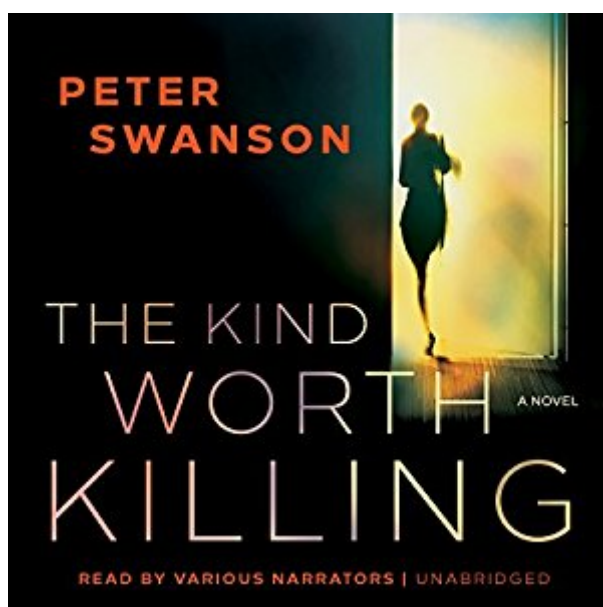


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The Kind Worth Killing



Synopsis

From the author of the acclaimed *The Girl with a Clock for a Heart* - hailed by the *Washington Post* as crime fiction's best first novel of 2014 - comes a devious tale of psychological suspense involving sex, deception, and an accidental encounter that leads to murder that is a modern reimagining of Patricia Highsmith's classic *Strangers on a Train*. On a night flight from London to Boston, Ted Severson meets the stunning and mysterious Lily Kintner. Sharing one too many martinis, the strangers begin to play a game of truth, revealing very intimate details about themselves. Ted talks about his marriage that's going stale and his wife, Miranda, who he's sure is cheating on him. Ted and his wife were a mismatch from the start - he the rich businessman, she the artistic free spirit - a contrast that once inflamed their passion but has now become a cliché. But their game turns a little darker when Ted jokes that he could kill Miranda for what she's done. Lily, without missing a beat, says calmly, "I'd like to help." After all, some people are the kind worth killing, like a lying, stinking, cheating spouse. Back in Boston Ted and Lily's twisted bond grows stronger as they begin to plot Miranda's demise. But there are a few things about Lily's past that she hasn't shared with Ted, namely her experience in the art and craft of murder, a journey that began in her very precocious youth. Suddenly these coconspirators are embroiled in a chilling game of cat and mouse, one they both cannot survive...with a shrewd and very determined detective on their tail.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Peter Swanson's debut novel, *THE GIRL WITH A CLOCK FOR A HEART*, was full of

anticipation for surprises and presented a story that never disappointed from first page to last. *THE KIND WORTH KILLING*, his sophomore effort, meets and exceeds the high-water mark that its predecessor established with a tale that will keep you guessing and perhaps leave you worried afterward. There have been comparisons made between *THE KIND WORTH KILLING* and Patricia Highsmith's classic, *STRANGERS ON A TRAIN*. It does indeed seem like an update, with the strangers --- Ted Severson and Lily Kintner --- meeting not on a train but at a bar in an airline hospitality suite at Heathrow Airport. Ted is intrigued with Lily almost from the jump, and given Swanson's descriptive powers, who wouldn't be? The pair strike up a conversation, the kindling of which is set afire with multiple martinis --- first at the bar and later on the flight to Boston, which the two share. They begin playing a boozy game, each telling things about themselves to the other that would be better left untold even in more familiar company. Ted eventually begins describing his dissatisfaction with his marriage to Miranda. He is an extremely successful businessman and thus has the financial wherewithal to build the fantasy dream home that the artistic Miranda wants. Unbeknownst to Miranda, Ted has witnessed her engaging in a sexual betrayal of their marriage. He is feeling hurt and angry, and as he reveals to Lily, he would love to kill Miranda for her betrayal. As it develops, Ted has come to the right place. To his surprise, Lily offers to help. She has an extremely interesting philosophy: that everyone is going to die anyway, so what if the inevitable is hastened along a bit?

One of the best books I've read this year, actually one of the best books I've read, ever. I read this book prior to the author's first book, *The Girl With a Clock For A Heart* and this is my favorite of the two. The story is full of so many plot twists you will never see them coming. I am an avid reader and pride myself on being able to outsmart the protagonist, but this author always got me. I was on the edge of my seat, but still reading slower than normal so I wouldn't miss any clues. The author is a master at planting clues in ways that seem so insignificant at the time. A brilliant author. It's obvious why both his books have been optioned for movies. I believe they are both being made into major motion films. I read this book after *Gone Girl* and around the same time as I read *The Girl on the Train*. I loved all three books. The difference between *The Kind Worth Killing* and the two I just mentioned is that this book is captivating from the very first line. Not just the first chapter or first page, but the first line and it never lets up. The other two books were fantastic, but I might not have stuck with *Gone Girl* or *The Girl on the Train* if not for so many people insisting that I keep reading. Both of the other books didn't hook me until about forty pages into the book. I seldom if ever give a book that long, but was glad I did for those. That was not a problem with this book. It hooked me on

page one and had my full attention until the very end. The writer is so gifted with writing suspense that even when/if you guess some of the plot twists/reveals, you will still be on the edge of your seat ... waiting to see if the character pulls it off. It's so hard to review this book without giving the plot away.

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