



## The Weatherman

*Steve Thayer*

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## **The Weatherman** Steve Thayer

A serial killer is on the loose in Minnesota, snapping young women's necks with each change of the seasons. Within twenty four hours of the first murder, TV weatherman Dixon Bell, a hulking eccentric, warns his viewers that a tornado is about to strike. The National Weather Service hasn't called it, but Dixon Bell does because he sees it coming in his mind. Among all the complex and original characters in this astonishing novel, the shifting weather and landscape of Minnesota stand out - demonic, majestic, bizarre, magical. Dixon Bell is not the only eccentric on Channel 7's Sky High News. His alter ego is an investigative news producer named Rick Beanblossom, a Vietnam vet and Pulitzer Prize winner, who hides his napalmed face, and his feelings, behind a mask. Guided along the way by an unnamed police source. Rick is on the track of the serial killer. Then he is assigned an unlikely partner, Andrea Labore, a lovely and ambitious ex-cop turned TV reporter. The newsman and the weatherman start out as bitter rivals for this gifted woman. But an ambivalent friendship grows between them when Dixon Bell becomes a suspect in the weather-related killings and Rick Beanblossom sets out to prove him innocent.

## **The Weatherman Details**

Date : Published March 1st 1996 by Signet (first published 1995)

ISBN : 9780451184382

Author : Steve Thayer

Format : Paperback 412 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Thriller, Suspense, Crime

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## From Reader Review The Weatherman for online ebook

### Lee says

A dark, thrilling serial killer novel. Read this, then read his follow up to it, "Silent Snow". Both are quite good.

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### Steph (loves water) says

Grabbed this by accident from the library, I was looking for The Weatherman by Clint McCown. Oh well. The book was pretty good but I remember reading it a long time ago, some parts came back to me. Still not a bad read.

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### Chana says

I didn't care for it very much. The characterizations did not seem consistent or real. Part of that inconsistency is how we jump around in subject; weather, Vietnam, who is committing murders, TV news and the death penalty. The author uses the book as a forum to express opinions on these things sometimes rather than telling a story. He also seems to blame women for the crimes of men, he is pretty consistent with that opinion.

I really think that the invention of the electric chair is one of the sickest ever and I strongly dislike Thomas Edison for its creation and all the killings, animal and human that have been committed with it.

The only thing that I really liked in the book was the weather but I'm one of those people who like to watch the weather channel.

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### Clifford says

A great story that I found to be solid in character, location, storyline, and plot driven written.

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### Amy says

Wowza. This book really had me. It pulled me in and kept me thinking the entire time, and I never really knew who the murderer was until the very end, and even then I had to doubt it. Very engaging, and I always enjoy local books. I listened to this book, and I really got annoyed that the reader kept mispronouncing the words, especially "Edina."

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### Chi Dubinski says

Excellent mystery--terrifying and with many twists and turns. The Weatherman did not follow the path of a conventional mystery, which is perhaps easier for an author when the book is not part of a series. The characters were richly drawn, with unexpected facets to their personalities--it wasn't just the beautiful blonde anchorwoman, the horribly scarred Vietnam vet, and the charming southern meteorologist. But the story became more than the usual mystery, when it continued beyond the capture. There was a graphic scene of an execution gone wrong--and a question posed: what if the wrong man were put to death? This stretched convention by making the reader think about capital punishment, not just in passing but in all its aspects.

The author, Steve Thayer, did write a sequel, but it came nowhere near measuring up to the first book.

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### **Jan says**

The books starts with a vivid and riveting account of a tornado as seen through the eyes of a helicopter weather and traffic team. It absolutely made my spine tingle, having lived in Minnesota all my life and having been in more than a few tornadoes, I was in awe of the detail and accuracy that Thayer used to describe the storm.

Great book....I pretty much figured out the ending early but I didn't want the murderer to be who I thought it was so I could not put it down!

Follow this with the next one "Silent Snow" for a great ride!

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### **Sandra says**

Another mystery by Steve Thayer, actually I should have read this one first and Silent Snow next, but I didn't. I liked them both, and knowing some of the characters in the second book, helped as far as their lives before and the interesting information behind the scenes of big-time news programs. A really good mystery, I love this authors writing and how detailed it is, as the story moves along. I'll be reading more of his books.

From Amazon:

Andrea Labore is a beautiful, ambitious TV newscaster. She's hungry for a story that could make her career. At the same time, at the same station, two men are hungering for her. One is Rick Beanblossom, a star reporter who hides his disfigured face behind a cotton mask. The other is the station's uncanny weatherman, Dixon Bell, who appears a gentle genius. When Andrea goes after the story of a serial killer, it becomes clear that the seasonal murderer is after her.

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### **Justin says**

This book was ridiculously awful. The ending was horrible and made me regret ever having picked up the book.

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### **Andy Rane says**

I don't want to spoil anything, but the end of this book was a head scratcher. I remember putting it down and thinking...well...that sucked! I got the feeling that the author wanted to go against the grain and be "different." It didn't work.

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### **Ginny\_1807 says**

Un giallo di alta qualità: trama avvincente e personaggi indimenticabili.

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### **Lori says**

only redeeming value to this mystery is that it is set in Minnesota and the author knows his stuff regarding the metro area and the weather. I enjoyed being able to visualize the area I grew up in

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### **Sarah says**

Being from Minnesota, I enjoy reading Minnesota authors. Steve Thayer is from Minnesota and this book takes place in the Twin Cities. I like this book, but wasn't satisfied with the ending. Something was missing from it, in my opinion.

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### **Jean says**

*"You may weather the storm, but will you weather the aftermath?"*  
? Anthony T. Hincks

Minnesotans love their weather. Love talking about it. Complaining about it. Watching the forecasts. Complaining about the forecasts when they're wrong. So how could I resist a book called *The Weatherman* by Steve Thayer, a Minnesota author? The cover features an ominous tornado with an angry face.

Mr. Thayer has invented some vivid characters in this novel about a serial killer dubbed "the Calendar Killer" who strikes once every season. The title role belongs to a Mississippi-born TV weatherman named Dixon Bell, who has an uncanny ability to predict weather events that even the National Weather Service does not forecast. Excuse me. Bell insists that he does not predict it; he only "reads the weather." I had very mixed feelings about this man. On one hand, he seems capable, even likable. He visits local schools to speak to children about weather, and he is extremely knowledgeable about weather. However, he has been unlucky in love since high school and seems to hold a grudge, if not against the women who rebuffed him, then he dislikes the men who might be his competition.

One such man is Rick Beanblossom. Rick is a news producer at Channel 7. He wears a mask because of severe burns suffered in Vietnam. Those scenes were among my favorite parts of the entire book because of

the sensitivity and humanity shown by the nurse “Angel” and Rick. Now, at somewhere near 40 years old, Rick Beanblossom – he’s almost always referred to by his full name – seems to be hiding behind his mask.

Other memorable characters include Andrea Lebore – known around the station by some as Andrea “the bore,” a cop known as “the Marlboro Man,” a hypocritical right-wing governor, and plenty of other news and political figures. Several times I found myself looking at the publication date of this book because there were events that happen in this book that seemed based on true events that made the news in Minnesota. But when I looked them up, they hadn’t happened until years after *The Weatherman* was written! One such event was a tragedy involving a politician. The disaster I was thinking of didn’t occur until 2002 and involved a Democratic Senator. I chuckled when Andrea gets a personal tour of the governor’s mansion and the governor elect mentions that the former governor’s teenage son used the attic for his room and it wasn’t to code. That made me think of Governor Jesse “The Body” Ventura, whose son infamously had parties at the mansion, but Ventura wasn’t governor until 1999. Perhaps Mr. Thayer is able to predict the future a bit like his weatherman? There was one true case that seemed based on a real event, and that was the kidnapping. The resolution was different, but the initial report was much the same.

But if you want to read about the weather, there is lots and lots and lots of weather in this book. I suggest you skim much of that. It will save you time, unless you’re really fascinated by it. I have gone back and forth about how to rate this book. At one point, Rick is at the morgue having a rather irreverent discussion with Dr. Freda “Freddie” Wilhelm, the forensic pathologist and chief medical examiner for Ramsey County. She comments that the TV station must be a lively place to work. Rick says, “It’s a news show, Freddie, it’s not a soap opera.” Her response, “Oh, it is to me.” And that’s how this book felt to me much of the time.

However, by the last hundred or so pages, things get much more serious. What of the serial killer? The State of Minnesota debates the death penalty. Nothing is more serious than that. By the end, I felt sad. Shocked. *The Weatherman* could almost be a metaphor for the seasons of a person’s life, with its ups and downs. Certainly some of the characters do change and grow. For the most part, the story held my interest and I came to care about what happened to the characters, even to like them, despite their flaws. I was on the fence the whole time about the guilt or innocence of the convicted killer until the big reveal. On the whole, this book was made more fun for me simply because of the Minnesota connection.

3.5 stars

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### **Betsy Del Vecchio says**

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Predictable. The Beast will get the Beauty... 1/3 of the book is just filler. Bad ending.

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