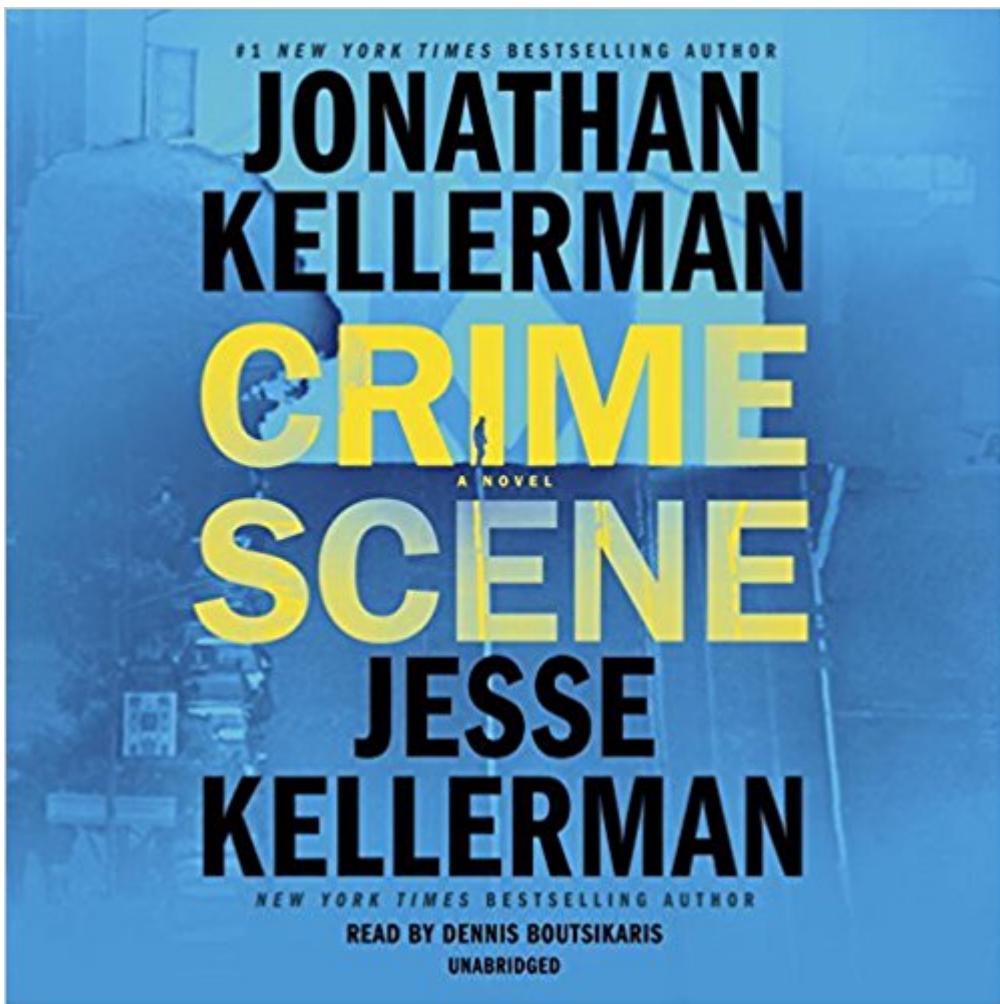


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## Crime Scene: A Novel



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A former star athlete turned deputy coroner is drawn into a brutal, complicated murder in this psychological thriller from a father-son writing team that delivers a brilliant, page-turning fiction • (Stephen King). Natural causes or foul play? That's the question Clay Edison must answer each time he examines a body. Figuring out motives and chasing down suspects aren't part of his beat "not until a seemingly open-and-shut case proves to be more than meets his highly trained eye. Eccentric, reclusive Walter Rennert lies cold at the bottom of his stairs. At first glance the scene looks straightforward: a once-respected psychology professor, done in by booze and a bad heart. But his daughter Tatiana insists that her father has been murdered, and she persuades Clay to take a closer look at the grim facts of Rennert's life. What emerges is a history of scandal and violence, and an experiment gone horribly wrong that ended in the brutal murder of a coed. Walter Rennert, it appears, was a broken man "and maybe a marked one. And when Clay learns that a colleague of Rennert's died in a nearly identical manner, he begins to question everything in the official record. All the while, his relationship with Tatiana is evolving into something forbidden. The closer they grow, the more determined he becomes to catch her father's killer "even if he has to overstep his bounds to do it. The twisting trail Clay follows will lead him into the darkest corners of the human soul. It's his job to listen to the tales the dead tell. But this time, he's part of a story that makes his blood run cold. Praise for Jonathan Kellerman • Jonathan Kellerman's psychology skills and dark imagination are a potent literary mix. • "Los Angeles Times • Kellerman doesn't just write psychological thrillers "he owns the genre. • "Detroit Free Press • A master of the psychological thriller. • "People • Praise for Jesse Kellerman • Gripping and compelling . . . but what truly separates Kellerman from the pack is his prose. . . . Jesse Kellerman tightens the noose slowly, and we his readers can do nothing but turn the pages. • "Harlan Coben, on *The Genius* • Kellerman has a gift for creating compelling characters as well as for crafting an ingenious plot that grabs the reader and refuses to let go. • "Publishers Weekly (starred review), on *The Genius*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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Gripping and compelling . . . but what truly separates Kellerman from the pack is his prose. . . . Jesse Kellerman tightens the noose slowly, and we his readers can do nothing but turn the pages. "Harlan Coben, on "The Genius"  
Kellerman has a gift for creating compelling characters as well as for crafting an ingenious plot that grabs the reader and refuses to let go. "Publishers Weekly" (starred review), on "The Genius"

Jonathan Kellerman is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of more than forty crime novels, including the Alex Delaware series, *The Butcher*'s *Theater*, *Billy Straight*, *The Conspiracy Club*, *Twisted*, *True Detectives*, and *The Murderer*'s *Daughter*. With his wife, bestselling novelist Faye Kellerman, he co-authored *Double Homicide* and *Capital Crimes*. With his son, bestselling novelist Jesse Kellerman, he co-authored *The Golem of Hollywood* and *The Golem of Paris*. He is also the author of two children's books and numerous nonfiction works, including *Savage Spawn: Reflections on Violent Children* and *With Strings Attached: The Art and Beauty of Vintage Guitars*. He has won the Goldwyn, Edgar, and Anthony awards and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Psychological Association, and has been nominated for a Shamus Award. Jonathan and Faye Kellerman live in California, New Mexico, and New York. Jesse Kellerman won the Princess Grace Award for best young American playwright and is the author of *Sunstroke*, *Trouble*, *The Genius* (for which he won the 2010 Grand Prix des Lectrices de Elle), *The Executor*, and *Potboiler* (for which he was nominated for the Edgar Award for Best Novel). He lives in California.

My favorite is still their first one together - *GOLEM OF HOLLYWOOD*. I did like this book and, being

from the Bay Area, the locations were familiar.

As always, a great read by the Kellerman family of writers. I've read many of their books and I've yet to be disappointed!

### Great Thriller

First, I want to state that I am a big fan of Jonathan Kellerman's novels and have read most of them. I have also read several of Jesse Kellerman's previous works (both as a stand-alone author and in collaboration with his father, Jonathan). I have enjoyed them all and this one does not disappoint. I really like the main character, Coroner's Deputy Clay Edison, and am excited to hear that this book is the first in a new series of books. I was impressed on many levels. Since I enjoy a good police procedural, in general, it is very interesting to take a look at crime scene processing from the world of the Coroner's office. Clay, while not a homicide detective, still interacts with the police department and the decedent's family when a death has occurred. This gives our protagonist opportunities to get involved with a homicide or questionable death on many levels. (This, by the way, is a formula that has worked very well in Jonathan Kellerman's most popular novels, those centered on psychologist Dr. Alex Delaware, who occasionally works with the LAPD to help solve homicide cases.) Clay Edison is a single man, and in this book we can see the beginnings of a love interest start to take shape, and we also learn about Clay's immediate family, which all adds up to a nice sub-plot, and it gives the main character some depth. After one book, I already care about this guy and want him to find happiness, success, and the American Dream. Without going into too much detail (I hate spoilers), another theme central to this particular novel is mental illness. The story allows the authors to explore how the mentally ill are often labeled, misjudged, and mistreated on all levels in our society. However, that depressing theme (no pun intended) is also counterbalanced by revelations of hope and help for the mentally ill (though maybe not always enough and not always timely). All in all, I really enjoyed reading this book and I did not want to put it down (I finished it in a little over a day). I loved the twists and turns in the plot, and the writing is excellent. If you are a thriller and suspense novel junkie, like myself, definitely put this book on your summer reading bucket list. Enjoy!

There were a few things I disliked about this book, but it managed to hold my attention and I read it in three days. The sentences are fairly crisp, so if you pay attention you can probably read it in one

sitting, but I had a few other things on my mind and didn't make the effort to do that. Many of the secondary characters (and there are many) are not well-rounded. Since this is presumably the first book in a series, I hope that future installments sketch in their back stories. The protagonist, Clay Edison, is a former basketball player who is now a deputy in the coroner's office. He isn't a coroner, nor is he a homicide detective. It's kind of hard to say just what his function is, other than doing what he pleases and annoying his supervisor as a result. In this debut, he gets involved with the daughter of a dead man and eventually gets involved with the deceased's life more than the woman. He's also about to get involved with the daughter of a friend and mentor. This leads to one of the problems I had with the book. Whether it's because two men wrote it, or because those men are a father and son team, the scenes between Clay and the ladies don't ring true. In fact, they're awkward and the book would have been better without any attempt to add romance. Another problem is that scenes don't segue naturally from one time to another. If the authors didn't mention that a scene is taking place weeks or months after the last scene, you'd never guess. The book reads as if all the action takes place in a matter of days, not nearly a year. However, the plot is interesting and the presumptive villain - maybe - is fascinating. I would have liked to see more of him.

I've read other novels by Jesse Kellerman and let me just say that to me - his writing is nowhere near the caliber of his father's - or his mother's for that matter. I also gave up about a quarter of the way through. Just not interesting enough for me to finish.

Normally Jonathan Kellerman novels keep me turning pages right to the end. I can't get into this at all. It's so dull, so boring, drags on - UGH! I can't believe he had anything to do with writing this dud. It's taken me a week to get to Chapter 17. Normally I finish a good read in a few days. I'll struggle thru the rest of the book, but to get to chapter 17 and be bored out of my mind, doesn't give me hope it's going to get better.

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