



Killing Time

by Deborah Quaille

Quaille Reviews

Local author David Wickes has created a new hero for the followers of crime and detective novels.

Killing Time is a story of gritty realism. Detective Jack Petersen first stumbles upon a crime locale, where a wrecked Jaguar leaves its own puzzling evidence. A set of male footprints lead the squad to believe the lone male occupant walked away from the accident, but they soon realize appearances can be very misleading.

Throughout the story the killer leads Mr. Petersen on a crime spree unequalled in memory. The detective never has a chance to see his wife or have a home-cooked meal, and consequently develops a penchant for the best burgers on the road - though how he can enjoy them at such grisly crime scenes is beyond the scope of most readers.

An intriguing plot twist keeps the reader guessing throughout the story, and indeed even feeling frustrated when the good guys never quite catch up with the murderer. But such is the draw of a good crime mystery - the reader, who knows just that little bit more than the detectives, is on tenterhooks wanting to tell the hero what's probably going to happen next.

No doubt the author uses his strengths from his former career to write about strong male characters. There are few female lead characters in the story. The others are quickly victimized - just when the reader begins to know them, a chilling sense of foreboding hits and their fate is sealed. One woman, however, does rise above the victimization of the brutal murderer but not without assistance.

Mr. Wickes' short chapters are easy to digest, and he offers his audience a good grasp of flow and continuity. Chilling sus-

pense, fast paced action, and numerous plot twists carry this thriller to its surprise ending.

He is currently working on his third novel in the series, and has an outline for the fourth.

"I went to university late in life, and while I took my degree at the University of Toronto, it didn't leave me much time for anything. I wanted to start reading for fun, chose the mystery/crime genre, and have been reading it ever since," he said. "So I wrote what I read."

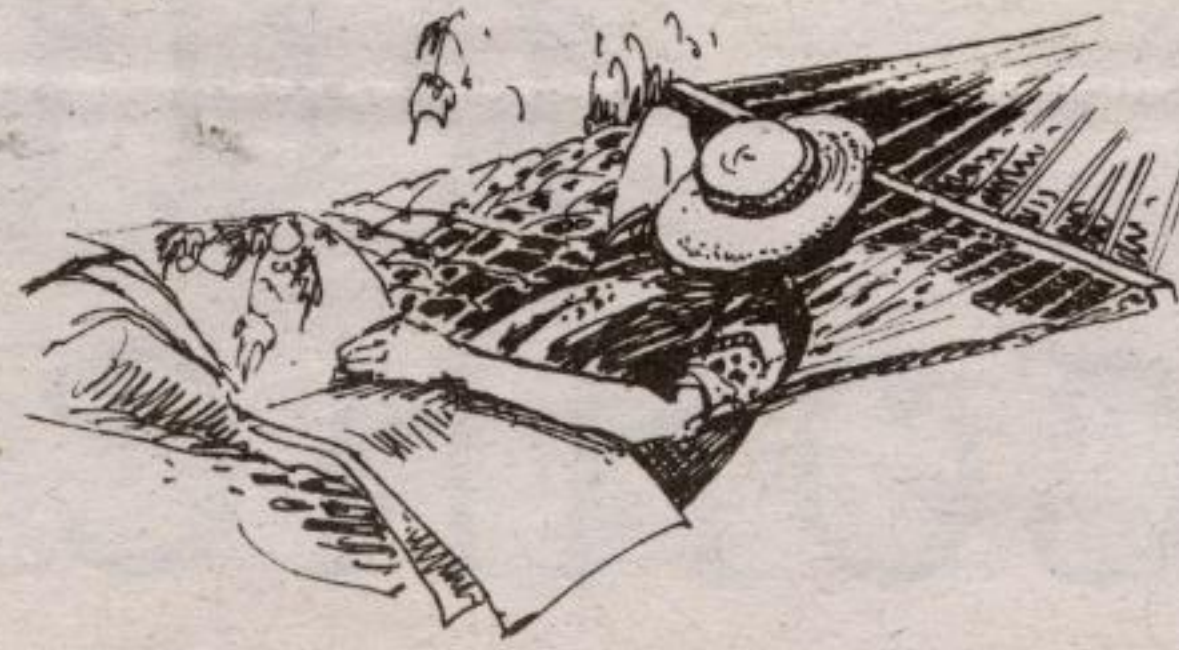
As for the author's main character, he says, "I like Jack Petersen very much. Petersen is my hero, and he's even more developed in the second book."

In *Killing Cold*, the second novel (which is at the publishers now), Minnesota homicide detective Lieutenant Jack Petersen is back with another complex mystery. A young woman is murdered in her estate on a private lake. Mr. Petersen is called to investigate but when surveying the area, his plane is sabotaged. Two more kidnappings take place. Mr. Petersen and his team struggle with both the case and the elements when a severe winter storm suddenly paralyzes the small community.

David Wickes is a former jet fighter pilot and retired entrepreneur, who lives in south western Ontario with his wife Maureen and their three German Shepherds. His book is available at most Chapters, Coles (Milton Mall) and Indigo outlets.

Killing Time,
David Wicks
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Idle



Pursuits

Be Mine: The Courtship of Country Couples

by Deborah Quaille

According to our antique set of World Book encyclopedias, Saint Valentine was a Roman Catholic bishop who was martyred February 14 in Rome in the year 270 AD.

It's been said Saint Valentine left gifts of food on the doorsteps of the poor, and the custom of sending Valentine greetings developed after that.

Another explanation, however, is the connection with the Roman festival Lupercalia, which occurred February 15. Young men would draw the name of a lady from a box and would have to be faithful to her for the ensuing year, showering her

with sentiment. It's unclear what happened at the end of that time; perhaps the players in the love game would regain their freedom and search out the next partner for a new year, or perhaps, if becoming enamoured with each other, they would become betrothed.

Courtship has taken many guises over the years around North Halton. Tom and Lil Givens of Acton have been married well over 60 years and had a family on an Esquesing farm. Mrs. Givens remembers the first time they met.

"I happened to be out on the lawn at mother's house and was watering the flowers with the hose. This fella came along the sidewalk in front of the house by the big lilac bush. I thought I'd just spray the hose over around the bush. He came out the other side soaking wet! He didn't get mad, he just laughed, and I thought 'Oh, I shouldn't have done that!' But I was full of devilment at that age.

"I didn't see him for quite a while until after I got a job at Brown's Bakery. Norm Brown, who

owned the bakery, was in the fire brigade. One day he brought Tom to the bakeshop - Tom was in the fire brigade too - and that's how we met again. We courted for four years and when we were married I was 20 and Tom had just celebrated his 24th birthday. Actually we've been together since I was 16 and I'm 86 now, so that's 70 years."

Another long-wed couple, Jack and Jean Layman of Georgetown, had a much quicker courtship, but as Mrs. Layman agrees, you just know when the right one comes along.

"We met at the arena in Simcoe. Jack was a good skater but I wasn't!" she recalls. "That would be probably 61 years ago last January. He asked me out after that, and he gave me a gift for Valentine's Day - it was a brush, comb and mirror set. You don't get those any more.

"We dated from January to September 28 in 1941, when we got married. We had a good start in life and we've had a lot of support each way."

(Continued on next page)

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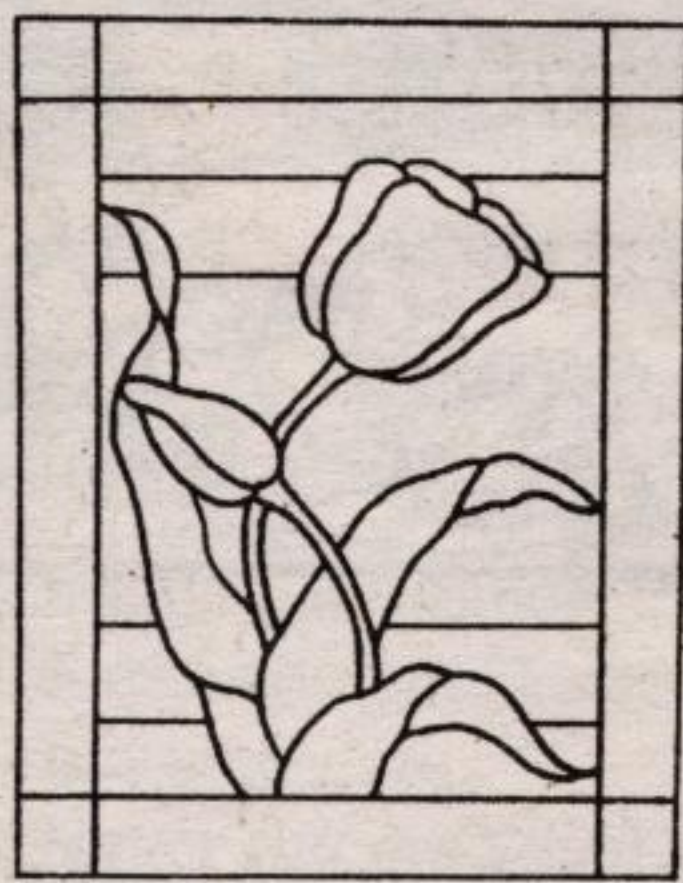
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