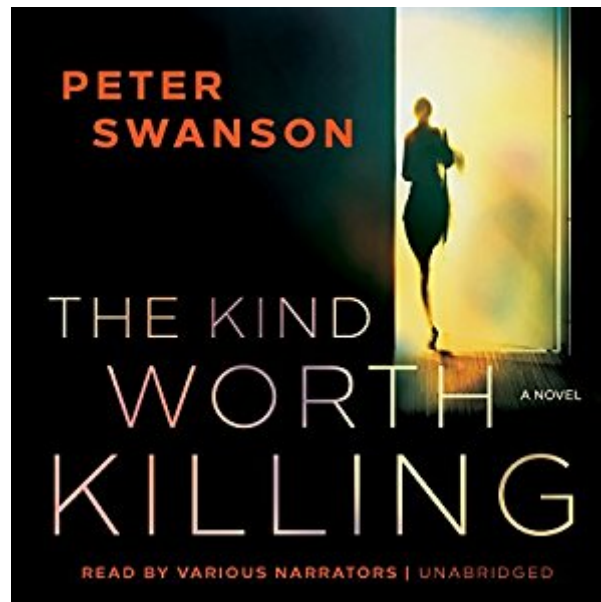




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The Kind Worth Killing



Synopsis

From the author of the acclaimed *The Girl with a Clock for a Heart* - hailed by the *Washington Post* as crime fiction's best first novel of 2014 - comes a devious tale of psychological suspense involving sex, deception, and an accidental encounter that leads to murder that is a modern reimagining of Patricia Highsmith's classic *Strangers on a Train*. On a night flight from London to Boston, Ted Severson meets the stunning and mysterious Lily Kintner. Sharing one too many martinis, the strangers begin to play a game of truth, revealing very intimate details about themselves. Ted talks about his marriage that's going stale and his wife, Miranda, who he's sure is cheating on him. Ted and his wife were a mismatch from the start - he the rich businessman, she the artistic free spirit - a contrast that once inflamed their passion but has now become a cliché. But their game turns a little darker when Ted jokes that he could kill Miranda for what she's done. Lily, without missing a beat, says calmly, "I'd like to help." After all, some people are the kind worth killing, like a lying, stinking, cheating spouse. Back in Boston Ted and Lily's twisted bond grows stronger as they begin to plot Miranda's demise. But there are a few things about Lily's past that she hasn't shared with Ted, namely her experience in the art and craft of murder, a journey that began in her very precocious youth. Suddenly these coconspirators are embroiled in a chilling game of cat and mouse, one they both cannot survive...with a shrewd and very determined detective on their tail.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Psycho Strangers on a Plane? This book is super suspenseful!! Ted and Lily meet in an airport

waiting for a delayed flight. As they chat, the conversation takes a dark turn when Ted (who has just discovered his wife Miranda is cheating on him) says he'd like to kill her. Lily immediately says that she'd like to help. While the initial premise is not unique, what happens when both of the people involved are kind of sociopathic?! The story alternates between Lily, telling of the people she's had to kill, who were all "the kind worth killing", and Ted, who is not reluctant to kill his wayward, and who is falling in lust with Lily. The book is exciting, and the author does a great job of making these psycho main characters somehow appealing. SERIOUSLY suspenseful, with lots of twists and turns to keep you up all night finishing!! Definitely plan to read anything else Peter Swanson writes!! Recommend for anyone who likes thrillers, mysteries, or who is a fan of the classic Alfred Hitchcock story.

It was good but not great. A variation on *Strangers on a Train*. Chapters are done from the points of view of several characters, which is okay but then towards the end another character (the police detective) is thrown in. The main character is meticulous in her planning until she becomes unexpectedly sloppy at the end. This is followed by an out of left field comeuppance. A nice set up but the follow through is weak.

This was one of the most suspenseful novels I have read in a long time. If I didn't have to go to work during the day, I would have finished it all in one day!! The twists and turns made me breathless. The pacing was steady with it speeding up toward the end; the story didn't drag at all. The main characters, except maybe for Ted, were not likeable, so when they got their just desserts, it was very satisfying. I did not feel sorry for them in the least bit! The only slight criticism is that some of the circumstances were too coincidental and it was hard to believe the characters would be so closely intertwined in the Massachusetts-Maine--Connecticut-Merry Old England areas. I definitely look forward to reading more books by Mr. Swanson.

The title alone gives it two stars right off the bat, it's that great a title. Fortunately the story lives up to the title. It goes in some familiar directions, then swerves very suddenly in ways that I can't really describe here without giving away major plot points. And I don't want to do that. The basic story is a man wanting to kill his wife for having an affair and lying to him about it. *The Kind Worth Killing* is so much more than that, and has a lot of twists and shades to what is going on. The first twist is that he actually talks about it out loud to someone, a stranger. In more typical stories, the stranger would be someone with tons of skills who can help him and might actually pull the trigger. Here? Nope, said

stranger merely eggs him on, for reasons of their own, and agrees to be one of the "Producers" of the killing, while leaving the actual dirty work to our "hero" Ted. And it goes on from there, in a very entertaining way. This is my first Peter Swanson book, the title grabbed me and it was on some such Kindle books sale. It definitely won't be my last.

What a tension filled read this was! I read it straight through with a minimum of breaks. I am definitely not going to delve into plot as this tale has more twists and turns than any I've read in a long, long time, and a spoiler would be a travesty. Murders take place in ingenious ways, surprising facts emerge constantly, events are viewed from a variety of characters' perspectives, and all the while, the tension builds. None of the characters is particularly likable, and they are seriously flawed in different ways - overly competitive, possibly psychotic, driven to succeed, all contributing to their downfalls. But they are compelling, nonetheless. The characters are vivid, the dialogue rings true, the locale is well described; even the editing and proofreading are faultless. The ending is superb! *Strangers on a Train* is mentioned by some; I thought more of Scott Turow's *Presumed Innocent*. How great to find a truly readable thriller.

I'm not understanding how this book is receiving its rave reviews. I wanted to enjoy a suspenseful page turner, but this was not it unfortunately. Traditional murder story with no surprises. I did have one surprise however, and that is how the book ended. I spent the next 30 minutes convinced that the full book must not have downloaded to my kindle. Counting pages and reading other disappointing reviews, I realized that the book did suddenly end with no conclusion.

This reminds me so much of the TV show "Dexter" on Showtime cable. And I love that show as I did this novel. "Everybody dies..." Is their reasoning. Or, I should say it's mainly Lily's reasoning for killing people who do bad things to other people. The story gets more and more deliciously wicked as the bodies start piling up. But, Lily, being a true psychopath that she is, always seems to get away with the murders. I began to wonder how Swanson was going to end this--it seemed impossible to me--alas, he delivers the perfect conclusion and it's a jaw-dropper. Don't miss out on this one.

This was the first Peter Swanson book I read and I really enjoyed it! Based on the same premise as *Strangers on a Train*, it explores what can happen when two strangers connect during the anonymity of travel and explore a dark place. And then the book shifts again, with more surprises and more twists to ultimately leave the reader in a satisfying place. I thought the way he used

alternating characters was particularly effective and that he made some bold choices in deciding which characters survived and which were sacrificed to the story. If you like great mysteries/thrillers, you should grab this book.

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