



## Murder In The Heartland

*M. William Phelps*

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"The most disturbing and moving look at murder in rural America since *In Cold Blood*." – Gregg Olsen

On a December night in 2004, a 911 operator in Nodaway County, Missouri, received a frantic call from a woman who'd found her pregnant 23-year-old daughter in a pool of blood on the living room floor. Most shocking of all, the dying woman's unborn baby had been viciously ripped from her womb.

"Get ready for some sleepless nights."--Carlton Stowers

Across the border in Melvern, Kansas, Lisa Montgomery showed off a beautiful newborn she proudly claimed as her own. While some shared her excitement, others harbored suspicions. Meanwhile televisions across the nation broadcast the first Amber Alert for an unborn child.

"Phelps is a first-rate investigator." – Dr. Michael M. Baden

Newly updated with the latest surprising developments, *Murder in the Heartland* goes behind the scenes of two picture-perfect American towns forever changed by one horrifying act of violence. With exclusive access to key witnesses, family members, and potential victims who narrowly escaped a similar gruesome fate, M. William Phelps tells a classic American tale of unthinkable murder and the quest for justice.

**Includes 16 Pages Of Shocking Photos**

**As seen on Dateline and Sixty Minutes**

**A Featured Alternate of Doubleday Book Club and the Mystery Guild**

## **Murder In The Heartland Details**

Date : Published June 1st 2007 by Pinnacle (first published 2006)

ISBN :

Author : M. William Phelps

Format : Kindle Edition 469 pages

Genre : Crime, True Crime, Nonfiction, Mystery, True Story

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## From Reader Review Murder In The Heartland for online ebook

### **Kayo says**

I remembered when this crime happened. Book was fascinating. Author did not disappoint.

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### **Eva Leger says**

This wasn't the first book I'd read about woman attacking and stealing a pregnant womans baby and while they all are absolutely horrible- this really scared me. What this nutcase did to this woman and how she left her for dead and then paraded the baby around as her newborn leaves me without words. Phelps is an amazing t.c. writer and he really brings this story out in my opinion. I'm just glad the police found this little baby before this nut could do any more damage.

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### **Misty Fogg says**

Compelling story, terrible editing. Stretched out story (450 and this does not even include the trial), over the top "scene setting" and descriptions (calling a federal building akin to a 5 star hotel on the Las Vegas strip and taking a paragraph to do so is laughable), and many glaring mistakes like using form instead of from. Then this version had an updated section where he is calling out his haters. Like literally mentioning an Amazon reviewer and how he is sure she came to his book signing. So weird.

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### **♥ Marlene♥ says**

Okay. I finished this book last night. As someone who did not know anything of this case I really wish true crimes would change the way they build up a story.

Nothing wrong with the writing. As always Matt Phelps is doing a phenomenal job. No my problem is with the way the story is build.

Lately when you read a true crime book, after you read the first few pages you will already know, who was murdered, how, and by who. Why not build this story from the beginning. build a little suspense?

I wanted to know more about Lisa, but only at the end of the book her youth and her marriage comes in to play. But when that happens, you read a little bit about her past, but then he does not continue but after each chapter we were brought back to the now. Very annoying.

Still ended up with a lot of questions but I do think M Phelps did a great job what he was dealt with. Great author. Now I am off to search internet to find out what happened with Lisa.

3.5 out of 5 . 7.5 out of 10

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### **Debbie says**

the only problem with this book is that it was written before the case got to trial so in order to find out the

outcome you have to look it up on the internet. would have given it 5 stars if it wasnt for that one thing.

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### **CiderandRedRot says**

Sometimes a good true crime book takes an horrific event as a jumping off point to explore society, grief, the nature of humanity...this book doesn't do that. It's a pretty straightforward recap of the supremely nasty and pointless murder of Bobbie Jo Stinnett, much like a Wikipedia or Crime Library entry but with more background research. Murder is a senseless event but, despite the headline grabbing nature of Lisa Montgomery's crime, this story is firmly rooted in bland middle America, which should make it all the more disturbing but instead just ends up being rather, well, *dull*.

The book was published as the trial was unfolding; as a result, it doesn't reach a decisive end with Montgomery's sentencing, instead just trailing off as we start to get a grip on her character. Montgomery is shown as having an established pattern of manipulation and lying, rooted in her dysfunctional upbringing, but - perhaps due to the premature publication date - Phelps never seems to get a grasp on the reasons behind *why* she did what she did. It's apparent that much of what Phelps learned about Lisa came via her ex-husband Carl Boman (who presumably also controlled access to their children) and her mother Judy Shaughnessy, and a better book would have taken a more objective take on their recollection of events.

Similarly, although anyone with a heart would feel for Stinnett and her family, she never emerges from the page as a fully-developed person, instead limited by the grieving community's version of her as a good, wholesome mid-western gal.

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### **Kristy Neville says**

I usually like true crime books... I was not impressed with the writing in this book. I felt like we were jumping back and forth constantly and I was confused at times. It was ok but I'm not sure I would recommend it.

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### **Larry says**

Honestly, I was pretty disappointed in this book. The jacket had all the usual praise for the author, yet I found it read like it was written quickly, and spent too much time on superficial things, rather than take the chance to go in depth on things like legal issues, medical issues, etc.

The beginning part is basically a timeline leading to the crime itself, then at the end, the author turns to a back and forth in time from Lisa's youth to her early marriages, to the aftermath leading to the trial.

No one in this book comes off very sympathetic except for, of course the victims, one of Lisa's daughters (who coincidentally, is the one that cooperated the most with the author, and who he goes out of his way to praise in the acknowledgments) and the sheriff in charge of the local investigation.

Save your time, get on line and read some of the news articles, they have all the same facts without the agenda.

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**Jen says**

Hard book to read because it wasn't very interesting but I didn't want to abandon it either. This woman was bat shit crazy!

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**Tanya T says**

A good book. Well written. Yes, a bit disappointing that more was not said about Bobbie's life and what her family and friends have gone thru since her murder. Not really the author's fault as he states in an interview i read in a magazine for the review of this book. He said Bobbie's family wanted privacy and did not want to give the Author very much info about her life and the aftermath of her death. He decided to respect their wishes, this author also said he was going to issue an updated book after the trial was over. I have not heard anything further on Lisa Montgomery's trial. Though i enjoyed the book, i don't think Lisa Montgomery deserved so much of her story being told , Bobbie's life should have been more in the spotlight!

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**Joe says**

First book I read by M. William Phelps and I became a fan of his. Lisa Montgomery had to be born with a deranged animalistic mentality to murder Ms. Stinnet and then remove her unborn baby in a beastly manner. I praise the Skidmore law enforcement officials on their actions taken to go all the way to Melvern Ks to rescue and save the baby. A tragic story written into a good book. Mr. Phelps style of writing kept me glued til I finished reading the book.

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**Joanne says**

The writing is terrible. Here's an example :

"Faced with the confinement of four walls, barbed wire, and steel toilets, Lisa turned to God and opened her heart to the Lord."

I have heard of people finding religion while imprisoned, and formed my own ideas about why. To think it was those steel toilets.

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**Lennie says**

In December of 2004, pregnant Bobbie Jo Stinnett was murdered by Lisa Montgomery who then took her unborn baby from her womb. Lisa later showed off the baby as her own. Of all the true crime stories that I have read, this was probably the most horrifying because it shows you how far someone would go to have a baby. If you like Ann Rule, then I think you'll enjoy this book.

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**Katherine Tomlinson says**

Anyone who read or saw reports of this heinous crime in 2004 was fascinated by it. The primal urges behind the crime, the deranged-looking killer (the author carefully refers to her as the “alleged murderer,” but since she gave a four-page confession, and was found with the baby in her possession, it doesn’t seem likely there was another perp), all these elements combine for a human horror show. So Phelps’ book should have been riveting. It’s not.

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**Tabitha Rohm says**

As you know, I love M. William Phelps anyways ... but, I did thoroughly enjoy this book of his. The way he gets deep into his victims and suspects minds and their lives just astounds me. It is almost like being there.

This was one cruel woman. I don't think she ever for a moment realized the pain that she was inflicting on others around her ... the pain she put her kids through, her parents through, and especially her husbands. There are some of us out here that would give anything to have a husband to devote all our time and love to and then you have men that give it all up for a woman like this. I just sit and shake my head at the way the world works in such mysterious ways.

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