



## The Art of Murder

*Michael White*

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## **The Art of Murder** Michael White

In all his years on the force, Detective Chief Inspector Pendragon had never seen a corpse like this one. After the initial horror, he recognised the reference to the surrealist painter, Magritte. But that made the crime even more sickening - accomplished, as it had been, with a sickening ferocity which placed it in another league from common or garden homicide.

In the Whitechapel area of London in the 1880s, a person, who remains unidentified to this day, committed a series of sadistic murders of local prostitutes, which involved elaborate mutilation of the victims' bodies.

Although the contemporary crimes are not directed exclusively at female targets, there is grotesque similarity in the mindset of the two perpetrators - divided, as they are, by more than a century. But Pendragon is determined that his pathologically brilliant killer will not escape detection.

THE ART OF MURDER reveals Michael White's mastery of a crime genre that he is making uniquely his own.

## **The Art of Murder Details**

Date : Published 2010 by Arrow Books

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Author : Michael White

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## From Reader Review The Art of Murder for online ebook

### Sergiu Pop says

The light kind of a book, nothing too complex; good for a light read during a vacation.

The murderer was easy to get since the person was introduced in the story.

3/5 Stars.

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### Marie Cope says

Honestly, I couldn't get into this book at all. I found the characters dull and wooden and nothing really drew me to it. However, as a friend had recommended it, I read it all.

The murders themselves were very imaginative, so full marks for those, but the rest pulled it down.

As an avid Jack the Ripper fan, I was intrigued by White's fictitious story, but hated the way, at the end, that he suddenly decided to disprove the whole thing - very poor judgement. He should have left it out there, as this is only fiction.

The two storylines didn't gel for me and have no idea why White decided to run them together. The link was so tenuous, it was pointless.

I much preferred the story and writing style of the Jack the Ripper part.

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### Liliana Pinto says

Este é um livro que se lê mas que não fica na memória. Não me encheu as medidas nem me fez suspirar por mais. Quando faltavam umas páginas para o final do livro eu já tinha adivinhado quem era o assassino, mas não por que o tinha feito.

Penso que a melhor característica deste livro é a introdução do relato do séc XIX. Um relato que (supostamente) pertence ao famoso Jack, o Estripador. O pior assassino em série de Inglaterra. E um assassino que nunca fui encontrado.

É um livro mediano que serve para entreter.

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### Tempo de Ler says

'Arte Assassina' começa muito melhor do que acaba; o que, num *thriller*, quando tudo avança para a 'grande revelação', é normalmente sinônimo de desilusão.

Começamos com um homicídio numa galeria de arte - uma mórbida imitação do famoso quadro de René Magritte, O Filho do Homem. O inspector-chefe Jack Pendragon faz imediatamente a ligação entre a cena do

crime que tem à sua frente e a obra de arte mas o motivo que levaria alguém a fazer algo tão doentio ultrapassa-o completamente... especialmente quando começam a aparecer outros cadáveres, vítimas de uma crueldade furiosa e extremamente violenta, todos bizarramente alusivos a uma conhecida pintura surrealista.

Ao mesmo tempo, vamos lendo cartas escritas por um outro assassino, supostamente Jack, o Estripador, em 1988. Foi desta tentativa de entrar na mente perturbada de um psicopata que mais gostei - especialmente um perpetrado como sendo extremamente disciplinado e metódico, convencido da sua superioridade intelectual, vocacionado para a maldade desde a infância. A comparação da produtividade artística e criatividade de um pintor com a de um escritor e a avaliação da extensão da loucura no mundo da arte são pontos focados de forma perspicaz e inteligentemente deixados em aberto, à nossa consideração.

Foi, no entanto, a investigação - muito dúbia, na minha opinião - que acabou por prejudicar o livro. Muita da informação é obtida clandestinamente, sem o envolvimento directo da polícia, o que nos leva a questionar de imediato a sua competência. Apesar de ter simpatizado com Pendragon, pareceu-me não possuir nenhum instinto para a profissão. Suspeitei da identidade do assassino muito antes de Pendragon, portanto, tornou-se irritante vê-lo ignorar pistas óbvias e passar o resto do livro apenas à espera da confirmação.

Este é um livro que funciona melhor pela perspectiva dos assassinos nele apresentados devido à curiosidade que possamos desenvolver pelas suas consciências e pensamentos, a forma como entendem as coisas que os rodeiam, até onde são capazes de ir. E porquê.

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### **Yassemín says**

'The Art of Murder' had a pretty interesting synopsis, enough to make me pick it up and think this should be quite good. Alas, it just wasn't that good.

The story itself is interesting, alternates between the contemporary killings taking place and extracts from Rippers killings back in the 1880s. Although personally, both sets of murders were completely different, so I don't know why the author decided to even use the Ripper killings.

The writing was fairly bland...very basic and not particularly descriptive or emotive enough to make me feel much apart from apathy however because the plot intrigued me, I continued, it just wasn't outstandingly written.

I feel in part because the writing was nothing special that this lead to very poorly developed, basic and two dimensional characters that once again, made me feel not a lot. I couldn't say I liked or disliked them. I didn't really feel much.

So I won't pick any more books up by this author. Interesting plotlines but nothing else. I like my writing and characters well developed so that I really like or love a read, not just find it barely okay.

Sorry Mr White, your writing isn't quite up to scratch!

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### **Cristina Tomi says**

I enjoyed both stories that unfold in the book, but I found some details really unimportant and quite boring. Also, the ending was a bit flat... But overall, it's a good police mystery.

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## **Trisha says**

Inhoud:

In al zijn jaren bij de politie is inspecteur Jack Pendragon nog nooit geconfronteerd met zo'n gruwelijke reeks moorden. De lichamen van de slachtoffers zijn op verschrikkelijke wijze vermindert en vervolgens zo gepositioneerd dat ze verwijzen naar werken van beroemde surrealistische schilders. Om de zaken nog ingewikkelder te maken, lijkt er een verband te zijn tussen deze moorden en een serie onopgeloste moorden in Londen in 1880, namelijk die van Jack the Ripper. Pendragon is vastbesloten de zaak op te lossen, maar zijn tegenstander is niet alleen gevaarlijk, hij is ook bijzonder intelligent en laat geen spoor achter. Een bloedstollende race tegen de klok begint...

Waardering:

Het boek was spannend, soms walgelijk als je weet om welke werken het gaat en toch ook een intrigerend boek. Hoe kan je als auteur zo iets bedenken, maar White heeft het bedacht en beschreven en het maakt je een boek dat je wel vasthouwt. Ik had een start nodig, maar daarna kostte het me steeds mee moeite om het boek alleen voor het openbaar vervoer te gebruiken. De laatste ongeveer 150 pagina's zijn ook zonder reistijd gelezen, maar ik wilde weten wie de dader was. Waarom en hoe waren de andere vragen. Niet alles werd bevredigend beantwoord, dit heeft wel een ster gekost als ik het me nu zo bedenk. In eerste instantie toen ik het boek uit las, gaf ik het hier een vier, maar nu ik er over nadenk en alles op een rijtje zet is het net niet goed genoeg. Er zaten hier en daar wat spelfouten in, maar niet iets dat heel storend was. Het verhaal zelf was apart en de hoofdpersoon Pendragon stelt heel langzaam over de boeken en door de verhalen heen je hart. Soms heb je met hem te doen en andere keren denk je zo iets als wat ben je toch een sukkel, maar al met al een leuke personage die in deze boeken thuis hoort. Mijn fantasie laat mij een personage zien die buiten de koffie overigens een echte Engelsman is.

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## **Nikisylvia says**

Whilst reading this book I liked the passages from the point of view of Jack the Ripper more than the main

storyline. I knew who the killer was halfway in and only continued to read to see if I was right... Shocked that I was.

The characters are not painted in depth and whilst the writer seems to try and build a connection to the main character, through his backstory about the disappearance of his daughter, he barely scratches the surface.

I also thought it was a bit cliched that the killings were in London and that the author used Jack the Ripper as a subplot. It was very predictable, but those sections were the most captivating.

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### **Catia.borboleta Da Silva says**

Love it!!!

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### **Andrew says**

An enjoyable enough crime fiction novel which flirts between a modern case involving a killer inspired by surrealist paintings and a journal purporting to be written by Jack the ripper.

Both cases co exist within the novel but to be honest only are only tenuously linked...however whilst reading through flashing between both is fun.

As I have read from other reviews it does seem the killer is easily picked out even if there's still more to their identity...I myself had the killer sussed shortly after their introduction to the novel...mainly as they did seem to be engineering themselves too much into the case.

Anyhow all told an enjoyable serial killer type romp very reminiscent of the sometimes gritty T.V. dramas in vogue these days...good fun.

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### **S.J. Hartland says**

MICHAEL White has created his own niche of crime writing with books like Equinox, The Borgia Ring and The Art of Murder.

What sets them apart is the combination of a modern crime story with an intriguing slice of history.

The Art of Murder again dramatically blends the past and present, this time presenting Detective Chief Inspector Pendragon of Whitechapel in London with a gruesome serial killer who's imitating surrealist paintings.

More than a century earlier, a killer called Jack the Ripper was creating his own art in Whitechapel with his knife.

The answers as to who Jack's new, twisted apprentice is, lie in some old letters from the Ripper, that have been passed down through one family.

In The Art of Murder, White has again brought together an old mystery, a series of new, brutal crimes and a multi-layered detective in Jack Pendragon to deliver up a treat for crime lovers.

While I preferred The Borgia Ring, only because I had a greater interest in the relative period of history than the time of Jack the Ripper, The Art of Murder was still a top read for those who love crime stories woven with mysteries from the past.

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### **Katie Donaldson says**

Easy read murder /police procedure novel, If you go into this thinking it is a suspense book you will be disappointed as the killers identity is not a huge surprise. However I really liked the main character Jack, the crimes were horrific but it felt possible and main chapter jack didn't jump ahead to huge 'I figured it out moments' leaving you scratching your head like some detectives. The modern version was well written, and easy to read but I think the flash back letter chapters were redundant and added nothing to the modern story other than a possible inspiration for the killer, book I think we could have gotten there without it. It at times felt like two stories and that is the only reason for not giving it 5 stars.

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### **Joanne Bennett says**

I enjoyed this book, it definitely wasn't what I was expecting. I bought it cos it had something to do with Jack the Ripper and I like the way a modern day story was linked to these killings.

My biggest criticism was that the parts about the Ripper killings was very inaccurate, names and dates were wrong and that really bugged me which is why I'm only giving it 3 stars. Shame really cos the modern day stuff parts are really good

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### **Daria says**

Jack Pendragon wraz ze swoimi partnerami próbuje rozwiązać zagadki tajemniczych, przerażających zbrodni wzorowanych na rzekome malarzy-surrealistów. Jednocześnie obserwujemy te jeszcze jedne historie, która dotyczy, jak można się domyślić, Kuby Rozpruwacza, co do którego mam wielkie怀疑. Pomyśl sam w sobie jest bardzo ciekawy, jednak mam pewne problemy z wykonaniem:

- nie twierdzisz, że to bardzo dawno (o ile kiedykolwiek) nie spotkałeś się z takimi zdaniami przy perspektywie mordercy jak "zabójca cytowa...", "powiedział zabójca...". Niby to tylko chwilowe, ale mam wrażenie, że brzmi to dziwnie.

- nie czytasz pierwszej części, więc nie wiem jak zostali tam przedstawieni partnerzy Jacka, ale tutaj wypadają dość głupie. Nie są zbyt wyraźne, stanowią wątpliwie jednego bezkształtnego, szarego maszyna (jak praktycznie kiedyś inna postać tutaj). Jedynie Turner ma jakiś tam charakter.

- przy prowadzeniu historii nie podoba się mi, że sprzyjają zbiegi okoliczności. Trzeba było się o czymś dowiedzieć. Jack AKURAT ma znajomego, który za odpowiedni zapłacił wszystkiego o wszystkich się dowie, bo był tak jakby z powiekim "wiatowym" i też ma znajomości. Trzeba było zdobyć jakieś nazwisko, ale jest blokada prawną, żeby je odkryć. TAK SIĘ SKŁADA, że ktoś też ma swojego znajomego, który pracuje w danym lub powiązonym miejscu i problem rozwiązał.

- dialogi czasem wydają się mi nienaturalne, sztywne. Tak, jakbyście stali przed kimś, zapadłyaby niezrozumiałą ciszę, więc mówicie cokolwiek byle mówić. Serio, czyście się zastanawiam, po co niektóre kwestie zostały wypowiedziane.

- nie mog?o zabrakn?? w?tku z?ego dziennikarza. Czy by? potrzebny? Nie.

- je?li chodzi o t? interpretacj? historii Kuby, to trzeba przyzna?, ?e pomys? by? naprawd? oryginalny i fajnie si? to czyta?o. Nadawa?oby si? to nawet na ca?kiem oddzieln? ksi??k?, je?liby to rozwin??. Jednak patrz?c, jak zako?czy? si? g?ówny w?tek, odnios?am wra?enie, ?e Kuba Rozpruwacz i jego dzieje nie mia?y ostatecznie tak mocnego wyd?wi?ku. Liczy?am na bardziej spektakularne powi?zanie.

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### **Lorena says**

I feel like a mystery/thriller book should either be mysterious/thrilling, either not be published at all. This was a random pick while I was waiting for eight hours at the airport and I needed something cheap and pocket format. The description on the back caught my attention as well.

The mere idea of the plot was interesting, but the way how it was developed didn't draw me in. I was having few flashbacks from The Da Vinci Code while reading it, since it involved paintings, but unfortunately found it poorly written and lacking of suspense. The characters lacked the spirit and depth and I couldn't feel them or get into the events. All in all, the whole thing failed to captivate me.

I would rather consider this as a weak resemblance of Dan Brown's work.

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