



Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America

By Jill Leovy

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY *SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE*, *USA TODAY*, AND *CHICAGO TRIBUNE* • A masterly work of literary journalism about a senseless murder, a relentless detective, and the great plague of homicide in America

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On a warm spring evening in South Los Angeles, a young man is shot and killed on a sidewalk minutes away from his home, one of the thousands of black Americans murdered that year. His assailant runs down the street, jumps into an SUV, and vanishes, hoping to join the scores of killers in American cities who are never arrested for their crimes.

But as soon as the case is assigned to Detective John Skaggs, the odds shift.

Here is the kaleidoscopic story of the quintessential, but mostly ignored, American murder—a “ghettoside” killing, one young black man slaying another—and a brilliant and driven cadre of detectives whose creed is to pursue justice for forgotten victims at all costs. *Ghettoside* is a fast-paced narrative of a devastating crime, an intimate portrait of detectives and a community bonded in tragedy, and a surprising new lens into the great subject of why murder happens in our cities—and how the epidemic of killings might yet be stopped.

Praise for *Ghettoside*

“A serious and kaleidoscopic achievement . . . [Jill Leovy is] a crisp writer with a crisp mind and the ability to boil entire skies of information into hard journalistic rain.”—**Dwight Garner**, *The New York Times*

“Masterful . . . gritty reporting that matches the police work behind it.”—*Los Angeles Times*

“Moving and engrossing.”—*San Francisco Chronicle*

“Penetrating and heartbreaking . . . *Ghettoside* points out how relatively little America has cared even as recently as the last decade about the value of young black men’s lives.”—*USA Today*

“Functions both as a snappy police procedural and—more significantly—as a searing indictment of legal neglect . . . Leovy’s powerful testimony demands respectful attention.”—*The Boston Globe*

“Gritty, heart-wrenching . . . Everyone needs to read this book.”—**Michael Connelly**

“*Ghettoside* is remarkable: a deep anatomy of lawlessness.”—**Atul Gawande, author of *Being Mortal***

“[Leovy writes] with grace and artistry, and controlled—but bone-deep—outrage in her new book. . . . The most important book about urban violence in a generation.”—*The Washington Post*

“Riveting . . . This timely book could not be more important.”—**Associated Press**

“Leovy’s relentless reporting has produced a book packed with valuable, hard-won insights—and it serves as a crucial, 366-page reminder that ‘black lives matter.’ ”—*The New York Times Book Review*

“A compelling analysis of the factors behind the epidemic of black-on-black homicide . . . an important book, which deserves a wide audience.”—**Hari Kunzru, *The Guardian***

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month for February 2015: There's a statistic that surfaces early in Jill Leovy's fundamentally important book *Ghettoside* that should catch your attention: black men compose about 6% of the country's population, yet they are the victim in nearly 40% of homicides. And who's killing those black men? The answer is most often *other* black men. Leovy, a writer for the *Los Angeles Times*, explores the culture of black violence, specifically in South Central LA, describing a world that seems to exist hermetically sealed off from the rest of the city. With nearly zero mobility and little policing, the people of South Central are left to fend for themselves—further amplifying the devastating drumbeat of gangs and violence. Leovy builds her book around one family's story: Wally Tennelle, an LA cop, has refused to move his wife and kids out of his Watts neighborhood. Then his youngest son is murdered (unlike most murders in the area, this one was covered by the local media). Through the gathering of evidence, the roundup of suspects, and the trial that ultimately comes to be—all spearheaded by John Skaggs, a very dedicated and capable LA homicide detective—Leovy makes the argument that what places like South Central need is more policing, not less. They need more attention—not debate, finger pointing, and inaction. – *Chris Schlupe*

Review

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“*Ghettoside* is fantastic. It does what the best narrative nonfiction does: It transcends its subject by taking one person's journey and making it all our journeys. That's what makes this not just a gritty, heart-wrenching, and telling book, but an important one. From the patrol cop to the president, everyone needs to read this book.”—**Michael Connelly**

“*Ghettoside* is remarkable: a deep anatomy of lawlessness.”—**Atul Gawande, author of *Being Mortal***

“[Leovy writes] with grace and artistry, and controlled—but bone-deep—outrage in her new book. . . . *Ghettoside*, if there's any justice, will be the most important book about urban violence in a generation.”—**David M. Kennedy, *The Washington Post***

“Riveting . . . This timely book could not be more important.”—**Associated Press**

“Told with the chilling detail and gripping pace of a prime-time drama.”—*The Economist*

“Leovy's relentless reporting has produced a book packed with valuable, hard-won insights—and it serves as

a crucial, 366-page reminder that ‘black lives matter.’ ”—*The New York Times Book Review*

“A compelling analysis of the factors behind the epidemic of black-on-black homicide, and the beginnings of a policy prescription for tackling it . . . an important book, which deserves a wide audience.”—**Hari Kunzru**, *The Guardian*

“*Ghettoside* has many successes: its complicated portrait of the LAPD, the humanity it lends to the families of murder victims, and its ability to engage readers from a historical and current-day context (the sundry facts Leovy provides throughout the book never overwhelm).”—**Jason Parham**, *Gawker*

“A brave book . . . It is not often that I pick up a work of non-fiction and picture the movie unfolding before my eyes. . . . [*Ghettoside*] offers a calm dissection of America’s oldest epidemic. . . . [Leovy’s] knowledge makes for lapidary prose that crackles with insight. It is also deeply humane.”—*Financial Times*

“First-rate stuff.”—*Newsweek*

“Jill Leovy writes with exceptional sharpness and tautness, and her pages glow and glitter with the found poetry of the street. This book will take an honored place on the shelf that includes David Simon’s classic *Homicide* and Michelle Alexander’s explosive study of mass incarceration, *The New Jim Crow*.”—**Martin Amis**

“A gripping and powerful account of urban homicide investigation in the United States.”—**Gilbert King**, **Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Devil in the Grove***

“Unmissable . . . I’m astonished by Jill Leovy’s forthcoming *Ghettoside*. Police and race in America are examined with forensic skill and furious, exceptional prose. Lucid, revelatory, superbly written, incredibly timely. A book of the year.”—**Chris Cleave**, **author of *Little Bee***

“*Ghettoside* is a brilliant taxonomic investigation into the American violence epidemic disguised as a highly entertaining true crime book.”—**Matt Taibbi**, **author of *The Divide***

“A thoroughly engrossing true-life policier full of vivid and sympathetic characters, but also the bravest book about race and crime I’ve ever read.”—**Dan Baum**, **author of *Nine Lives***

“What an amazing book—a totally gripping piece of reporting.”—**Paul French**, **author of *Midnight in Peking***

“Absorbing . . . Readers may come for Leovy’s detective story; they will stay for her lucid social critique.”—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

About the Author

Jill Leovy is an award-winning reporter for the *Los Angeles Times*. She lives in Los Angeles with her family.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alex Levey:

Reading a guide can be one of a lot of action that everyone in the world enjoys. Do you like reading book therefore. There are a lot of reasons why people fantastic. First reading a e-book will give you a lot of new

facts. When you read a e-book you will get new information since book is one of several ways to share the information or even their idea. Second, examining a book will make anyone more imaginative. When you reading through a book especially fiction book the author will bring you to imagine the story how the characters do it anything. Third, it is possible to share your knowledge to other people. When you read this Ghettside: A True Story of Murder in America, you are able to tells your family, friends along with soon about yours publication. Your knowledge can inspire different ones, make them reading a reserve.

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