



# I Will Find You: Solving Killer Cases from My Life Fighting Crime

*Joe Kenda*

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**Detective Lt. Joe Kenda, star of the wildly successful crime documentary series *Homicide Hunter: Lt. Joe Kenda*, shares his deepest, darkest, and never before revealed case files from his 19 years as a homicide detective.** TV viewers and readers alike are fascinated and horrified by abhorrent murders. They crave to know the gory details of these crimes, and seek comfort in the solving of the most gruesome. In **I WILL FIND YOU, DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT JOE KENDA** reminds us that cases like these are very real and can happen even in your backyard.

Joe Kenda investigated 387 murder cases during his 23 years with the Colorado Springs Police Department and solved almost all of them. And he is ready to detail the cases that are too gruesome to air on television, cases that still haunt him, and cases where the killer got away. These cases are horrifyingly real, but the detail is so mesmerizing you won't be able to look away. Chapters include:

"Every City has an Underbelly" where beautiful cities experience deadly violence "I Talk to Dead People" where Kenda reveals his approaches to crime scene investigation "Honey I'm Home, Don't Mind the Blood" where detective work is brought home "Crimes I Can't Talk about on TV" where Kenda shares the most gruesome, macabre or complex cases

The tales in this book will shock readers like the best horror stories. This is true crime at its finest, divulging insights into the actions, motivations, and proclivities of nature's most dangerous species.

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## I Will Find You: Solving Killer Cases from My Life Fighting Crime Details

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## From Reader Review I Will Find You: Solving Killer Cases from My Life Fighting Crime for online ebook

### Sherry Fundin says

I don't buy many books any more, but I Will Find You by Joe Kenda is one of those that I just had to have on my bookshelf.

If you think dealing with the scum of the earth can lead you down a dark road, just ask Joe Kenda. He looks all cool, calm and collected, but beware, he is a badass.

I love the first chapter, where he doles out a little justice to a guy trying to kill a fellow police officer. What a way to start a career. His fellow officers called him a shit magnet and kept their distance. It seemed he was always getting attacked or shot at.

Back in the seventies, police officers were not as sophisticated and trained as they are now. We have come a long way, but I feel it takes a special kind of person to be able to put all the puzzle pieces together and find the killer. He has solved 93% of his 387 homicides.

I love when he talks about the right to lifers...will you take care of all the children who need someone to love and care for them? Where are you when they need a loving home instead of raising themselves and growing up on the street, with a gang as their family? Where are you when the mother doesn't want them or is at the end of her rope?

I also think a lot of lives could be saved if getting DNA results didn't take so long. Law enforcement needs more money and all the latest greatest equipment and technology to aid them in doing their job.

Some people complained about a couple of shows ID TV ran. Give me a break. This is real life...it's murder and it's messy, as Joe says. If you think the TV show is bad, his glimpses of murder in the book is so much more grotesque, horrifying and heartbreaking.

When do you know enough is enough? How many sleepless nights and hauntings from the dead are enough? Each individual must pick their moment when it is time to pass the torch to the next generation of police officers.

Joe Kenda's personality shines through in this fabulous glimpse into his life as the Angel of Death. I think it is a very appropriate title for a man that is determined to take the despicable off the street and, sometimes, help them leave this world.

My. My. My. I give this non fiction book a solid four stars and the show...five stars. I look forward to Wednesday's, when I can binge watch Joe Kenda, and God forbid anyone who gets in my way. LOL

You did a great job Joe!!!!

See more at fundinmental

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## The Book Review Café says

Considering I'm a huge true crime thriller fan it's very rare these days that I watch any true crime series on the television, so unfortunately until I picked up I Will Find You I have never heard of Detective Lt. Joe Kenda, who is the star of Homicide Hunter. I must admit I did Google the series and so I've included more about the series at the end of my review.

In the introduction to I will Find You Joe Kenda quotes "if you don't think you can handle the darkest aspects of human nature, then you might want to put this book down, because it will get real in a hurry" and I have to agree, it's a true crime story at the end of the day, so yes at times it's both graphic and disturbing. This book offers a candid and personal reflection and recollection of some of Joe Kenda's most gruesome and disturbing cases.

From the book description I really thought this book would be a difficult read, but strangely enough thanks to the author's dark humour, which he admits himself is a defence mechanism against the darkness he's experienced it wasn't as gruesome or as horrifying as I expected. Don't get me wrong there are some seriously upsetting and tragic cases discussed in this book, so I'm not sure it's a book suited to the more faint hearted. I Will Find You is broken up into sections motives for murder, drugs and depravity and catching Killers to name but a few, each section gives you an insight into the victims, the perpetrators and their motives which I found extremely interesting.

The author is honest and forthcoming as he describes the toll the job took on his marriage, family and his own wellbeing. Part memoir and part true crime, I Will Find You can't be described as a book I enjoyed, but it certainly made for a fascinating read, as it gives the reader a revealing and gritty insight into police work, the good, the bad and the damn right ugly.

All my reviews can be found at <http://thebookreviewcafe.com>

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## Kristy K says

*"I have not forgotten her...or any of the murder victims I sought to avenge. They will always be with me."*

3.5 Stars

Some may know of Lt. Kenda from his TV show *Homicide Hunter*. In Kenda's first book, he takes you through his career as a detective in Colorado Springs. The book is filled with anecdotes that are tragic and violent. His use of cop humor lightens the otherwise heavy material. I recommend for fans of the show and true crime aficionados.

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## Diana says

Book received from NetGalley.

Most people know former Detective Joe Kenda from his Investigation Discovery show, Homicide Hunter. He worked for many years on the Colorado Springs Police Department and retired with a very high solve rate. This book while touching on some of his harder cases that didn't make it on the show so far, also gives

you some background on why he decided to become an officer and the reasons he decided to retire from a job he enjoyed. While I think any fan of True Crime would enjoy the book, I think fans of the show will get the most out of it.

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## TL says

Writing: 5 stars

Narration by Kenda: 5 stars

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"My My My" how I love this book...

couldn't resist hehe:).

I don't remember how I started watching Homicide Hunter show.. it may have been that mom and/or I were bored and turned it on one night. I vaguely remember seeing ads for it on Dateline on ID though.

I got hooked on it more quickly than mom at first but now we are both addicted. If I happen to be working and miss it, she'll wait for me do we can watch it together.

I remember thinking that "I hope he writes a book one day." You can guess my reaction when I heard this was coming out:). I held out for the audiobook once I heard he narrated it himself.

I was worried it would be just a rehashing of cases from the show at first. Yes, he does discuss a few from there but he also goes through other experiences and tells us about his life as well. It was fun to hear what he was willing to us about his personal life as well. (During and post police career).

Some stories were amusing but most will disturb you, break your heart, make you angry, or all three.

Fair warning: there are some things talked about that may squick some of you out. He doesn't shy away from the details of the crimes (my advice would be not to eat if you are squeamish while reading)... some of the victims are children too.

All I will say about that.

Mom and I were laughing at the language coming out of his mouth a few times. Nothing explicit but somewhat different than on TV?.

Couple examples: the way he dealt with a reporter who (view spoiler)

(Not sure if that counts as a spoiler, but just to be safe)

The second: when he dealt with a disrespectful kid in his post-retirement gig... that had mom and me laughing :). I would have loved (view spoiler)

I love that he grew up in PA not far from a city I visit semi-frequently but am very glad his family growing up wasn't mine.. yikes.

He's own of those "Salt of the Earth" (Right word?) type of guys... not many of them left. I think Pop Pop and him would have gotten along and Pop Pop would loved listening to his stories.

I really want to meet Kenda one day and listen to more of his tales... imagine what else he may have to say.

Would recommend! Very compelling book.

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### **Kathleen (Kat) Smith says**

The most dangerous animal on earth. Could we be the most dangerous creatures on the planet? Could it be true? While animals kill only for need, humans can and will kill for pleasure. Detective Lt. Joe Kenda became a homicide detective because he wanted to investigate why humans kill each other and because he also wanted to solved the worst of the worst crimes. They throw you in jail for life or execute you for murder, so he reasoned, murder must be the worst offense, and he wanted to put away the worst our species.

If you have ever wanted to know what it is like to investigate homicides, pick up his book, I Will Find You, but be warned, you may not want to see the realities of murders committed by the most dangerous killers in our world. If you have an interest in the truth, you will be reading the right book. If you don't think you can handle the darkest aspects of human nature, then you might want to put this book down because it will get real in a hurry.

Working as a police officer in Colorado Springs, Colorado, he spent 19 years of his career as a homicide detective. He was involved in 387 homicide investigations and solved 92 percent of them. This book offers his personal reflections and recollections, working with teams of law enforcement professionals, supervisors, fellow detectives and patrol officers. After more than two decades in law enforcement, he had to get out before he became like those he hunted and in this book, he will hold nothing back sharing with you cases that still haunt him to this very day.

Detective Lt Joe Kenda is the star of Homicide Hunter and in this book he shares his deepest, darkest and never-before-revealed case files and reminds us that crimes like these are very real and can happen even in our own backyards. The tales you will discover in this book will shock you like the best horror stories and divulging insights into the actions, motivations and proclivities of natures most dangerous species on earth. The chilling insights lead readers into understanding what it takes to do his job day in and day out and just when you think you have seen it all, you are surprised by what the human species can do whether motivated or not. I received I Will Find You by Detective Lt. Joe Kenda compliments of Center Street Publishing, a division of Hachette Book Groups. This book reveals for you the details that go unnoticed by the TV shows like CSI and more. I absolutely LOVED this book, having a detailed mind, I now look for things I didn't notice before both in my day to day life and on the TV and movies we watch. I give this book a 5 out of 5 stars.

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### **Sheryl says**

I've never watched Det. Kenda's television show, but I've listened to his podcasts. This book really caught the true essence of the man, Jo Kenda. He's what I would call a cop's cop, with his integrity and attitude that

"every life matters" is one that is not often found in this day and age. His candid account of life in Law Enforcement was straight on, from the toll it takes on the officer himself to how it affects his family. I found him to be very witty and likable, he didn't try to portray himself as a super cop. He has some great stories regarding how he started out and wasn't afraid to reveal a lot of his "rookie" mistakes. This is a great book for any True-Crime buff. I would like to thank the publisher and NetGalley for providing me with a galley in exchange for my review.

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### **Amy Leigh says**

It's not often I start reading a biography and feel like I just can't put it down and when I do put it down it nags at me to pick it back up because it's so engrossing.

This novel is graphic in some parts because Joe Kenda gives you insight to the realities of being a homicide detective. It's not gonna be flowers and rainbows. It's real life grit and sometimes a struggle and in many places full of sarcasm and humor.

I have never met the man but after reading his book it's hard to say you don't feel like you do. He has a relentless gift for storytelling but unfortunately for him, his stories are all true. This book carries you through his life and career in the police department from meeting his wife to his rookie days all the way to his retirement and many adventures after. Yes one of those adventures is a television show called Homicide Hunter on Investigation Discovery channel. But this book is not about the television show it is about him. You can read this without having ever watched the show and enjoy it just as much as I did. I was honestly sad when the book was over. I also really enjoyed the parts where he let his wife and kids tell things from their perspective as well. I am hoping his wife Kathy will write a book too because I'd love to hear her nursing career stories. I'm sure they are also intense and would be fascinating based on her personality alone. This book is just as much about the Kenda family as it is Joe himself. If you are a fan of the tv show there are cases in the book that you won't see on the show. Thank you Joe for sharing private and tough parts of your life and giving insight to future police officers.

This is a must read and I highly recommend it!

ARC supplied by NetGalley and the publisher for a fair and honest review.

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### **Linda Strong says**

Joe Kenda investigated 387 murder cases during his 23 years with the Colorado Springs Police Department and solved almost all of them.

In his book, he touches on some of them ... the victims whom he never forgets .... the criminals he's proud to have put away ... even the very few that walked free despite his best efforts. There are the children, especially, that he remembers as he had 2 young children of his own.

But there is also humor .... although you might find cop humor a little different. Anyone who has been, or is, in law enforcement, or who grew up in a law enforcement family will get it right away.

The book is well-written, without a lot of gory details that may deter some from reading. He gives just enough information to relay how bad it was. He touches on so many things .... how his life as a cop affected his wife, his children.

He speaks of motives, some justified, but most of them not. He talks about interrogation techniques and of having to work with rookies after he had spent a decade of working with the 'big boys'.

When he was a young rookie, there was no such thing as DNA. He became an expert on blood splatter. He's the first to say that shows like CSI have colored most peoples' views on how cases are solved ... or not solved.

He also speaks of when he decided to retire and just what it was that was the last straw .... and of the tough time adjusting to that retirement. He went from criminals to selling cars to driving a children's bus to starring in his own TV show, Homicide Hunter, Lt. Joe Kenda.

All in all, a very knowledgeable book, an entertaining book, a real look at the life on one of our finest.

Many thanks to the author / Center Street True Crime / Netgalley for the advance digital copy. Opinions expressed here are unbiased and entirely my own.

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### **Aimee says**

I've never watched Kenda's TV show, "Homicide Hunter" but I would probably like it if I did.

When I began this book, I had high hopes. He grabs your attention right away, and there are many very funny lines. However, I ended up disappointed and irritated.

Kenda, as portrayed by his ghostwriter (he takes the unusual step of explicitly identifying the ghostwriter as such rather than his "co-author" or "collaborator"; I give him a point for honesty) comes across as extremely arrogant and full of himself. Even his attempts to sound like a regular guy who screws up royally like everybody else from time to time manage to convey the opposite; humble-bragging, I think that's the current term.

I got tired of his perfect, amazing, wonderful wife and kids too. He includes a few passages supposedly written by them, but those still seem solely designed to reinforce the Amazing Joe Kenda myth.

And the (ghost)-writing itself was not particularly good. The book was rather carelessly organized and poorly edited (somehow, "the soul of a shoe" slipped past) and a couple of times, stories are told and then repeated elsewhere without, apparently, either author remembering that "we heard this one before."

I could have more easily forgiven all this if the descriptions of the cases Kenda investigated weren't so vague. Only occasionally does he provide names or dates, making it very difficult to verify his facts or learn more about them. Murder is public record, and I see no reason why he could not have been more specific about victims and perpetrators whose identities and court histories must already be available to anybody who cares to Google them.

A lot of potential, poor execution.

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### **Stacey says**

I'm a true crime fan so when I saw I Will Find You by Joe Kenda on NetGalley I knew I had to read it. And then I was granted a copy. Oh, happy day! I'm familiar with Joe Kenda from his Investigation Discovery network show, Homicide Hunter: Lt. Joe Kenda. He has a dry, very serious persona on the show as he narrates. I wasn't sure how that was going to translate on paper.

The real personality of Joe Kenda emerges right off the bat. He's professional, funny, and sarcastic as hell

(sarcasm is a second language in my house) making this a very enjoyable read when the circumstances are dire. He takes the reader through many of his cases over his 23year career as well as welcoming us to a peek at his family life. A part that I found hilarious was when he wanted to teach his kids about gun safety. What he really wanted to do was scare the hell out of them (his words, not mine) so they would never want to touch a gun. It backfired. They loved it and as a family spent many weekends shooting in the woods.

The book is very well organized and starts at the beginning right through retirement. He explains that he can't televise all his cases because of the explicit nature. This isn't the show and he holds nothing back and indulges us with grisly details of some of those cases. He has a demanding job and he's good at it, but it also takes a toll. He describes the toll it took on his marriage, as a father, and his psyche. He's honest and forthcoming when he talks about PTSD after he retired. A great read!

Thank you Joe Kenda for writing this book! Your wife was right when she told you your story needed to be told. Thank you to NetGalley and the publisher, Center Street.

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### **Geoff Smith says**

Okay, so I've never seen the TV show that this book is connected with, but I don't think that this affected my enjoyment of the book. If you could call it that - it is a grim reality that Kenda portrays here.

He tells us about many cases that he was involved with and incidents that impinged on his family life and his relationship with his wife and kids.

The book is an authentic memoir of a normal person and this is its strength but also its weakness as much like the lives that we all lead, this one lacks structure and stumbles from one event to the next with little sense of progression towards any kind of conclusion.

Of course this has positives too. In that you get a good sense of what being a homicide detective really is. At the end of the book I admire Kenda for everything that he done in his professional life, for his dedication and professionalism, but I'm not sure I like him very much.

He seems pretty sure that he's right about everything and knows better than everyone else - especially noticeable in the post cop section. Maybe he does.

Anyway I guess the beauty of memoirs like these are that you get to hear (mostly) authentic voices that you might not otherwise hear, and there's a lot of authenticity here.

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### **Valerity (Val) says**

I just love Lt. Joe Kenda on HOMICIDE HUNTER on TV with his deadpan storytelling style, it translates well into book form as he shares details from his many years as a homicide detective in Colorado Springs, Colorado with his many fortunate fans. I found this book to be just as good as the tv series, plus he was able to share some stories that were too graphic for the medium of television. So that was an added bonus. Although after the book sent me back to bingeing on the TV show all night again, I had to question if that were true after seeing the episode where the dead guy had his eyes gouged out and shoved down his throat, whoa! Hardcore stuff, Lt. Joe.

I think I sleep better knowing that there are Kenda-like men, and even those he trained out there solving murders and getting these creeps off the streets. He should not only have his own show, but I think that he should have his own channel, so we could watch his shows 24/7. We want more of his books too please, along with the all Kenda channel, producers! He's the real deal. I was given an ARC of this ebook to review.

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## **Darcia Helle says**

Most true crime fans in the U.S., and probably many outside of the country, have heard of Joe Kenda, real life homicide detective and star of the true crime show *The Homicide Hunter*. With this book, Kenda takes us on a journey that is absolutely not a simple rehashing of the cases from his show.

I enjoyed getting to know more about the man behind the show. On TV he's quite serious, which is to be expected. But here in the book, he lets us glimpse his quit wit and dry sense of humor. We see the evolution of his career and the affects his job had on his family life. Kenda takes us through various cases, a few from the show and many that have not been part of the series.

Kenda makes a point of clarifying the reality of police work versus what we see on TV and read in fiction. He addresses the fact that women on the job won't ever be wearing 4-inch heels, designer clothes with the buttons undone, and perfectly coiffed hair. This is one of my pet-peeves, with all female detectives portrayed as if they're Victoria's Secret models. He also talks about the reality of forensic evidence, and shares some interesting details about fingerprint evidence of which I was unaware.

I have to mention that, in the acknowledgements at the end, Joe Kenda gives props to his ghostwriter, D. Wesley Smith. I love that Kenda did this. Most ghostwriters don't get acknowledged, probably because the celebrity 'author' wants to take full credit.

The writing is conversational, as if Joe Kenda is sitting with us, telling his story. Parts of it are dark and disturbing, naturally, because the man investigated murder for a living. But we also have bits of humor and personal insight, making this a quick and entertaining read.

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## **Julie says**

I HEART KENDA!

I'm an all things Joe Kenda addict. Snatched up this book as quickly as possible because I can never get enough. It's better than the TV series. He's much more real and discusses many other parts of his life, which only make me love him more. He has a genuine, down to earth way of telling you the brutal life of an officer and crime. If you are already a fan, stop everything and read this now. If you aren't, it may not be your thing, however, if you like crime mysteries, police procedurals, and/or gritty guys you will like this book.

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