

best true crime podcasts long form

The **best true crime podcasts long form** offer a deeply immersive experience, allowing listeners to delve into the intricate details of complex cases. These in-depth audio narratives go beyond surface-level reporting, meticulously reconstructing events, exploring motives, and examining the broader societal implications of criminal acts. For true crime aficionados seeking a richer, more comprehensive understanding of criminal investigations and the justice system, long-form podcasts are an indispensable resource. This article will guide you through some of the most compelling long-form true crime podcasts, highlighting what makes them stand out, the types of cases they cover, and how they contribute to a nuanced appreciation of the genre. Prepare to embark on a journey through meticulously researched storytelling that respects both the victims and the complexities of the cases presented.

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What Defines Long-Form True Crime Podcasts?

Long-form true crime podcasts are characterized by their extended episode lengths, often spanning 45 minutes to over an hour, and frequently developing a single case or a series of interconnected cases across an entire season. This extended duration allows for a depth of investigation and narrative development that shorter formats simply cannot accommodate. Unlike episodic podcasts that might cover multiple brief stories in one sitting, long-form presentations are designed to build a comprehensive picture, incorporating extensive interviews, archival audio, and detailed analysis. They prioritize unfolding the narrative at a deliberate pace, allowing listeners to become fully immersed in the details of the investigation, the lives of those

involved, and the legal or psychological complexities at play.

The defining feature of the best true crime podcasts long form is their commitment to thoroughness. This means not just presenting the facts of a crime but also exploring the "why" and the "how" with a level of detail that engages critical thinking. They often involve years of research, multiple interviews with key figures, and a narrative structure that builds suspense and reveals information gradually. The goal is to provide a complete, nuanced understanding of the events, often challenging initial assumptions and highlighting the ambiguities inherent in many criminal investigations. This depth of reporting distinguishes them from more sensationalized or superficial true crime content.

The Art of Long-Form True Crime Storytelling

Crafting a compelling long-form true crime podcast is a delicate art that requires a unique blend of investigative journalism, storytelling prowess, and technical skill. The narrative arc is crucial; it's not simply a recounting of events but a structured unfolding designed to keep the listener engaged over multiple episodes. This often involves cliffhangers, character development of both the accused and the investigators, and the strategic release of new information that alters the listener's perception of the case.

Sound design plays an equally vital role in long-form true crime. Beyond clear narration, effective use of ambient sounds, archival audio clips, and dramatic music can transport listeners directly into the scene, enhancing the emotional impact and realism of the storytelling. The pacing of the narrative, achieved through editing and the careful selection of interview segments, is paramount in maintaining listener attention across extended periods. A well-executed long-form podcast feels less like a report and more like an engrossing auditory documentary, inviting deep contemplation and emotional connection.

Top Long-Form True Crime Podcasts to Explore

The landscape of long-form true crime podcasts is rich and varied, with several series setting the standard for in-depth journalistic investigation and captivating storytelling. These shows have earned acclaim for their meticulous research, ethical reporting, and ability to shed new light on often-forgotten or misunderstood cases.

Serial

Arguably the podcast that brought long-form true crime to mainstream prominence, Serial's first season meticulously re-examined the 1999 conviction of Adnan Syed for the murder of his ex-girlfriend, Hae Min Lee. Host Sarah Koenig's in-depth investigation, featuring extensive interviews and analysis of evidence, raised significant questions about the original trial. The subsequent seasons have explored different cases, maintaining the show's commitment to deep dives into complex legal and human dramas.

S-Town

While not strictly a "crime" podcast, S-Town, from the creators of Serial and This American Life, delves into the life of John B. McLemore, a horologist in Woodstock, Alabama. The podcast unexpectedly transforms into a true crime investigation as it uncovers secrets, feuds, and a suspicious death. Its long-form narrative style is exceptional in its ability to explore the nuances of a small-town community and the complex psychology of its inhabitants, making it a must-listen for fans of narrative-driven audio.

Dirty John

This podcast, created by Christopher Goffard for the Los Angeles Times, recounts the chilling story of John Meehan, a charismatic but dangerous con artist who manipulates Debra Newell. The long-form approach allows listeners to witness the slow, insidious unfolding of Meehan's deception and its devastating impact on Newell and her family, highlighting the psychological manipulation at the heart of the crime.

Bear Brook

Bear Brook, from New Hampshire Public Radio, tackles a cold case involving four unidentified bodies found in barrels in 1985. The podcast follows the forensic genealogy investigation that eventually identified the victims and the killer, showcasing how modern scientific techniques can unlock decades-old mysteries. Its multi-part structure effectively builds suspense and explains the complex scientific processes involved.

In the Dark

Produced by APM Reports, In the Dark has a dual focus: investigating the 2002 abduction of Jacob Wetterling in its first season and examining the systemic failures in the case of Curtis Flowers, a man accused of murdering four people, in its second season. The long-form investigative journalism is exemplary, revealing deep-seated issues within law enforcement and the justice system, making it one of the most impactful true crime podcasts

available.

Cold

This podcast, hosted by Dave Cawley, is a deep dive into the 1998 disappearance of Susan Powell and the subsequent murder investigation involving her husband, Josh Powell. "Cold" meticulously reconstructs the timeline of events, uncovers new evidence, and explores the family dynamics and legal battles that spanned over two decades. Its commitment to ongoing investigation and its detailed narrative make it a compelling listen.

Uncover

CBC's Uncover series offers a range of investigative deep dives into significant Canadian true crime stories. While each season focuses on a different case, the long-form approach allows for thorough exploration. Notable seasons include the investigation into the 1978 disappearance of Barbara and Dennis Tynecki and the uncovering of systemic issues in the investigation of historical sexual abuse in the residential school system. The series consistently demonstrates rigorous journalistic standards.

Key Elements of Exceptional Long-Form True Crime

What elevates a true crime podcast from merely informative to truly exceptional is a combination of meticulous craft and ethical consideration. The best long-form podcasts excel in several key areas, ensuring a profound and impactful listening experience for their audience.

Meticulous Research and Reporting

At the core of any outstanding long-form true crime podcast is an unwavering commitment to thorough research. This involves delving into court documents, police reports, interviews with witnesses, experts, and those directly involved, as well as examining historical context. The best podcasts don't shy away from the nitty-gritty details, piecing together timelines, motivations, and the intricacies of investigations with painstaking accuracy. This depth of reporting builds credibility and allows for a comprehensive understanding of the case, often uncovering new perspectives or challenging commonly held beliefs.

Compelling Narration and Sound Design

Even the most thoroughly researched story needs to be told in a way that captivates the listener. Long-form podcasts rely on skilled narrators who can convey complex information clearly and engagingly. Beyond narration, the strategic use of sound design is crucial. This includes incorporating archival audio, ambient sounds to recreate environments, and a well-chosen musical score to underscore emotional beats and build suspense without being manipulative. The interplay between narration and sound creates an immersive experience that draws the listener deep into the narrative.

Ethical Considerations and Victim-Centric Approach

A truly exceptional long-form true crime podcast approaches its subject matter with sensitivity and respect, particularly towards victims and their families. This means prioritizing their perspectives, avoiding sensationalism, and refraining from re-traumatizing those affected by the events. The best podcasts often engage in ongoing dialogue about the ethical implications of their work, striving to provide context and understanding rather than simply recounting sensational details. This responsible approach fosters a more meaningful and impactful listening experience that honors the gravity of the stories being told.

Exploration of Societal Themes

Beyond the individual crime, the most profound long-form true crime podcasts explore the broader societal issues that the case illuminates. This might include examining systemic failures in the justice system, biases within law enforcement, psychological factors, or the impact of media on public perception. By contextualizing individual tragedies within larger social frameworks, these podcasts offer not just a recounting of events but also a critical analysis of the world we live in. This adds significant intellectual and emotional weight to the narrative, encouraging listeners to think critically about justice, human behavior, and societal structures.

Who Enjoys Long-Form True Crime Podcasts?

The audience for long-form true crime podcasts is diverse, united by a curiosity about human nature, justice, and the intricacies of criminal investigations. These are individuals who appreciate a deep dive, seeking more than just surface-level entertainment. They are often listeners who enjoy investigative journalism, documentaries, and historical accounts, appreciating the extensive research and narrative development that long-form podcasts offer.

Many listeners are drawn to the intellectual challenge presented by these complex cases. They enjoy dissecting evidence, exploring different theories, and engaging with the ethical and psychological dimensions of crime. The long-form format allows for this deeper engagement, fostering a sense of participation as listeners piece together the narrative alongside the host. Furthermore, an appreciation for high-quality storytelling, expert narration, and sophisticated sound design is common among fans of the genre. They seek an audio experience that is both informative and emotionally resonant, offering a compelling and thought-provoking journey into the darker aspects of human experience.

The Enduring Appeal of Long-Form True Crime

The enduring appeal of the best true crime podcasts long form lies in their ability to satisfy a fundamental human curiosity about the unexplained, the shocking, and the profound questions surrounding justice and morality. These podcasts offer a unique window into the complexities of the human psyche and the societal structures that govern our lives. By meticulously dissecting cases, they provide a sense of order and understanding in the face of chaos, allowing listeners to grapple with difficult truths in a controlled and immersive environment. The long-form narrative structure itself plays a crucial role, enabling a profound connection with the stories and the people involved, fostering empathy and critical thinking.

Ultimately, these podcasts serve as compelling auditory case studies, reminding us of the importance of vigilant inquiry, the fallibility of systems, and the resilience of the human spirit. The pursuit of truth, the quest for justice, and the examination of our collective understanding of right and wrong are timeless themes that continue to resonate, ensuring the sustained popularity of long-form true crime storytelling. They are not just about recounting crimes; they are about understanding the human condition in its most extreme forms.

Q: What makes a true crime podcast "long form"?

A: Long-form true crime podcasts are defined by their extended episode lengths, typically 45 minutes to over an hour, and often dedicating an entire season to a single case or a connected series of events. This allows for in-depth investigation, detailed narrative development, and thorough exploration of evidence, interviews, and context, distinguishing them from shorter, more episodic formats.

Q: Are long-form true crime podcasts always serious?

A: While the subject matter is inherently serious, the tone of long-form true crime podcasts can vary. Some prioritize a straightforward, journalistic

approach, while others may incorporate more dramatic narration, emotional storytelling, or even moments of dark humor if appropriate to the narrative. However, the overarching goal is usually to provide a comprehensive and respectful examination of the case.

Q: How do long-form podcasts differ from true crime documentaries?

A: While both mediums aim for in-depth exploration, long-form podcasts rely solely on audio to tell their stories. This means they must excel in narration, sound design, and the pacing of information delivery to create an immersive experience. Documentaries, on the other hand, can utilize visual elements like archival footage, reenactments, and interviews to complement their narratives.

Q: What kind of research goes into the best long-form true crime podcasts?

A: The best long-form true crime podcasts involve extensive research, including reviewing court documents, police files, news archives, and conducting multiple interviews with investigators, legal professionals, witnesses, and sometimes even individuals involved in the case. They often revisit old leads, uncover new information, and meticulously verify facts to present an accurate and comprehensive account.

Q: Are there ethical considerations for creators of long-form true crime podcasts?

A: Absolutely. Ethical considerations are paramount. Creators must strive for accuracy, avoid sensationalism, and be sensitive to victims and their families. This involves respectful storytelling, careful handling of sensitive details, and a commitment to not re-traumatize those affected. Many podcasts engage in discussions about the ethics of their own work.

Q: What are the benefits of listening to long-form true crime podcasts over shorter ones?

A: The primary benefit is the depth of understanding. Long-form podcasts allow for a more nuanced exploration of motives, evidence, legal proceedings, and societal context. They enable listeners to become more invested in the case, engage in critical thinking, and gain a more complete and often surprising perspective on complex criminal events.

Q: How do sound design and narration contribute to the effectiveness of long-form true crime podcasts?

A: Sound design and narration are critical. Compelling narration guides the listener through the intricate details of the case, while effective sound design, including ambient sounds, music, and archival audio, creates atmosphere, enhances emotional impact, and makes the storytelling immersive and memorable. Together, they transform a factual account into a captivating auditory experience.

Q: Can long-form true crime podcasts help solve cold cases?

A: Yes, in some instances. By bringing public attention to unsolved or mishandled cases, long-form podcasts can prompt new leads, encourage witnesses to come forward, and sometimes even spur law enforcement to re-examine evidence. The detailed investigation and public dissemination of information can sometimes be a catalyst for renewed progress.

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best true crime podcasts long form: Trial by Media Lieve Gies, 2025-02-24 This edited collection brings together scholars from criminology, law, media and communication studies, politics and linguistics to consider the different meanings and dimensions of trial by media. Trial by media remains an under-researched and under-conceptualised phenomenon. This book sheds new light on the complex and evolving interfaces between courts, media and justice. It features original analysis of high-profile cases of media trials including Nicola Bulley (UK), Lindy Chamberlain (Australia), Chris Dawson (Australia), Sanda Dia (Belgium), Dragan Vasiljković (Australia) and Roman Zadorov (Israel). Acknowledging the risks and benefits of heightened media scrutiny of the criminal justice system, the book challenges the notion that trial by media is invariably incompatible with the requirements of natural justice. It also foregrounds ways in which media trials routinely occur in the absence of a legal trial, arguing that there is a need to broaden and rethink the concept of trial by media. The book reflects on the enduring significance of legacy media for public perceptions of the law and the disruptive impact associated with digital media. Furthermore, the collection considers the implications of trial by media for the integrity of court proceedings and the protection of human rights. It offers an assessment of the potential demise of court reporting and its traditional bridging function between courts and public opinion.

best true crime podcasts long form: The SAGE Encyclopedia of Journalism Gregory A. Borchard, 2022-01-28 Journalism permeates our lives and shapes our thoughts in ways that we have long taken for granted. This set covers all significant dimensions of journalism, such as print,

broadcast, and Internet journalism; U.S. and international perspectives; and history, technology, legal issues and court cases, ownership, and economics. The encyclopedia consists of signed entries from scholars, experts, and journalists.

best true crime podcasts long form: *The Power of Podcasting* Siobhán McHugh, 2022-10-11 Now two decades old, podcasting is an exuberant medium where new voices can be found every day. As a powerful communications tool that is largely unregulated and unusually accessible, this influential medium is attracting scholarly scrutiny across a range of fields, from media and communications to history, criminology, and gender studies. Hailed for intimacy and authenticity in an age of mistrust and disinformation, podcasts have developed fresh models for storytelling, entertainment, and the casual imparting of knowledge. Podcast hosts have forged strong parasocial relationships that attract advertisers, brands, and major platforms, but can also be leveraged for community, niche, and public-interest purposes. In *The Power of Podcasting*, award-winning narrative podcast producer and leading international audio scholar Siobhán McHugh dissects the aesthetics and appeal of podcasts and reveals the remarkable power of the audio medium to build empathy and connection via voice and sound. Drawing on internationally acclaimed podcasts she helped produce (*The Greatest Menace*, *The Last Voyage of the Pong Su*, *Phoebe's Fall*), she blends practical insights into making complex narrative podcasts and chatcasts or conversational shows with critical analysis of the art and history of audio storytelling. She also surveys the emerging canon of podcast formats. Grounded in concepts from the affective power of voice to the choreography of sound and packed with case studies and insider tips from McHugh's decades of experience, this richly storied book immerses readers in the enthralling possibilities of the world of sound.

best true crime podcasts long form: *Crip Authorship* Mara Mills, Rebecca Sanchez, 2023-08 *Crip Authorship: Disability as Method* convenes leading scholars, activists, and artists to explore the shaping of cultural production, aesthetics, and media by disability across 35 short chapters--

best true crime podcasts long form: *True Crime and Women* Lili Pâquet, Rosemary Williamson, 2024-08-22 Bringing new research from true crime writers, scholars, and media practitioners around the world, this book offers fresh perspectives on how women read, write, and are portrayed in true crime stories across different platforms, including documentaries, podcasts, and TikToks. The genre of true crime is flourishing, and it is overwhelmingly consumed by women. Despite this, there is much we do not know about how women consume true crime and are represented in true crime stories of various kinds. This edited volume helps to fill this gap in our knowledge. Across ten chapters and using a variety of study methods, including creative practice, interviews, surveys, archival research, and case studies, the book reveals the multifaceted ways that true crime matters to women and suggests areas of future research. It also offers new insights on a diverse range of topics, such as racial identities, fraudsters, activism, victimisation, and deviance, as well as highlighting major cases from past to present which have influenced criminal justice responses. *True Crime and Women* is intended for researchers and students of criminology, literary studies, gender studies, media and journalism studies, and rhetorical studies, as well as media practitioners and writers.

best true crime podcasts long form: *The Death of Me* Michelle Davies, 2021-11-11 When Isaac Naylor committed suicide after a teenage fan was found dead in his hotel room, the world thought it had lost one of the greatest rock stars of a generation. Naylor, lead singer of The Ospreys, had been arrested for causing the girl's death and was on police bail when he drowned himself in the sea off the Devon coast, leaving two notes addressed to his bandmates and his younger brother, Toby, discarded on the beach. Now, eight years on, music journalist Natalie Glass stumbles across a blind item on a US gossip website that suggests Naylor's death wasn't quite what it seemed - and he might in fact still be alive. The item claims he is the mystery songwriter who has for the past year been submitting lyrics to producers in London via his lawyer for other artists to record. He insists on anonymity and the only person who knows his identity is the lawyer. But as she delves deeper into what happened, the plot to stop her intensifies and Natalie finds she has a stark choice: give up

trying to find out what happened to Naylor or risk her own obituary ending up in print.

best true crime podcasts long form: *The Ripper Inside Us* Rebecca Frost, 2024-04-10 The story of Jack the Ripper has had continual interest since he stalked the streets of Whitechapel during the Autumn of Terror in 1888. During this time, the murders of the Canonical Five made headlines all over the world while in the modern day, the Ripper story continues to permeate all forms of media on the page, screen, in podcasts, and in fiction. We continue to search for something we will likely never, and perhaps do not even wish to discover: Jack's true name. This book looks at the lasting intrigue of Jack the Ripper and how his story, and the stories of the Canonical Five victims, are brought back to life through modern lenses. As psychological approaches and scientific techniques advance, the Ripper's narrative evolves, opening a more diverse means of storytelling and storytellers. How these storytellers attempt to construct a full tale around the facts, including the burning questions of motive and identity, says more about us than the Ripper.

best true crime podcasts long form: *Solving Cold Cases* Joe D. Kennedy, Hogan Hilling, 2023-03-17 Solving a cold case is extremely difficult and many are left unresolved. In this book, retired NCIS Special Agent Joe Kennedy details the methodology he created to solve cold case murders. He offers an in-depth, behind-the-scenes look into why cases go cold, how they are investigated and what is needed to successfully resolve them. Author Kennedy shares his motivations and the lessons he has learned while solving these challenging cases. Also examined are cold cases where other detectives have successfully implemented Kennedy's methodology. Many books delve into the perspectives of criminals who commit murder, but this text takes a fascinating gumshoe journey into the mind of a cold case detective and his passionate search for the truth. Helping law enforcement solve cold cases brings justice and resolution for the victims and their families, and this book provides detectives and true crime enthusiasts the tools to investigate cold cases in their own communities.

best true crime podcasts long form: *Podcast Journalism* David Dowling, 2024-03-19 Runner-up, 2025 Tankard Book Award, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Podcasting's stratospheric rise has inspired a new breed of audio reporting. Offering immersive storytelling for a binge-listening audience as well as reaching previously underserved communities, podcasts have become journalism's most rapidly growing digital genre, buoying a beleaguered news industry. Yet many concerns have been raised about this new medium, such as the potential for disinformation, the influence of sponsors on content, the dominance of a few publishers and platforms, and at-times questionable adherence to journalistic principles. David O. Dowling critically examines how podcasting and its evolving conventions are transforming reporting—and even reshaping journalism's core functions and identity. He considers podcast reporting's most influential achievements as well as its most consequential ethical and journalistic shortcomings, emphasizing the reciprocal influences between podcasting and traditional and digital journalism. Podcasting, both as a medium and a business, has benefited from the blurring of boundaries separating news from entertainment, editorial from advertising, and neutrality from subjectivity. The same qualities and forces that have allowed podcasting to bypass the limitations of traditional categories, expand the space of social and political discourse, and provide openings for marginalized voices have also permitted corporations to extend their reach and far-right firebrands to increase their influence. Equally attentive to the medium's strengths and flaws, this is a vital book for all readers interested in how podcasting has changed journalism.

best true crime podcasts long form: *Crafting Chilling Narratives* Barrett Williams, ChatGPT, 2024-12-15 Unlock the dark art of storytelling with *Crafting Chilling Narratives*, your ultimate guide to creating compelling true crime podcasts that captivate audiences and leave them craving more. Dive into the genius behind the world's most successful true crime stories, exploring their evolution from gripping radio dramas to the award-winning podcasts we binge today. In this essential eBook, you'll delve into the secret world of constructing podcast gold. Discover how to choose the most intriguing cases, even those that have slipped under the radar, and learn the ethical considerations that ensure sensitivity and respect in your storytelling. Master the delicate balance between fact and

fiction, crafting narratives that not only inform but also enthrall. Journey into audio storytelling techniques that harness the raw power of sound, music, and even silence, to evoke emotion and build tension. Learn how to develop your unique voice, blending objectivity with personal flair to maintain a consistent and engaging tone. Discover interviewing techniques that secure insightful, sometimes chilling, witness testimonies—woven seamlessly into your episodes for maximum impact. With *Crafting Chilling Narratives*, understand the importance of thorough research and fact-checking to preserve integrity, avoiding misinformation pitfalls while managing sources effectively. Gain insights into structuring episodes to keep listeners hooked from start to finish, and build a loyal community around your podcast through social media engagement. Prepare to tackle legal and ethical hurdles with confidence, ensuring your content respects privacy and sensitivity. Develop a compelling podcast brand, leverage powerful marketing strategies, and uncover monetization avenues that promise sustainability and growth. Through inspiring case studies and future trend predictions, *Crafting Chilling Narratives* offers you the tools to overcome common pitfalls and ensures your creative spark never dims. Join the podcasting revolution today and craft stories that will haunt, inform, and entertain in equal measure. Your audience awaits.

best true crime podcasts long form: *The Lady Vanishes* Alison Sandy, Bryan Seymour, Sally Eeles, Marc Wright, 2024-05-01 A much-loved mother, teacher and friend steps on a plane for an overseas adventure and is never seen again. When Marion Barter disappeared in 1997, police initially dismissed it as the actions of a divorced mother abandoning her family. In this book, the creators of the addictive global hit podcast *The Lady Vanishes* detail the winding investigation into Marion's disappearance, from tentative early police efforts to her daughter's 27-year search for answers. *The Lady Vanishes* is an engrossing story of how a small team of seasoned investigative journalists and storytellers, a daughter's intuition and a team of listener super-sleuths uncovered a web of intrigue spanning nine decades and three continents, and how - after 57 episodes, 20 million downloads and sparking a coronial inquiry - they discovered at the heart of the mystery a stranger-than-fiction international man of mystery who could hold the key to what really happened to Marion.

best true crime podcasts long form: *True Crime in American Media* George S. Larke-Walsh, 2023-06-01 This book explores contemporary American true crime narratives across various media formats. It dissects the popularity of true crime and the effects, both positive and negative, this popularity has on perceptions of crime and the justice system in contemporary America. As a collection of new scholarship on the development, scope, and character of true crime in twenty-first century American media, analyses stretch across film, streaming/broadcast TV, podcasts, and novels to explore the variety of ways true crime pervades modern culture. The reader is guided through a series of interconnected topics, starting with an examination of the contemporary success of true crime, the platforms involved, the narrative structures and engagement with audiences, moving on to debates on representation and the ethics involved in portraying both victims and perpetrators of crime within the genre. This collection provides new critical work on American true crime media for all interested readers, and especially scholars and students in the humanities and social sciences. It offers a significant area of research in social sciences, criminology, media, and English Literature academic disciplines.

best true crime podcasts long form: *Entertainment, Journalism, and Advocacy* Lindsey A. Sherrill, 2023-02-13 In this book, Lindsey A. Sherrill explores the exponential growth of true crime podcasting, including the role of the ubiquitous Serial podcast in the growth of the industry. Using both demographic population analysis and interviews with podcast hosts and producers, Sherrill demonstrates that true crime podcasts exist as hybrid organizations, with diverse goals ranging from entertainment to criminal justice reform advocacy to journalistic inquiry. These competing motivations of podcast producers are explored, along with the ethical quandaries that emerge in the process of telling true crime stories. Sherrill traces true crime podcasting back to the infancy of the medium and examines the influences, innovations, and events that created the true crime podcast ecosystem, as well as its influence on real cases in the United States. Scholars of communication,

sociology, and media studies will find this book of particular interest.

best true crime podcasts long form: Justice on Demand Tanya Horeck, 2019-11-11 Explores the proliferation of true crime audiovisual texts across multiple media platforms. Justice on Demand: True Crime in the Digital Streaming Era offers a theoretical rumination on the question asked in countless blogs and opinion pieces of the last decade: Why are we so obsessed with true crime? Author Tanya Horeck takes this question further: Why is true crime thought to be such a good vehicle for the new modes of viewer/listener engagement favored by online streaming and consumption in the twenty-first century? Examining a range of audiovisual true crime texts, from podcasts such as *Serial* and *My Favorite Murder* to long-form crime documentaries such as *The Jinx* and *Making a Murderer*, Horeck considers the extent to which the true crime genre has come to epitomize participatory media culture where the listener/viewer acts as a desktop detective or internet sleuth. While Facebook and Twitter have re-invigorated the notion of the armchair detective, Horeck questions the rhetoric of interactivity surrounding true crime formats and points to the precarity of justice in the social media era. In a cultural moment in which user-generated videos of real-life violence surface with an alarming frequency, Justice on Demand addresses what is at stake in the cultural investment in true crime as packaged mainstream entertainment. Paying close attention to the gendered and racialized dimensions of true crime media, Horeck examines objects that are not commonly considered true crime, including the subgenre of closed-circuit television (CCTV) elevator assault videos and the popularity of trailers for true crime documentaries on YouTube. By analyzing a range of intriguing case studies, Horeck explores how the audience is affectively imagined, addressed, and commodified by contemporary true crime in an on demand mediascape. As a fresh investigation of how contemporary variations of true crime raise significant ethical questions regarding what it means to watch, listen, and witness in a digital era of accessibility, immediacy, and instantaneity, Justice on Demand will be of interest to film, media, and digital studies scholars.

best true crime podcasts long form: The Oxford Handbook of Radio and Podcasting Michele Hilmes, Andrew Bottomley, 2024 Radio today remains the most accessible and widely available communication medium worldwide, despite technological shifts and a host of upstart challengers. Since its origins in the 1920s, radio has innovated a new world of sound culture - now expanded into the digital realm of podcasting that is enabling the medium to reach larger audiences than ever before. Yet radio remains one of the least studied of the major areas of communication arts, due largely to its broadcast-era ephemerality. With the advent of digital technology, radio's past has been unlocked and soundwork is exploding as a creative field, creating a lively and diverse sonic present while simultaneously making critical historical analysis possible at last. This volume offers newly commissioned chapters giving readers a wide-ranging view of current critical work in the fields of radio and podcasting, employing specific case studies to analyze sound media's engagement with the arts; with the factual world of news, talk, and documentary programming; as a primary means of forging community along with national, transnational, and alternative identities; and as a subject of academic and critical research. Its historical scope extends from radio's earliest days, through its mid-twentieth century decades as the powerful voice of nations and empires, onto its transformation into a secondary medium during the television era, and into the expanding digital present. Over the course of 37 chapters, it provides evidence of the sound media's flexibility and adaptation across diverse cultures by examining radio's past and present uses in regions including the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia, Poland, China, Korea, Kenya, Angola and Mozambique, South Asia, and the Caribbean. Contributors include historians and media scholars as well as sound artists and radio/podcast producers. Notably, companion links to digital quotations from works analyzed are included in many chapters along with chapter audiographies offering links to further listening. Throughout, *The Oxford Handbook of Radio and Podcasting* connects radio's broadcast past to its digital present, and traces themes of creativity, identity, community, nation, and transnationality across more than a century of audio media.

best true crime podcasts long form: 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 long form: Uncanny Magazine Issue 51 Charlie Jane Anders, Kristiana Willsey, AnaMaria Curtis, Delilah S. Dawson, Valerie Valdes, Parlei Rivière, Ai Jiang, Sarah Pinsker, 2023-03-07 The March/April 2023 issue of Hugo Award-winning Uncanny Magazine. Featuring new fiction by Charlie Jane Anders, Kristiana Willsey, AnaMaria Curtis, Delilah S. Dawson, Valerie Valdes, Parlei Rivière, and Ai Jiang. Reprint fiction by Sarah Pinsker. Essays by C.L. Polk, Jeffe Kennedy, Ruthanna Emrys, and Riley Silverman, poetry by Tiffany Morris, Ewa Gerald Onyebuchi, Betsy Aoki, and Sara Cleto and Brittany Warman, interviews with Kristiana Willse and Delilah S. Dawson by Caroline M. Yoachim, a cover by Nilah Magruder, and editorials by Lynne M. Thomas and Michael Damian Thomas, and Meg Elison. Uncanny Magazine is a bimonthly science fiction and fantasy magazine first published in November 2014. Edited by 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, & 2022 Hugo award winners for best semiprozine, and 2018 Hugo award winners for Best Editor, Short Form, Lynne M. Thomas and Michael Damian Thomas, Meg Elison, and Monte Lin, each issue of Uncanny includes new stories, poetry, articles, and interviews.

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