



## Silent Snow

*Steve Thayer*

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## **Silent Snow** Steve Thayer

Rick Beanblossom is the Twin Cities' top investigative reporter. He has a devoted wife. A brand-new son. He is contented. But on the March 1st anniversary of the 1932 Lindbergh kidnapping, all that will change -- when history repeats....

## **Silent Snow Details**

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Author : Steve Thayer

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# From Reader Review Silent Snow for online ebook

## Christine Howard says

This book about the kidnapping of a newspaper man's son on March 1 the day that Charles Lindbergh's son was kidnapped mixes elements of both kidnapping and it takes place in St. Paul Minnesota as a late winter storm is ravaging the city. For those who have heard about the Lindbergh kidnapping or who know the great city of St. Paul this city strikes an interesting chord. It is fiction but the story is well developed and the protagonist Rick Beanblossom is a man you pity but admire. A Vietnam veteran badly burned it's his baby that is taken/

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## Jordan says

This book was a quick read, which incorporated a story of a child's kidnapping with that of the famous Lindbergh baby kidnapping. If you enjoy the suspense of reading about crimes, you will enjoy this.

Rick Beanblossom and his wife Andrea are reporters in Minnesota. Their young son is taken from their home one evening, and the couple soon discovers someone is recreating the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby. Like the Lindberghs, the Beanblossoms decide to take the investigation into their own hands in order to get their son back.

The story is fast moving. It does jump back in time to tell the story of Grover Mudd, who was a reporter trying to discover the truth of the Lindbergh kidnapping.

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## Linda says

Picked this one up rather at random off a library shelf, while searching for some beach/summer reading. It's an unusual mystery story, interweaving the kidnapping of a child in the late 90s in St. Paul, MN, with recollections of the Lindbergh kidnapping in the 1930s. It's at least the 2nd novel written by this author involving the same characters, so I read it out of order and can only judge it on its own merits, and not as part of the series.

Overall it's entertaining, and mostly held my attention, though despite the precipitating crime occurring with in the first couple chapters, it felt slow to get off the ground. It only gets a 2-star "It's OK" rating from me, though, because even though the premise is creative, the present-day sections are uneven, overdone in some places -- overdramatized and overwrought -- and underdone in others, where characters and events are underdeveloped and too much is taken for granted. However, I found the sections dealing with the 1930s crime mystery to be much better written and much more interesting -- the primary villain of those sections is deliciously fiendish, and the primary hero appealing and relateable, with all his flaws. I'm sure it would have been a better book without the whole present-day connection, actually.

Still, it was an OK read and a nice change of pace from my standard go-to paperback mysteries, and I'll be interested in reading Thayer's other books at some point as well.

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## **Debra says**

A Minnesota thriller that takes a ride through the Lindbergh kidnapping to solve a current kidnapping. Never a moment I wanted to leave this book.

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## **Roxana says**

What can I say about this book? It was excellent, I enjoyed reading it.

A compelling thriller. A kidnapping of a child imitating the famous case of the Lindbergh's child. Is it possible that the monster that kidnapped and killed Baby Lindbergh, also took away the little child of one of the most famous woman of the tv news...? Is it just an imitator?

Her husband, a man that was injured with napalm in Vietnam and as a consequence is forced to use a mask, and is also a very famous newspaper columnist, known as "The man without face" is determined to save his child. For that, he has to learn more about the old famous case, in order to have his child back.

You can't put the book down once you start with it.

I'm not very familiar with the Lindbergh's case, anyway, I believe most of the story that you will find in this book is the writer's creation, anyway, now, I will probably read more about that case and what actually happened, if it ever was actually solved. I believe that the solution given in this book was just the solution adapted to the story, and I found it somewhat fanciful, but anyway, I enjoyed the book.

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## **Annabelle Solt says**

The kidnapping of the son of a newspaper reporter and celebrity TV newswoman in Minnesota becomes a big story. In the course of the investigation, eerie similarities emerge that are connected with the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby. Interesting.

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## **Sandra says**

I really enjoyed this suspenseful mystery, from beginning to end, it does not let you put it down! A new author for me, and I wish that I had read "The Weatherman" first, so I could know the character, Richard Beanblossom from the beginning. I have it on hold at our library and will read it too. The characters and an amazing storyline keeps you guessing and on the edge of your seat with so many twists and turns.

From Amazon:

The majestically shifting Minnesota weather that dominated Steve Thayer's acclaimed novel *The Weatherman* swirls eerily through his second equally sophisticated thriller. March first finds Rick Beanblossom, hero of *The Weatherman*, now St. Paul's top investigative reporter, looking out on the icy, brooding night city. Rick, known as the man without a face--a face he lost to napalm while saving lives in Vietnam--is now married to beautiful anchor Andrea Labore, queen of Sky High News, and father of an infant boy. On Beanblossom's desk tonight lies a strange piece of anonymous mail, a memento of another March first--the date, in 1932, of the famous Lindbergh baby kidnapping.

But this night, at the height of a savage blizzard, Rick's own beloved child will be snatched from his nursery, with his mother only a room away. All Beanblossom's newspaperman instincts tell him the secret of his son's disappearance lies in his past--and so he begins a war on two fronts: to track every lead in the present while he delves into the tortured Lindbergh history and the history of another hard-boiled St. Paul reporter, Grover Mudd for a clue--any clue--that could bring his son back. His investigation, racing through snow against time makes *Silent Snow* a brilliant new blend of history and fiction for readers of Caleb Carr's *The Alienist* and Robert Harris's *Fatherland*.

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### **Samyann says**

Audiobook read by David Birney, a 10 plus hour listen. The story is about the modern day kidnapping of a baby with a parallell to the Lindbergh case of 1932. The author mixes fact with fiction, creating a historical scenario of wild speculation. If you're looking for factual detail regarding the Lindbergh case, please don't depend on this book. Some of it is true, most is not and is a fictionalized version of actual events. If you take historical fiction seriously, you may take a pass on *Silent Snow*, there really is no detail about the world as it was in 1932, only fictionally created characters. If your interest is simply a good mystery, the book is well worth a purchase. It may take time to get into the voice and rhythm of the reader, David Birney, as a few characters sound a little too decrepit.

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### **Paula says**

Excellent novel that combines true events with thriller. I loved it!!

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### **Sue Shipley says**

Lots of action and gruesome details. I almost lost interest in the middle with all the snow and descriptions of it and the cold.

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### **Andrea says**

Reading this book for library book club. I was really hesitant at first because I have long since given up mysteries. I used to read James Patterson religiously but not lately.

This book is about a kidnapped baby and the hunt to track down the kidnappers. It is surprisingly easy to read and relatively quick as well. The second part of the book takes a look back at the Lindbergh kidnapping in a historical review of a true kidnapping and how it relates to the kidnapping at hand. The third part of the book sums up the story. It was a good book overall and I enjoyed the historical aspects as well as the regional awareness that a local writer brings to the story.

Started: 5/31/09

Finished: 6/8/09

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## **Gabby says**

The kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby in 1932 forms the backdrop for this very well written thriller/mystery. In Minnesota in 1999, Rick Beanblossom's baby boy is kidnapped from his nursery crib just as the Lindbergh baby was kidnapped 67 years previously. Beanblossom's wife, Andrea Labore is a television media star, while Rick is a well-known print media reporter. They both are celebrities, and they both, by virtue of what they do for a living, have numerous contacts thanks to work associations both currently and from previous jobs. However, when their son is kidnapped they are just as much at the mercy of those who took their son as anyone else in their position might be.

By shifting the action back and forth between 1932 and the present, we follow the parallels between the two different kidnappings. There are many similarities between the two cases. In 1932 the Lindbergh case was closed when Bruno Hauptmann was found guilty and executed for the crime. However, because of the uniformity of the current crime to the former one, serious doubt is placed upon the assumption that Bruno Hauptmann committed the kidnapping of Baby Lindbergh alone. Beanblossom begins to suspect Hauptmann had an accomplice and that this accomplice is now working out of Minnesota on a similar plan to extort money from wealthy parents.

Once I began reading *Silent Snow*, I found it difficult to put the book down. Steve Thayer maintained a level of tension throughout the book that kept me turning the pages as fast as I could read them. Apparently Thayer had one book before this one, *The Weatherman*, in which the characters who appear in *Silent Snow* make their debut. Based upon this book, I'd be willing to read anything more Thayer has written. He's created some interesting characters, and it would be interesting to see where he takes them from here.

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## **Lisa Rathbun says**

I like Beanblossom's character, but this book just didn't have it for me. The backstory of the Lindbergh baby's kidnapping was interesting, but the motivation was preposterous that decades later the criminal would strike again. Some of the images would work for TV: the ghostly wind scaring the babysitter, the anchorwoman leaping to save the baby on the bridge, the battle inside the runaway trolley car. But what might look neat on the screen just didn't make sense for me in the story: people did outrageous and unbelievable things that stretched my credulity too far. (Even harsher language and situations than his first.) I don't think I need to read more by this author.

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## **Dan says**

So so so many spoilers.

I had a lot of problems with this piece of crap.

1.) It was really two half-baked books in one. The connections between Part 1 and Part 2 were so tenuous

and shoddy that by the end of Part 2 I'd felt like my time had been totally wasted.

2.) A goddamn ghost. In a kidnapping mystery. Completely out of the blue.

3.) Not all of the facts of the Lindbergh case were right.

4.) You don't need to say the main character's full name every time he's mentioned.

5.) Terrible motivation for the kidnappers. Horribly explained. By that, I mean, "Not at all."

6.) This was billed as a kidnapping mystery/thriller, not a love letter to St. Paul, but that's how it read.

7.) I didn't care about any of the characters. Saying that he was a Marine and got gassed doesn't make me like him automatically.

8.) The noir-ish flashback was a generic caricature with no soul and nothing original or interesting to present.

asdfhkasjgblasjbg

On the plus side, the prose was snappy and visual and moved along at a great clip. I just wish it had a better story to tell.

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## **Julie Griffin says**

This is a highly entertaining book set in modern times involving a journalist caught up in a reenactment of the Charles Lindbergh baby kidnapping of 1932. St. Paul, MN journalist Rick Beanblossom unwittingly sets off a personal tragedy when he writes about the death of Anne Morrow Lindbergh, author and wife of Charles Lindbergh and mother of the murdered baby. Days later he receives a copy of his obituary in the mail along with a \$20 bill. Bemused, he sets the bill and piece aside and works on other writings, but keeps coming back to it as something arouses his curiosity. When he calls a confidential source and they realize, from the serial number, that the bill is actually a gold certificate recorded as part of the original kidnapping ransom money paid for the Lindbergh baby, Beanblossom feels the hairs rising on his neck and rushes home to his St. Paul Summit Avenue house to check on his own newborn son, only to find the window of the nursery open and the baby gone. The author has fun leading us on paths that recede back to the gangster-infested St. Paul of the 1930s and a fictional visit by a woman linked to the kidnapping. Through another journalist's own experiences in the thirties, we see the colorful past of St. Paul, the media frenzy over the Lindbergh kidnapping that might have established the unending coverage of events that we see today, and how crimes were investigated in the days before CSI. The past comes back as Rick and his wife, herself a modern media celebrity, look into the present and the mysteries and secrets from the thirties as they desperately try to find their son. Clearly Thayer enjoyed writing this book and dropping in little pieces of the Lindbergh story--we meet a German in the trenches of World War I whose initials are observed to be RBH (Richard Bruno Hauptmann, the kidnapper?)-- and the plot is very well plotted and laid out. We are given several plausible suspects and unbelievable coincidences, and complications ensue worthy of Lucky Lindy himself, a complicated man who was a Nazi sympathizer and racial bigot at the same time as an international hero. The writing itself is somewhat pedestrian although at times the style rises when it elevates journalism rather than fiction. It is also hard not to react every time one reads the name Beanblossom. Why Beanblossom? But overall the pacing is sophisticated, and any one from Minnesota will enjoy the shout outs

to St. Paul locations and history. Worth the time to read.

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