

best true crime podcasts right now

The Compelling Landscape of the Best True Crime Podcasts Right Now

best true crime podcasts right now offer a captivating gateway into the darker corners of human nature, exploring complex cases, historical mysteries, and unsolved enigmas. These audio documentaries delve deep into the psychology of perpetrators, the resilience of victims, and the intricate workings of the justice system, providing listeners with a profound and often unsettling understanding of real-world events. From meticulously researched investigations to emotionally resonant personal stories, the current podcasting landscape is rich with exceptional content catering to every true crime enthusiast. This article aims to guide you through the most compelling and critically acclaimed true crime podcasts available, highlighting their unique strengths and the types of stories they bring to life, ensuring you find your next binge-worthy listen.

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The Enduring Appeal of True Crime Podcasts

The fascination with true crime is a complex phenomenon, drawing listeners into stories that are both terrifying and deeply human. These narratives often tap into our primal

fears, our innate sense of justice, and our insatiable curiosity about why people commit heinous acts. Podcasts, with their intimate audio format, allow for an immersive experience, making listeners feel as though they are piecing together clues alongside the investigators. The accessibility and convenience of podcasting have democratized storytelling, enabling a vast array of voices and perspectives to emerge, from seasoned investigative journalists to amateur sleuths and victims' families.

This genre thrives on suspense, intricate details, and the pursuit of truth. Listeners are drawn to the puzzle-solving aspect, the exploration of psychological motivations, and the examination of societal factors that may contribute to criminal behavior. The best true crime podcasts don't just recount events; they analyze them, offering context, challenging assumptions, and often prompting critical reflection on justice, morality, and human behavior. The sheer volume of available content means there's a niche for every interest, from historical cold cases to contemporary serial killer investigations.

Unpacking the Elements of a Great True Crime Podcast

What elevates a good true crime podcast to a truly exceptional one? It's a confluence of several key elements that work in harmony to create a compelling and memorable listening experience. At its core, a great podcast needs rigorous research and factual accuracy. Misinformation or sensationalism can detract significantly from the gravity of the stories being told. Therefore, podcasts that cite their sources, present evidence fairly, and avoid unnecessary speculation are generally more respected and impactful.

Another crucial component is masterful storytelling. This involves skilled narration, often by hosts who possess a natural talent for creating suspense, building atmosphere, and connecting with the audience on an emotional level. The pacing of the narrative, the use of sound design and music, and the way information is revealed all contribute to the overall engagement. Furthermore, the ethical consideration of the subject matter is paramount. Responsible true crime podcasts treat victims and their families with respect, avoid gratuitous details, and aim to provide insight rather than simply shock value. The most effective shows often strike a balance between presenting the facts of a case and exploring the human impact it had.

Finally, a well-structured true crime podcast will offer a unique perspective or uncover new information. Whether it's through extensive interviews with key figures, access to case files, or a novel analytical approach, podcasts that push the boundaries of existing knowledge or reframe a familiar story tend to stand out. This could involve exploring systemic issues, highlighting overlooked evidence, or giving a voice to those who have been marginalized.

Top Picks for the Best True Crime Podcasts Right Now

Navigating the vast ocean of true crime podcasts can be daunting, but certain titles consistently rise to the top due to their quality, impact, and ongoing relevance. These selections represent a diverse range of approaches and subject matter, ensuring there's something for every true crime aficionado seeking the best true crime podcasts right now.

- **Serial:** Often credited with igniting the modern true crime podcast boom, "Serial" remains a benchmark for investigative journalism in audio format. Its meticulous deconstruction of a single case over an entire season is unparalleled.
- **My Favorite Murder:** This podcast blends humor with detailed storytelling, making it a unique entry in the genre. Hosts Karen Kilgariff and Georgia Hardstark discuss murders from their past and present, offering a relatable and often cathartic listening experience.
- **Crime Junkie:** Hosted by Ashley Flowers and Brit Prawat, "Crime Junkie" provides detailed breakdowns of various true crime cases, from famous serial killers to unsolved mysteries. Its clear and concise narrative style makes complex cases easy to follow.
- **Dr. Death:** Focusing on medical malpractice and cases where doctors have harmed patients, "Dr. Death" is a chilling exposé of a flawed system. Its investigative approach uncovers alarming patterns of negligence and abuse.
- **Someone Knows Something:** Hosted by David Ridgen, this podcast delves into unsolved disappearances and cold cases, often working with the families of victims to uncover new leads. Its compassionate and thorough approach is a hallmark of its success.

Investigative Deep Dives: Podcasts That Unearth New Truths

For listeners who crave intricate investigations and the satisfaction of uncovering hidden details, several podcasts excel at taking a deep dive into complex cases. These shows are characterized by their extensive research, in-depth interviews, and dedication to presenting new evidence or perspectives. They often span multiple episodes, meticulously building a narrative thread by thread, allowing listeners to become fully immersed in the investigative process.

These podcasts are not afraid to tackle difficult questions and challenge official narratives. They often involve extensive fact-checking, legal analysis, and interviews with law

enforcement officials, legal experts, and individuals directly affected by the crimes. The commitment to thoroughness ensures that listeners receive a comprehensive understanding of the case, including its nuances and complexities. The goal is not just to recount facts, but to understand the context, the motivations, and the broader implications of the events.

Examples of such shows might include those that revisit old cold cases with new technology or fresh eyes, or those that meticulously examine the evidence in ongoing trials. The success of these podcasts often hinges on the presenter's ability to guide the listener through complex information without losing their attention. They are the podcasts that make you feel like you're part of the investigation, piecing together the puzzle alongside the hosts.

Narrative Storytelling: Podcasts That Master the Art of the Tale

Beyond the factual reporting, the true crime genre thrives on its narrative potential, and some podcasts are masters at weaving compelling tales. These shows prioritize emotional resonance, atmospheric sound design, and a carefully crafted storyline that draws the listener in. They understand that even the most shocking events can be amplified by the way they are told, focusing on the human element and the broader societal implications.

These narrative podcasts often feel more like audio documentaries or even audio dramas, using voice acting, music, and sound effects to create a vivid and immersive experience. The hosts act as guides, but their role is less about presenting dry facts and more about evoking a specific mood or emotional response. They might focus on the victim's life, the psychological journey of the perpetrator, or the lingering impact of a crime on a community. The aim is to create a deeply engaging and often thought-provoking listening experience.

The effectiveness of these narrative podcasts lies in their ability to make listeners care about the people involved, to understand the stakes, and to feel the weight of the events being described. They often explore the gray areas of morality and justice, prompting reflection on complex ethical dilemmas. This approach transforms factual accounts into powerful stories that stay with the listener long after the episode has ended.

Unsolved Mysteries: The Podcasts That Keep You Guessing

The allure of the unsolved is a powerful draw for true crime enthusiasts, and many podcasts dedicate themselves to these lingering enigmas. These shows delve into cold cases, disappearances, and crimes where the perpetrator or the motive remains elusive. They often appeal to the innate human desire to find closure and to understand the

unknown, inviting listeners to ponder the possibilities and even contribute their own theories.

Podcasts focusing on unsolved mysteries often present the known facts of the case in a clear and organized manner, highlighting the crucial pieces of evidence or the key unanswered questions. They may include interviews with investigators who have worked on the case, family members seeking answers, or experts who offer potential explanations. The pacing is typically deliberate, allowing the listener to absorb the details and consider the various angles. The open-ended nature of these cases fuels speculation and keeps the audience engaged as they follow the investigative threads.

The most successful unsolved mystery podcasts manage to maintain a sense of respect for the victims and their families while still exploring the tantalizing questions that remain. They understand that the absence of a definitive answer can be as compelling as a solved case, tapping into our curiosity and our desire to see justice served. These shows often leave the listener with a sense of unresolved tension and a deep contemplation of the enduring power of mystery.

Cults and Conspiracies: Exploring Dangerous Ideologies

A particularly compelling subset of true crime podcasts explores the shadowy world of cults and conspiracy theories. These shows delve into the manipulative tactics used by charismatic leaders, the psychological vulnerabilities of followers, and the often devastating consequences of such groups. They can be disturbing but are crucial for understanding how individuals can be drawn into extreme belief systems.

These podcasts often feature in-depth interviews with former cult members, providing firsthand accounts of their experiences and the psychological hold these organizations can exert. They meticulously deconstruct the ideologies, the recruitment strategies, and the methods of control employed by cult leaders. The focus is often on the power dynamics, the erosion of individual identity, and the eventual escape or deprogramming of those involved. The investigative work here can be challenging, as many of these groups operate with a high degree of secrecy.

Similarly, podcasts that tackle conspiracy theories often examine the origins of these beliefs, the psychological drivers behind them, and their real-world impact. They may trace the evolution of a particular theory, analyze its spread through media and online platforms, and discuss its connection to real-world events or violence. These shows aim to provide a rational and evidence-based perspective, dissecting the flawed logic and misinformation that underpin many conspiracy narratives. Understanding these phenomena is vital in an age where disinformation can have profound societal consequences.

Beyond the Headlines: Lesser-Known Cases and Forgotten Stories

While many true crime podcasts focus on high-profile cases, some of the most impactful stories come from exploring lesser-known crimes and forgotten histories. These podcasts shine a light on victims whose stories might otherwise have been overlooked, cases that never garnered widespread attention, or historical injustices that deserve to be remembered. They offer a vital service by bringing these narratives into public consciousness.

These shows often require exceptional research skills, as the available information may be sparse or buried in archives. They might involve digging through old newspaper clippings, contacting local law enforcement agencies, or conducting interviews with individuals who have intimate knowledge of the case but have never spoken publicly before. The dedication to uncovering these hidden stories is what makes these podcasts so valuable. They remind us that behind every statistic or brief news report is a human being whose life was tragically cut short or irrevocably altered.

The impact of these podcasts can be profound, not only in bringing attention to forgotten cases but also in fostering empathy and a deeper understanding of the complexities of crime and justice. By focusing on the overlooked, they challenge our assumptions and broaden our perspective on the true crime landscape. These are the shows that often leave a lasting impression, reminding us of the countless untold stories that populate our world.

How to Choose Your Next True Crime Podcast Obsession

With the sheer volume of excellent true crime podcasts available, selecting your next listening obsession can feel like a daunting task. However, by considering a few key factors, you can easily narrow down your choices and find shows that align with your specific interests. Firstly, consider the type of cases that intrigue you most. Are you drawn to serial killer investigations, cold cases, unsolved mysteries, or perhaps the societal implications of crime? Many podcasts specialize in specific subgenres, so identifying your preference is a great starting point.

Next, think about the hosting style and narrative approach. Do you prefer a more journalistic and factual delivery, or do you enjoy a conversational and anecdotal style that might incorporate humor? Some podcasts are heavily narrative-driven, using sound design to create atmosphere, while others are more direct in their presentation of evidence. Reading reviews or listening to short clips of different podcasts can give you a good sense of their tone and style. Remember that the hosts' passion and expertise can significantly enhance the listening experience.

Finally, consider the production quality and the depth of research. Podcasts that invest in

good audio engineering and present well-researched, factually accurate content tend to be the most rewarding. Look for shows that cite their sources or have a reputation for thorough investigation. Many podcasts offer episode previews or have a back catalog of seasons, allowing you to sample their work before committing to a full dive. By thoughtfully considering these elements, you can confidently select a true crime podcast that will captivate your attention and satisfy your curiosity.

FAQ

Q: What are the most popular true crime podcasts right now?

A: The popularity of true crime podcasts can fluctuate, but consistently top-rated shows include "Serial," "Crime Junkie," "My Favorite Murder," "Dr. Death," and "Someone Knows Something." These podcasts often remain in high rotation due to their quality, engaging hosts, and compelling storytelling.

Q: Are there any true crime podcasts that focus on unsolved cases?

A: Absolutely. Podcasts like "Up and Vanished," "The Trail Went Cold," and "Unresolved" are dedicated to exploring unsolved cases, disappearances, and cold case mysteries, often delving into new evidence and theories.

Q: Where can I find true crime podcasts that focus on a single case per season?

A: "Serial" is the quintessential example of this format. Other podcasts that follow this structure include "S-Town" (while not strictly true crime, it has dark elements) and many limited-series investigative podcasts that meticulously unpack one case over multiple episodes.

Q: What makes a true crime podcast considered "ethical"?

A: Ethical true crime podcasts prioritize the dignity and respect of victims and their families. They avoid gratuitous sensationalism, do not exploit trauma for entertainment, are transparent about their sources, and aim to provide context and understanding rather than just shock value.

Q: Are there true crime podcasts that offer a more

historical perspective?

A: Yes, many podcasts delve into historical true crime. Shows like "Crimetown" explore organized crime in specific cities, while others might focus on infamous historical figures or events that had criminal elements, offering a fascinating look at past transgressions.

Q: What is the best true crime podcast for beginners?

A: For beginners, "Crime Junkie" is often recommended due to its clear narration and accessible presentation of cases. "My Favorite Murder" is also a good entry point if you appreciate a blend of humor and true crime discussion, making the subject matter feel more approachable.

Q: Are there any true crime podcasts that focus on international cases?

A: While many podcasts are US-centric, some do cover international cases. Look for podcasts with titles suggesting global coverage or those that specifically mention international crimes in their descriptions. "The Trap House" has touched on international cases, for example.

Q: What are the best podcasts for learning about cults?

A: Podcasts like "Cults," "Uncover" (specifically its season on NXIVM), and "The Vile Eye" offer in-depth explorations of cult dynamics, their manipulative practices, and the devastating impact they have on individuals and families.

Best True Crime Podcasts Right Now

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best true crime podcasts right now: The Best True Crime Stories of the Year 2025 Douglas Preston, 2025-10-14 Bestselling author Douglas Preston selects the best true crime writing from the past year, aided by series editor Pete Crooks, to produce an eclectic collection of intriguing, mysterious, and exciting true tales. This inaugural edition of what will be a yearly collection offers a fascinating variety of essays and crime reporting, taken from regional, national, and international publications. The stories range from reports of homicide at a Toronto massage parlor to blackmail and murder-for-hire in Austin, Texas to an unusual murder weapon in rural Minnesota. Other stories examine controversial rehabilitation techniques for sexual criminals and explore the phenomenon of victims' relatives appearing as guests at true crime conventions. A must-read for anyone interested in true crime, The Best True Crime Stories of the Year 2025 takes the pulse of this increasingly

popular genre.

best true crime podcasts right now: Dangerous Fictions Lyta Gold, 2024-10-29 Honorable Mention for the Pop Culture Association Awards In a political moment when social panics over literature are at their peak, *Dangerous Fictions* is a mind-expanding treatise on the nature of fictional stories as cultural battlegrounds for power. Fictional stories have long held an uncanny power over hearts and minds, especially those of young people. In *Dangerous Fictions*, Lyta Gold traces arguments both historical and contemporary that have labeled fiction as dark, immoral, frightening, or poisonous. Within each she asks: How “dangerous” is fiction, really? And what about it provokes waves of moral panic and even censorship? Gold argues that any panic about art is largely a disguised panic about power. There have been versions of these same fights over fiction for centuries. By exposing fiction as a social danger and a battleground of immediate public concern, we can see what each side really wants—the right to shape the future of a world deeply in flux and a distraction from more pressing material concerns about money, access, and the hard work of politics. From novels about people driven insane by reading novels to “copaganda” TV shows that influence how viewers regard the police, Gold uses her signature wit, research, and fearless commentary to point readers toward a more substantial question: Fiction may be dangerous to us, but aren’t we also dangerous to it?

best true crime podcasts right now: # Sweets For Love: A Steamy Romcom Featuring a Single Mom, a Grumpy Former Bodyguard, and a Christmas in July Showdown Elodie Now, 2022-10-06 Ready to meet your next book boyfriend in this steamy rom-com from author Elodie Nowodazkij? #Sweets For Love is a delicious mix of a grumpy former bodyguard and a single mom, caught in the sugar whirlwind of a Christmas in July baking show. It's a must-read for fans of Meghan Quinn, Emily Henry, and Lauren Landish. My small-town bakery could find its recipe for success on the Happily Ever After channel's baking competition. And a dash of toe-curling passion could be just the secret ingredient for warmth that lasts years. But love? That's not on my menu. Or is it? Alessandro Torre, my very own tattooed Thor, returns into my life with those familiar broad shoulders, alluring half-grin, and smoldering-dark eyes that once melted me like butter. I thought I had taken my last bite of him. Yet, as fate would have it, we're stuck together, just like our best sugar glue recipe. Once a grumpy bodyguard, now he's the head of security of Sweets For Love - the very show I must win to save my bakery. I will keep my oven mitts off him. Well, perhaps, except for one sinful night. Just one. Right? No one else can know about this secret recipe of ours. Because if they do, we might lose everything. Dive into #Sweets For Love by Elodie Nowodazkij and meet your new favorite grumpy book boyfriend. Savor this steamy romantic comedy that serves you: - Strong single moms in romantic comedies. - Grumpy heroes that you can't help but fall for. - A sweet blend of humor and heat in a romantic comedy. - Heartwarming moments that make you laugh out loud. - Forbidden love with former bodyguards. - Reality TV baking show love stories. - And so much more... *** Praise for #Sweets For Love by Elodie Nowodazkij *** An amazing romantic comedy! Sassy and steamy, with very endearing characters and a heartwarming ending... Fun and sexy romcom! Hilarious and hot ... If you love reality TV, you will love this romantic comedy by Elodie Nowodazkij! Don't miss out. One-click and add a sprinkle of love, laughter, and a dash of heat to your reading list with #Sweets For Love.

best true crime podcasts right now: The Routledge Handbook of Digital Sport Management Michael L. Naraine, Ted Hayduk III, Jason P. Doyle, 2022-12-01 The Routledge Handbook of Digital Sport Management provides students, researchers, and practitioners with a contemporary roadmap of the impact of digital technologies in sport management, at all levels and in all sectors, in a global context. Divided into three sections addressing digital transformations, digital tools, and emerging digital issues, this book explores the impact of digital technology in the core functional areas of sport management, such as sponsorship, event management, and human resources. It introduces essential digital innovations such as esports, social media, VR, wearables, analytics, and artificial intelligence, and examines the debates and issues that are likely to shape and transform sport business over the next decade. The only book to survey the full sweep of digital

sport management, this book is an essential reference for all serious students of sport business and management, any researcher working in the nexus of sport business and digital, and all managers, policy-makers or associated professionals working in the sport industry.

best true crime podcasts right now: *The Devil Shops on Sunday* Destiny Ford, Angela Corbett, 2024-06-25 A USA Today Bestselling Series! Journalist and editor of The Branson Tribune, Kate Saxee, has a lot going on. Her mom is in a war with a neighbor, Kate's trying to navigate her love life after a memorable night, and it looks like a serial killer might be on the loose in her small rural community that's getting bigger by the day. Utah's population is booming and new houses are being built even more often than new Mormon/LDS temples. When human remains are found on a piece of Branson Falls property being developed, everyone thinks the bones belong to a lost hiker. But when more human remains are found, it quickly becomes clear that this was no accident. Rumors are swirling that the remains could have been victims of a notorious serial killer, and that attracts the attention of a popular true crime podcast, the Murderoonies, who descend on Branson Falls to cover the case and help Kate investigate. And they're not just covering the crime, they're also very interested in Kate's love life. Drake is the legal representative for the real estate developers, and Hawke is assisting law enforcement, which means Kate is working closely with them both. Given what happened at the Halloween party, that's about as awkward as hussy Kate in church. Kate's focused on finding out who's responsible for the dead bodies, and she's digging up secrets all over town. Someone wants the information she's uncovering to remain hidden, and they'll do anything to make sure it stays that way...even if it means burying more bodies. A Kate Saxee Mystery Series Reading Order *The Devil Drinks Coffee*, Book 1 *Devilishly Short #1 The Devil Wears Tank Tops*, Book 2 *The Devil Has Tattoos*, Book 3 *The Devil Shops on Sunday*, Book 4 *Devilishly Short #2* (Coming July 2024) *The Devil Gets Divorced*, Book 5 (Coming Fall 2024)

best true crime podcasts right now: *Narrative Podcasting in an Age of Obsession* Neil Verma, 2024 Evaluating the rise of podcasting and the storytelling trends that emerged

best true crime podcasts right now: *Better Than Revenge* Kasie West, 2024-12-31 A swoony new romance from the author of *Sunkissed!* When her football-player boyfriend and now ex lands the podcast job she's been dreaming of, a girl takes matters into her own hands by enlisting the help of his nemesis to get revenge. Seventeen-year-old Finley has only ever had one goal: to become a famous podcaster. This includes coming up with the perfect pitch to land her on her school's podcast team. But when her football-obsessed boyfriend, Jensen, decides to also try out—and uses her idea—she's left confused and betrayed. Determined to get back at him, Finley and her friends try to find the perfect revenge scheme, but quickly discover that Jensen is almost-impossible to best. Keyword, almost. Includes an author Q&A! By chance, Finley discovers a knack for kicking and decides to take Jensen's spot on the football team. To help her train, she recruits Jensen's cute but conceited nemesis, Theo. Soon the two discover that their connection runs deeper than football. But Finley can't let herself get distracted, and Theo has secrets of his own. Is true love really better than the perfect revenge?

best true crime podcasts right now: *Women in True Crime Media* Jen Erdman, 2022-11-11 While many people think true crime is a new phenomenon, Americans have been obsessed with the genre for over a century, and popular culture continuously tries to cash in. The names of infamous serial killers are well-known, but the identities of their often-female victims are frequently lost to history. This text flips the script and focuses on the women to keep their identities known and remembered. This is the first book to examine how popular culture has mistreated women as both perpetrators and victims of crime, covering a hundred-year span from 1920 to 2020. Detailed is popular culture's interest in true crime and how women in true crime documentation have largely been sexualized and victim-blamed over the decades.

best true crime podcasts right now: *Deadly Confession* Reese Patton, 2018-03-30

best true crime podcasts right now: *To Catch a Catfish* Joi Jackson, 2022-10-18 Research analyst London Lewis's first online dating investigation should have been a piece of cake. Regardless of how cute and charming she found him, she should have maintained a professional relationship

with her new client. Shocking Plot twist: It wasn't and she didn't.

best true crime podcasts right now: Live Your Best Lie (Volume 1) Jessie Weaver, 2023-01-24 Sometimes the prettiest Instagram feeds mask the darkest, and bloodiest, secrets. Social media influencer Summer Cartwright leads a very charmed life: millions of followers, the hottest designer and vintage clothes at her fingertips, a newly minted book deal, the coolest friends, and, until recently, the hottest boyfriend at her über-elite prep school. Every moment of her life has been carefully planned and cultivated to complement her imperfectly perfect social media persona. She is truly #LivingHerBestLife. But when Summer goes missing during her annual Halloween party and then an unscheduled post appears on her feed stating that she'll be dead within the next five minutes, those closest to Summer know something isn't quite right—or on-brand. Grace, Summer's camera-shy best friend; Adam, Summer's gamer ex-boyfriend; Laney, Summer's moody camp roommate; and Cora, an influencer wannabe, all decide to investigate. And when they come upon Summer's lifeless body, they soon realize that no filter is strong enough to mask the lies we tell ourselves. Told in multiple POVs interspersed with social media posts and flashbacks, Live Your Best Lie has twists and turns that will keep readers turning the page and no one will be able to guess the ending.

best true crime podcasts right now: Testing Love, Austen Britney M. Mills, 2021-11 One matchmaking app, two skeptics and a chance at love. Tiffany Stewart does just fine dating on her own. She's had several boyfriends over the past four years but nothing long-term. When her boss, Meg Austen, makes her take the matchmaking test in order to get a promotion to marketing director, Tiffany does everything to stay away from reading the results while heading off to her cousin's wedding for the weekend. But an encounter with the best man has her rethinking her motto to stay away from men for a while. Drew Evans walked away from the advertising world two years ago, in the hopes of finding some balance in life. He hasn't dated much since his girlfriend left, but he's found a routine and settled in. When his best friend, Carson, forces him to use the gift card for the matchmaking company that brought him back together with Ruby, Drew doesn't think it means anything. Until he meets Tiffany. When a random hobby brings Tiffany and Drew together, their try at friendship to make it through the wedding turns into something more. But will it last longer than wedding week?

best true crime podcasts right now: The Game Is Afoot Elise Bryant, 2025-07-08 A clever and hilarious new mystery about a mother who thinks she has to do it all—even solve a murder—from the author of It's Elementary After rage quitting her job, Mavis finally has time to get all the rest she's been putting off. Or she should have the time. Hypothetically. Except she's taken on a new role: Supermom. Her hours are filled with chauffeuring her daughter, Pearl, around to her extracurricular activities, somehow ending up class mom, and...investigating another mystery? When Coach Cole, the director of the kids' soccer program, drops dead on a sunny Saturday morning, no one suspects foul play. However, the police soon discover something suspicious left on the field, making it clear that someone had it in for the coach. But who? Sure, parents got mad when he made their precious star athletes sit on the bench, but not that mad. Mavis is determined to find out, even if it takes her into the dark, dangerous underbelly of gentle parents and MLM girlbosses. Plus, it's an easy distraction from everything else going on. Like the panic attacks she keeps brushing off. Or the fact that she's unemployed and totally lost as to what her purpose and path in life should be. And then there's her ex-husband who's back in town and doing everything she's ever wanted, just as she's beginning a new relationship. Mavis knows a murder investigation probably isn't the self-care she needs right now. But how exactly are you supposed to take care of yourself when you don't even know who you are anymore?

best true crime podcasts right now: Past Lying Val McDermid, 2023-11-14 In this superb new addition to Val McDermid's masterful crime series, DCI Karen Pirie returns in a propulsive thriller of deceit and vengeance, set against the disquiet of a global pandemic Britain's reigning "Queen of Crime" (The Scotsman), Val McDermid is the award-winning, internationally bestselling author of over thirty novels. The long-awaited seventh novel in the acclaimed series that has

captivated audiences for twenty years, both on the page and now in the Edgar Award-nominated ITV/BritBox show, *Past Lying* is a full tilt novel of ego, retribution, deceit, and just how far one will go to settle the score. It's April 2020 and Edinburgh is in lockdown. It would seem like a strange time for a cold case to go hot—the streets all but empty, an hour's outdoor exercise the maximum allowed—but a mere pandemic doesn't mean crime takes a holiday. When a source at the National Library contacts DCI Karen Pirie's team about documents in the archive of a recently deceased crime novelist, it seems it's game on again. At the center of it, a novel: two crime novelists facing off over a chessboard. But it quickly emerges that their real-life competition is drawing blood. What unspools is a twisted game of betrayal and revenge, and as Karen and her team attempt to disentangle fact from fiction, it becomes clear that their investigation is more complicated than they ever imagined. A tense, atmospheric page-turner, *Past Lying* reaffirms McDermid as one of the most talented crime writers of her generation.

best true crime podcasts right now: *The Metaphor of Fake Dating* Amy Sparling, *When Star Lively* agrees to the outrageous plan of pretending to be her ex-step-cousin's girlfriend for the week, she's doing it for the free vacation and the chance to skip out on her own personal drama for a few days. No one at the Lake Brazos Resort knows that Star and Jackson used to be semi-related, so pretending to be his girlfriend is not a big deal, right? But when Star meets Bryson, the broody Brazos City local, she can't take her eyes off him. If she can't make it through the week as a convincing fake girlfriend, she'll seriously ruin Jackson's life. But if she doesn't let Bryson know the truth, she'll miss out on her perfect guy. As it turns out, fake dating can be a lot harder than real dating. The Brazos High Romance Series is a collection of flirty, sweet young adult novellas that each feature a different couple. They can be read in any order. Download your copy now and dive into this heartwarming romance!

best true crime podcasts right now: *How to Survive Your Murder* Danielle Valentine, 2023-08-01 *Scream* meets *Happy Death Day* in this terrifying young adult horror novel from New York Times bestselling scream queen Danielle Valentine. This terrifying book reads like a horror movie. No, wait. It has the suspense and shocks and screams of TEN horror movies in one. Great nasty fun! —R.L. Stine, author of *Goosebumps* and *Fear Street* Alice Lawrence is the sole witness in her sister's murder trial. And in the year since Claire's death, Alice's life has completely fallen apart. Her parents have gotten divorced, she's moved into an apartment that smells like bologna, and she is being forced to face her sister's killer and a courtroom full of people who doubt what she saw in the corn maze a year prior. Claire was an all-American girl, beautiful and bubbly, and a theater star. Alice was a nerd who dreamed of becoming a forensic pathologist and would rather stay at home to watch her favorite horror movies than party. Despite their differences, they were bonded by sisterhood and were each other's best friends. Until Claire was taken away from her. On the first day of the murder trial, as Alice prepares to give her testimony, she is knocked out by a Sidney Prescott look-alike in the courthouse bathroom. When she wakes up, it is Halloween night a year earlier, the same day Claire was murdered. Alice has until midnight to save her sister and find the real killer before he claims another victim.

best true crime podcasts right now: *When Devils Sing* Xan Kaur, 2025-09-16 *When Devils Sing* is a rural, atmospheric YA horror is perfect for fans of Stephen King. In a small town in the American South four unlikely allies investigate a local teen's disappearance - but what they discover festering at the core of their community is far more sinister than they could've ever imagined . . . When Dawson Sumter goes missing, all he leaves behind is a smattering of blood in room 4 of the debt-ridden motel owned by Neera Singh's family. Disappearances like this aren't uncommon in the rural Georgia town of Carrion. Especially during the Cicada Festival, which takes place every thirteen years when a cicada brood returns from underground, shrieking their deafening screams. Desperate to find out if Dawson is still alive, Neera joins forces with three other local teens: Isaiah, clandestine true crime podcaster; Reid, son of the wealthiest man in the region; and Sam, estranged daughter of the local hitman. As they find themselves entangled in a messy web of secrets and lies, they discover just how deep the rot in Carrion goes . . .

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