, despite their political differences. Petra's investigation gets off to a rocky start, as her promising leads quickly shrivel up. In her passionate quest for justice—and clicks—Petra burns sources and breaks laws, ultimately putting her own life on the line. Even as her star rises, she worries it could all come crashing down at any moment if her actions are exposed. When her machinations start to backfire, there's only one way to fix everything and solve the murder—even though it may cost her everything she loves. Perfect for fans of Karin Slaughter and Harlan Coben

top true crime podcasts right now: Denver Noir Cynthia Swanson, 2025-07-01 Denver enters the Noir Series arena with a wide range of mile-high misgivings and perils. Akashic Books continues its award-winning series of original noir anthologies, launched in 2004 with Brooklyn Noir. Each book comprises all new stories, each one set in a distinct neighborhood or location within the respective city. Brand-new stories by: Peter Heller, Barbara Nickless, Cynthia Swanson, Mario Acevedo, Francelia Belton, R. Alan Brooks, D.L. Cordero, Amy Drayer, Twanna LaTrice Hill, Manuel Ramos, Mark Stevens, Mathangi Subramanian, David Heska Wanbli Weiden, and Erika T. Wurth. Denver Noir presents an impressive range of perspectives and observations. Between the writers and their characters, you'll encounter dozens of distinct and compelling relationships with this place. Maybe you'll start to see our city—and even yourself—in new ways. —Denver North Star Denver Noir is a fascinating exploration of this sunny city's dark side. Mountain views, a roughneck Gold Rush past, and stories of murder and mayhem make this anthology a must-read for anyone curious about Denver and its environs. Like the countless entries before it, Akashic Books allows an editor to craft an anthology filled with stories varying in tone and perspective. —New York Journal of Books From the introduction by Cynthia Swanson: Even a city that boasts three hundred days of sunshine a year has its sudden, often violent storms—and writers have long taken advantage of that metaphor. Renowned authors Katherine Anne Porter, Jack Kerouac, Stephen King, Rex Burns, Robert Greer, Michael Connelly, and Kali Fajardo-Anstine—among many others—have brilliantly portrayed this picturesque but often merciless city. Today, Denver is home to a thriving literary scene, with writers of all stripes finding inspiration in its people and streets. The authors and stories featured in Denver Noir are no exception . . . Editing Denver Noir, working with this talented group of writers, has been one of the highlights of my career. Fans of noir and Denver devotees alike, I invite you into this journey of our Mile High City, our home beside the mountains, our capital of sunshine and darkness, optimism and anguish.

top true crime podcasts right now: Fatal Fundraiser Jennifer Willis, 2022-10-06 A murdered socialite. A mysterious fire. And the resurrection of a serial killer. Reluctant medium Suri Mudge hates parties, and this one is the worst. The winter holiday season is in full swing in the seaside town of Grady, and Suri is adjusting to having the local witch as a friend and an entitled ghost as a sidekick. But a disastrous fundraiser for a new library in the historic Grazzini House—including the murder of the library chair and arson at the site—leaves the residents rattled and pointing fingers. Worse, someone's breaking into the businesses on Main Street, not to mention all of the lost pets and a few missing kids. Even Suri is spooked by the prospect that Teddy Grazzini, Naghatune Bay's most notorious murderer, has risen from the grave. But if she can get them to cooperate, restless spirits at the Grazzini House may have a different story to tell. Fatal Fundraiser is the second book in the Haunted Coast paranormal cozy mystery series, set in the same universe as the Rune Witch urban fantasy books. Readers who like spirited ghosts, quirky characters, and magickal mysteries will love the Haunted Coast books.

top true crime podcasts right now: Black Cat Weekly #39 Walter Jon Williams, Art Taylor, John Gregory Betancourt, Joseph S. Walker, Saul Golubcow, Hal Charles, Malcolm Jameson, Henry Kuttner, Edmond Hamilton, Hulbert Footner, Clifford Knight, 2022 Welcome to Black Cat Weekly #39. It's hard to believe BCW is 39! As with every magazine, our goals include not just entertaining our readers, but making every issue better than the last. I finally feel like we're on top of production methods, and the contents keep offering a selection of great stories for every reader's taste. (If you can't find something you love here, I'd be very surprised.) From classic pulp fiction to modern SF and mysteries (not to mention our ventures into adventure fiction and westerns), we cover all the bases. Here's the lineup: Mysteries / Suspense / Adventure: "Last Seen Heading East" by Joseph S. Walker [Michael Bracken Presents short story] "A Little Boy Is Missing," by Saul Golubcow [short story] "A Secret Admirer," by Hal Charles [solve-it-yourself mystery] "A Close Shave," by Art Taylor [Barb Goffman Presents short story] The Case of Angus Blair, by Hulbert Footner [novel] The Affair in Death Valley, by Clifford Knight [novel] Science Fiction & Fantasy: "The Last Ride of German Freddie," by Walter Jon Williams [Cynthia Ward Presents short story] "The Rat Aloft," by John Gregory Betancourt [short story] "A Question of Salvage," by Malcolm Jameson [novella] "The Secret of Kralitz," by Henry Kuttner [short story] "The Monster-God of Mamurth," by Edmond Hamilton [short story]

top true crime podcasts right now: Muffin Top Evie Mitchell, 2023-04-08 Honey For years my momma's been at me to lose some extra pounds. To shape up, slim down and look like the pageant queen she'd always wished me to be. But everyone knows the best part of the muffin is the top—and baby, I'm delicious as I am. I hadn't planned on running into my high school crush at a Halloween party while dressed as a cupcake. One glance and I was ready for my high school crush to take a bite. Pity Sheriff Tristan Rodriguez avoided baked goods like the plague... Tristan Returning to the small town I'd left behind hadn't exactly been in my life plan. Also not on the plan? Becoming the town's most eligible bachelor. I now had more offers for baked goods and home-cooked dinners than I'd ever need. I hadn't been tempted to taste even one until I ran into my high school crush, Honey Jameson. The curvy siren looked good enough to eat. Now she's on my mind, and all I can think about is how to get one little lick. But the thing is, after one taste? I want to devour her whole. Warning: This marshmallow-y piece of cotton candy sexiness involves a good boy ready to go bad, a curvy woman loving her body, and a fulfilling of some high school wet dreams. Get thee a good guy (or a bad one), maybe a rich chocolate muffin or three and settle in—this second-chance story will literally burn your sheets.

top true crime podcasts right now: Last Seen Heading East Joseph S. Walker, Travis and Andre are on the run from an armored car heist gone wrong. They still have a chance to get away with the cash—but they're about to pick the worst place in the world to stop for gas.

top true crime podcasts right now: Stage Fright Dakota Cassidy, 2025-05-21 If you want to know who unalived you, I'm your girl. Evanora Lavinia Dark at your service! Heart attack/stroke/open-heart surgery survivor, new-lease-on-life starter, astral-projecting-ghost-talker.

And most importantly, a witch over fifty with bursitis, blood pressure meds, and zero effs to give. I'm done with corporate life—or maybe it was done with me first— and after a life-changing stroke followed by a heart attack and a subsequent quadruple bypass. All this just before boarding a plane for my lifetime dream trip to Hawaii. Clearly, it was time for a change. So I moved back to my hometown and my passion. Interior design. I have no experience, no degrees in the field, but I jumped in with both feet and opened my own house staging business--Stage Right. Nowadays, you can find me happily decorating houses for my best friend, house flipper, and real estate agent, Fabiola Fabrizio. Together, we're determined to give our town, Buttermilk Bay, located in Massachusetts (not far from Salem) a facelift and bring in young families to stir up the economy. Little by little, people are beginning to take notice of my work and hiring me on the daily and that's great for my bank account. There's only one problem. Ghosts. Sooo many ghosts. Ghosts I started to see after my bypass surgery (cliche, right?). Ghosts who were murdered and need my help to solve the mystery surrounding their deaths. Do you have any idea how hard it is to carry a fifty pound chandelier while a ghost is in your ear, hassling you to find their killer? When a guy named Ferris Leopold is found dead at the house next door to the one I'm staging, it's full steam ahead to solve his murder. Or is it? Ferris was a lowdown dirty, albeit petty thief in life and I'm struggling to set aside my morals in order to help him. But as I dig deeper into Ferris's past, meet a hot AF silver fox of a man, and explore my new powers in the process, I discover not everything is as it seems...

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