



In the Name of the Children: An FBI Agent's Relentless Pursuit of the Nation's Worst Predators

Jeffrey L. Rinek, Marilee Strong (Contributor)

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FBI Special Agent Jeff Rinek had a gift for getting child predators to confess. All he had to do was share a piece of his soul . . .

In the Name of the Children gives an unflinching look at what it's like to fight a never-ending battle against an enemy far more insidious than terrorists: the predators, lurking amongst us, who seek to harm our children.

During his 30-year career with the FBI, Jeff Rinek worked hundreds of investigations involving crimes against children: from stranger abduction to serial homicide to ritualized sexual abuse. Those who do this kind of work are required to plumb the depths of human depravity, to see things no one should ever have to see--and once seen can never forget. There is no more important--or more brutal--job in law enforcement, and few have been more successful than Rinek at solving these sort of cases.

Most famously, Rinek got Cary Stayner to confess to all four of the killings known as the Yosemite Park Murders, an accomplishment made more extraordinary by the fact that the FBI nearly pinned the crimes on the wrong suspects. Rinek's recounting of the confession and what he learned about Stayner provides perhaps the most revelatory look ever inside the psyche of a serial killer and a privileged glimpse into the art of interrogation.

In the Name of the Children takes readers into the trenches of real-time investigations where every second counts and any wrong decision or overlooked fact can have tragic repercussions. Rinek offers an insider's perspective of the actual case agents and street detectives who are the boots on the ground in this war at home. By placing us inside the heart and mind of a rigorously honest and remarkably self-reflective investigator, we will see with our own eyes what it takes--and what it costs--to try to keep our children safe and to bring to justice those who prey on society's most vulnerable victims.

With each chapter dedicated to a real case he worked, *In the Name of the Children* also explores the evolution of Rinek as a Special Agent--whose unorthodox, empathy-based approach to interviewing suspects made him extraordinarily successful in obtaining confessions--and the toll it took to have such intimate contact with child molesters and murderers. Beyond exploring the devastating impact of these unthinkable crimes on the victims and their families, this book offers an unprecedented look at how investigators and their loved ones cope while living in the specter of so much suffering.

In the Name of the Children: An FBI Agent's Relentless Pursuit of the Nation's Worst Predators Details

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From Reader Review In the Name of the Children: An FBI Agent's Relentless Pursuit of the Nation's Worst Predators for online ebook

Caitlin says

I revived a copy of this book through a Goodreads giveaway in exchange for a review.

I was both excited and hesitant to dive into this book when it arrived in my mailbox. I knew it would be a tough read because of the topic, but I'm also always eager to learn more about this sort of stuff. It certainly was a tough read and more than once I found myself fighting back tears with a turning stomach due to some of the details that Rinek shared throughout the books. It isn't often that a book, whether it's fiction or nonfiction, manages to really make me emotional. But Rinek's almost expert skill with words and the details he shares with readers managed to draw out a number of emotions. As difficult as it is to read about a topic like this, and as hard as it can be to process the information given on such a topic, I still found myself hard pressed to put this book down with how well written it was.

Lolly K Dandeneau says

via my blog: <https://bookstalkerblog.wordpress.com/>

“To handle the horrors we must deal with on a daily basis, many in law enforcement become hardened and compartmentalize their emotions, which has its own deleterious effects. I was not able to do that, nor could I stand at a clinical distance and rely on some technique or one-size-fits-all theory of criminality and remain untouched by the horrors I saw.”

During his 30 year career working as a FBI agent, Jeff Rinek witnessed the most vile crimes against children from sexual abuse, torture, abduction, murder and child abuse, sometimes from their family members. I had to read this book in parts, human depravity is beyond belief at times and I had the option of putting it down until I could catch my breath, Rinek and other's in his line of work don't have that privilege. I have the utmost respect for the brave men and women that work in this particular field. Not many have the stomach for it, and it isn't surprising that the work he has done has stayed with him, for how could it not? This is the stuff of nightmares, but Rinek isn't writing in the vein of sensationalism. This is a man who has kept every victim and their families within his heart, everything he has experienced has touched his own wife and children. Jeff shares not only the horrific cases he has helped solve, but the troubling ways it effected his family life. How could he not be overwhelming concerned for the safety of his own sons, having seen the darkness that befell so many innocent children? How could he sleep peacefully at night with the images of crime scenes floating in his mind, just as horrible the confessions of child molesters and serial killers thundering in his ears? It's impossible to truly separate the two worlds.

Jeff Rinek had a way about him that made the criminals feel comfortable enough to confess, I think it is most evident in his dealings with Cary Stayner. Not many could keep their emotions in check enough to empathize with someone who has committed monstrous acts. I know when we label something evil or monstrous it makes it impossible to understand how someone can commit such atrocities and maybe prevent them, but it's hard not to feel this way. Without his ability to reach into whatever humanity resides in the criminal, we may never know the truth. It is important to be able to understand the psyche of man as much as we can, whether we're repulsed or not. It matters to the victim's family, particularly when bodies are missing. Maybe there is truly no such thing as closure, maybe the 'knowing' is more horrifying than what the mind can imagine, but

living without answers is to be further victimized.

In reading about these tragic, horrifying crimes, it made me think about why it is so important for people to report crimes that happen to them, or things they witness that don't sit well within them. Nothing truly happens in a bubble, and often in abusive relationships, be they physical or sexual, often men or women go further in victimizing others, especially children (the most helpless and vulnerable of us all). The hard truth is, if someone has harmed you, you aren't the first, nor likely to be the last. One of the most shocking realities is how often child molestation is enabled by other adults, such as wives. I'm not surprised children don't come forward more often, the feelings of shame involved, the stigma boys in particular (especially as they become adults) are met with in coming forward about sexual abuse is heartbreaking. I'm reading another book right now about Evil, it's more from a psychological standpoint, but when I read true crime books, or listen to a victim recount their harrowing experiences it is damn hard to want to understand the psyche of criminals. How do you remain removed from cases, its human nature to empathize, particularly being a mother or father yourself. Of course seeing the body of a child that has been defiled in every way imaginable one would think of their own son or daughter, fear would be rooted inside your being. Rinek dealt with the worst of human nature, how could he not imagine the worse if a phone line home is busy, or his child doesn't get off his bus?

The violence, ritualized sexual abuse, physical, and mental trauma, torture the children suffered under the 'religion' Allen Harrod (their own father) started is as hard to stomach as every story within yet it is with the tenderest of care Rinek, along with others, helped the children find their strength to seek justice and have kept watch over the children long after the case ended. The bravery of Harrod's eldest daughter in coming forward is incredible, though shocking that it took her going through three different police agencies to get anyone to look into the matter. Without her, who knows how long Harrod and Labrecque's crimes would have continued, under the guise of religion. Much like the people involved in seeing justice served, it's gut wrenching to know the truth of how the children suffered, but worse to imagine being the children involved. Human depravity is boundless but it's knowing the children (their victims) will carry not just physical evidence of their nightmare for the rest of their lives, but have to cope with PTSD, have to navigate the world without an example of healthy family relationships, and in a sense deprogram from what for them was 'normal' that remains with you long after reading their story. That these things happen in our so-called 'modern times' is worse than any fictional horror I can conjure. You don't have to be close to the case to feel the frustration and anger at the justice system, how easy it seems for criminals to continue their abuse once captured, still victimizing everyone involved through 'legal manipulation.' Then there is the game of going to trial. Evidence is a peculiar thing, what is left out as to not 'prejudice the jury against the defendant.' Ridiculous in many cases, such as pictures of adults raping children in this situation shouldn't it be admissible, doesn't the victim deserve to see justice served? It's one thing to hear it, but when there are photos to back the child's confession, well? Statute of limitations is infuriating in and of itself, if a child comes into adulthood and finally has the ability to seek help, to expose the abuser only to find out they can't be charged anymore, how is that just? Something is certainly broken. It's hard not to feel like children don't matter enough, it certainly feels like criminals often get a slap on the wrist, are released only to commit even more gruesome crimes. But I feel heartened that men and women like Rinek work hard for them, it seems to even the balance, at least a little.

Retired now, Rinek remains just as passionate about making the world a safer place for children and for us all, as he did when he was working full-time. He has remained in contact with the children victimized by Harrod and Labrecque. It is obvious his job was his life, and he is the sort of agent the world needs, someone who puts all of his being into solving crimes, and caring for the victims. It's hard to review this type of memoir, because it comes from a deeply personal part of Rinek's life. It's enough to say that if you can't even read it, because it's our natural instinct to close our ears and eyes to terrors, imagine how the victim's

loved ones feel, how the men and women in law enforcement have to go home every night with the knowledge of such horrors branded in their minds. It's important to be a voice for those who have been silenced, and to see those who have harmed children caught, so they can't leave more families destroyed.

This truly is an unflinching look into the life of FBI Special Agent Jeff Rinek and how his job effected every facet of his life.

Out today!

BenBella Books

Cristie Underwood says

This was a really interesting read. I am majoring in Psychology and want to assist trauma victims, so it was interesting to read this former FBI agent's account of his experiences dealing with the horrible individuals that commit crimes against children,

Brittney Gibbon says

“These are not cases you can leave behind each night at the office door. They nag at your conscience, weigh on your soul, follow you home. These victims live inside of you and what they endured becomes a permanent part of you.”

First and foremost, thanks to the team at @benbellabooks for sending this one my way!

In the Name of the Children is the part memoir, part true crime account of Jeffrey L. Rinek's time spent as an FBI agent tasked with investigating the worst of the worst - crimes against children.

At just under 300 pages I expected to fly through this read on a Sunday afternoon. As it turns out, I had to take my time. The emotional impact of reading about these cases was greater than any other true crime book I've read. Partly for what the cases were, and partly for the raw, exposed way Rinek shares them - his heart breaks for his victims, leading the reader's own heart to break for them, and for him.

My deepest respects go out to Linek. He has sacrificed his own personal wellbeing and relationships with his family to go above and beyond in each of these cases, refusing to give up until he has made sure these children's voices have been heard. Not only that though, he gives us the details of these cases and investigations in such a careful, respectful way - never shying away from the facts, no matter how gruesome, but delivering them in a way that keeps him, and these victims, human.

We also get an insight into the FBI's training, their working relationships with members of the police, and an understanding of the internal politics and games that are played within the departments. Political BS and games that can have detrimental impacts on the outcome of a case. Something tells me Rinek holds quite a few grudges when it comes to his higher ups.

While this may be a factual read about justice and the steps taken to achieve it, it's also a touching read about family. The familial bonds formed between detectives because only they know the true horrors that they have each seen. The familial bonds formed between those detectives and victims' families.

The need that we each have for a family, whatever that family make up looks like, if we are ever going to have the strength to make a difference.

A truly gripping, brutal, but delicate where it needed to be, read that I recommend to all you true crime buffs out there. One star lost for the impatience I felt at times reading about the office politics and Rinek's home life. These weren't necessarily bad things, I just would have preferred more time spent on the cases.

Leslie Gutierrez says

Interesting and captivating book. The author truly has one of the most difficult jobs ever and dealt with the scum of the earth - child molesters, predators, and murderers - throughout his career. The subject matter was extremely difficult to read about at times, so much so that there were a few times I just had to take a break from reading, as he went into great detail about the crime scenes and interviews with the perpetrators about the commission of their crimes on children. However, the details provided gave incredible insight into the horrors of these crimes and what it was like to be in his shoes as an FBI agent. Each chapter is based on a different crime he investigated and he occasionally deviates from the telling of the crime to explain relevant information such as the inner workings of the FBI, REID interrogation techniques, and the evolution of the use of DNA evidence. He interwove everything very nicely. You can tell the author truly cares about his work and has been forever impacted by it.

Michelle Kidwell says

?In the Name of the Children?An FBI Agent's Relentless Pursuit of the Nation's Worst Predators?by Jeffrey L. Rinek; Marilee Strong?BenBella Books?Biographies & Memoirs , True Crime?Pub Date 17 Jul 2018?I am reviewing In the Name of the Children through BenBella Books and Netgalley:

This book gives us an unflinching look at what it's like to fight a never ending battle against the one who terrorize children, the predators who lurk among us wanting to hurt children.?

Retired FBI agent Jeff Rinek worked many investigations, hundreds involving children everything from stranger abductions to serial homicide as well as ritualized sexual abuse. Like all who find themselves doing this kind of work Jeff Rinek was required to plumb the depths human depravity he was forced to see things no one wants to see. The job is both the most brutal as well as the most important job in Law Enforcement, Rinek had a great success rate in solving these cases.

Most famously he is known for getting Cary Stayner to confess to killing the four women and girls in the Yosemite Park Murders. This was made more extraordinary by the fact that the FBI nearly pinned the murders on the wrong suspects.

This book is both painful to read and powerful it speaks of one man's quest to bring the victims of monsters

the justice they deserve.

I give *In the Name of Children* five out of five stars!

Happy Reading!

Valerity (Val) says

This book by a former FBI agent Jeff Rinek was really eye-opening as to what he went through while he performed his job. It's really informative about many things agents go through as they learn their duties, become agents, and depending on what area of the job they end up in, some of the stresses that they can face. This particular agent ended up dealing with some of the worst, and he detailed how it affected his life. He shares some of his cases in his book, and they are really gut-wrenching as he takes you along. It's a hardcore trip, so be prepared. He has quite a knack for getting bad guys to confess, and his interviews often got amazing results. He also was able to talk to victims and get them to open up with gentle empathy, taking great care not to do further damage, but elicit what was needed to help put their accused behind bars for as long as possible. A very moving story that I was rather blown away by, and glad I had read. My thanks to Netgalley, authors Jeffrey L. Rinek, & Marilee Strong, and the publisher for providing me the ebook in return for my fair review.

BenBella Books

Pub. Date: July 17th, 2018

Michelle Boyer says

Rinek, formerly with the FBI where he undertook terrible crimes that often involved children, recounts some of the hauntingly memorable cases that he worked on in *In the Name of the Children: An FBI Agent's Relentless Pursuit of the Nation's Worst Predators*. As one can imagine, this true-crime book is definitely not for the feint of heart because some of these disturbing crimes are described in vivid detail. In fact, while reading this on the bus, where someone always manages to ask what I'm reading, one woman asked: *Why would anyone want to read about such horrible acts?*

I pondered this before writing this review and have come up with several answers, although I am sure some readers will have divergent answers of their own. First and foremost, as Rinek explains, in order to begin to understand serial killers, child rapists, etc., there need to be people working to understand their crimes. By reading about killers and their murders, even the most graphic cases, everyone can begin to learn different things. For example, one may surmise that we now live in a day and age where you should not let your child out of your sight. I know, it does seem like common sense, but continued cases show that predators can swiftly abduct children that were told they could play outside alone for a few more minutes.

In some instances, there are deeper lessons to be learned, some of which are explained in detail in this book. Rinek and other members of the FBI have tirelessly pursued killers--often at a detriment to their own family, which they are often pulled away from on business--and have gained a better understanding of patterns.

Forensic science has come quite a ways as well. And, in many cases, agents are working to bring victims home to their families so that those families will have some sense of closure. Until a family is going through a traumatic experience where they have no answers about where their child is, they can only imagine how badly you would want some sense of closure--and you'd hope to be able to prosecute the individual(s) responsible.

However, one of the fundamental reasons that I believe this book should be read is because we cannot let victims be silenced and forgotten. If this happens, then killers win. Thus, if you're interested in true-crime and/or serial killers, I highly recommend this book for exploration. There are several cases discussed throughout, often including some 'background' information about the inner workings of the FBI (which begins to illuminate all kinds of other issues and grievances), and even though some of these cases share a similar thread--they are all unique.

Rinek provides a new insight, has a strong voice, and has a story that needs to be told. As much as the graphic content may shock you, and you may struggle with it, it still should be read. If you're interested in true-crime, this is on par with several of my other favorite recent works because it does not go too far into the bushes (adding unneeded and hypothesized dramatizations).

Note:

Thank you to NetGalley, author Jeffrey Rinek, and the publisher, for providing me with an eARC in exchange for an honest review.

Lindsey Gandhi says

This book is a hard one for me to review. As a huge lover of true crime books I wanted to love this book, but I didn't. My rating is more like 2.5 stars and I'm rounding up. The subject matter of the book gives it 3.5 stars, the writing is what brings the rating down for me.

Jeffrey Rinek has one of the toughest jobs ever. Not only is he an FBI agent, but he specializes in kidnappings and horrific crimes against children. What he had to see every day and help solve is what makes horror movies. I cannot even begin to imagine what it takes to handle that kind of job and keep focus to find these missing children and bring their abductors and murderers to justice without breaking down emotionally. For that I want to give him credit and admiration.

The stories themselves were fascinating and at times hard to read. As a mother, this is my worst nightmare. If you are a fan of true crime, even a fan of the CSI type shows on tv then you will appreciate the stories. He even gives a little background into a fundamental shift in the FBI that put tactical teams in place for these type of crimes. The cases he worked are haunting and his instincts and superb detective work lead to the arrest and capture of some of the world's worst monsters.

Here is where I had a problem with the book - I felt that the author spoke too much about the "politics" behind decisions made with cases. In some instances it felt like he had a bone to pick with the higher ups and was airing those grievances versus focusing on telling the story of the case at hand. Each case was a child's face, a child's memory, their story. Some the FBI won and some they lost. Those grievances he speaks about takes away from the true story - the children.

The title of the book is spot on, the author did relentlessly pursue the nation's worst predators. He didn't give

up, even if it took 15 years. Had the book been scrubbed a little tighter to remove some of his personal commentary on people he worked with and focused more on the heart of the story - the children and the pursuit, then this would be a 4 star book for me.

My thanks to Netgalley, authors Jeffrey L. Rinek, & Marilee Strong, and the publisher for a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

Molly Yarosh says

This was a real life CSI story and it was riveting. Rinek took us to places that most people hope to never, ever go. He saw parts of humanity that most of us didn't even know existed and he handled it with the care that it deserved. Rinek was in the FBI for 30 years working on cases that involved crimes against children - abduction, sexual abuse, etc. In the book you learn his interview techniques, delve into some of his most grisly cases, and come to understand the toll that this work took on his life and his psyche.

Not only did I enjoy learning more about the cases themselves, but I grew a whole new respect for the art of interrogation. In the shows and movies, you're lead to believe that a killer will spill his/her guts the second they are in the interview room. In reality, it's much, much different. Understanding the mind of a serial killer was interesting while also horrifying. Sitting in the same room and breathing the same air as a sadist seems intriguing while also nauseating. After reading this book, I can now imagine the mountains Rinek had to climb to not only get what he wanted out of these killers but also keep his emotions in check at all times. The killer and the interrogator are both walking a tightrope and neither wants to be the person to look down first.

This was an eyeopening read and I am so happy that there are dedicated men and women who work tirelessly to keep our world safe from the monsters hiding in plain sight.

Many thanks to Netgalley for my copy of *In the Name of Children* in exchange for my honest review.

Rheama says

It's impossible to review this book without describing it in epic, biblical proportions. So here goes.

When a child is hurt, missing, or abused, it's an assault on all that's innocent and righteous. Any child, anywhere. Even one. Sadly, this broken world is full of exploited children. Our troubles are Legion.

Shouldn't we ALL drop what we're doing and root out such evil? In our fallen reality, only a few special souls are willing and legally authorized to pursue justice in these most heinous of crimes.

Jeffrey Rinek is one such individual, a former FBI agent who spent his career investigating homicides, disappearances, and cases of abuse, mostly involving children. This book is an account of those years. While it touches on Jeffrey's childhood, his own family, his attempt to conduct this business humanely, and his struggles with PTSD, the book isn't about the author. It's about the victims.

In the Name of the Children isn't entertainment. It's a vigil and a reckoning. A vigil for the children who "refuse to be erased from the book of life," and a reckoning for our society.

A society that will allow multiple counts of molestation to go unprosecuted. A society that will force a victim to approach three different police departments before allegations of horrific abuse are taken seriously. A society that will enable the egos of law enforcement personnel to interfere with the facts of a case. A society that will essentially offer lesser punishment (a “domestic discount”) to parental offenders who abuse or even murder their own children, as opposed to strangers who commit the same crimes. A society that places a statute of limitations on cases of child molestation. A society that will allow a defense lawyer to openly accuse dozens of child victims of sexual abuse of “mass hysteria.”

I cried a bucket of tears over this book, but I’m ending it dry-eyed and in a fury.

Jeffrey Rinek, thank you for the work you’ve done to cast light in the darkest shadows. None of us want to look into those corners, but how dare we turn away? You’re in a unique position of knowledge to inspire and enable change. Because of this book, I’m investigating which proposed laws, if any, will better serve victims and keep offenders in prison. Because of this book, I’m researching which organizations I can contribute to that provide mental health care to victims of abuse. Because of this book, I talked to my children today about safety, and I hugged them tighter.

Our world isn’t civilized until our children are safe and loved.

Thank you to Net Galley and the publisher for providing a copy of this book in exchange for a fair review.

Kivalina Gwynn says

Jeffery Rinek is very good. He has helped so many families. Lots of his case's have haunted him and continue to haunt him .His Wife and Children Stuck by him. These is so many of the case's I really an not put them all here but they will stick with me as well just reading about what these families went through. It is so sad that people do this to children. What Cary did to that Mother ,daughter and her friend was very frightening. I am however glad that Jeff was able to get Cary to confess every thing.. This is a hard book to read.. If you like this thype of stuff as I do then Yes I recommend this.

Shelby Weber says

Emotional to read but important lesson on safety of our children

First I have to say this is a well written book I only put it down to take a deep breath and regroup before continuing. It was the most emotional book I've ever read and beyond hard to believe there's that kind of evil in our world the lesson is a strong one for parents, grandparents heck any human being to pay closer attention to our children and other children there are signs that we must see and then say something even when afraid just think about how afraid the children going through hell are.

David John says

I've read many books written about law enforcement and investigations, but this one by far is one of the most interesting. The crimes are gruesome, but give you insight into the type of people that we live with in this

world. Would recommend to everyone!

Jenn says

Through work, I met the author of this book. I told him my favorite genre was memoirs and he excitedly told me he had written his own book and in fact was sending a copy to his title agent along with his loan documents. After finding out what the book was about I was I told him I would attempt to read it but was leery of my ability to finish it. After an hour with him and his wife I was so impressed by his manner that I was excited to read it. This book is very well written, an excellent engrossing tale, but I just don't have the strength to read stories that are about crimes against children. I was able to make it through the first two children but there were some graphic situations and I prefer to crawl back into my bubble and chant "Be still, and know that I am God" because I don't want to believe a loving God could let these things happen.

I am in awe of Mr Rinek and I appreciate all he and his family have had to go through. It takes a special person to be able to see and hear what he did on a daily basis. His compassion for not only the victims but also the perpetrators (he knows these people were almost always victims themselves) is commendable.

He is now retired, and in meeting with him he said he lives with the demons of his career every day of his life. I know he finds peace in the victims and families he was able to help and I hope he can focus on that for years to come.

If you like true crime and can handle graphic details read this book.
