



The Harvest Killings

A.K. Goode

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The eccentric old Englishman was shot to death—one bullet to the forehead. That much was clear. What isn't clear was why. The local police chief in Kampala said it was an accident—something to do with trespassing. But American Intelligence Agent Dan Becker knows he's lying. Becker thought this would be a simple case to solve—in and out—and then he'd be on his way, back to his tropical vacation, casting his fly line and drinking beer. Not so. Especially when a dead CIA agent turns up the next day—killed the same way. Everything quickly unravels when Becker and his team use the cryptic clues left behind by the deceased and discover a heavily guarded mountain, deep in the lush Ugandan countryside, surrounded by coffee fields and patrolled by a very paranoid American company. Becker quickly realizes this has nothing to do with a murder, but a closely-guarded secret that has been dormant for decades and leads directly to the top offices of the British government.

The Harvest Killings Details

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From Reader Review The Harvest Killings for online ebook

Sharon says

I received a free copy of this book through the Goodread's Giveaways program. I was intrigued by the setting in Uganda and I got hooked in through the characters right away. It is definitely a page turner with a complicated puzzle and long list of characters. I like to read murder mysteries because I love any kind of puzzle. This puzzle was well constructed and the story moved right along to its surprising end.

I did not give it 5 stars because I felt there was too much jumping around between characters. A little less jumping back and forth and an easier identification of which character is which, would make a huge improvement to the reader's experience. It also seemed as though the author was constructing this story so it could be read in installments. There was a lot (too much for me) of leaving the reader hanging between episodes/chapters.

This is a very good first effort by the author and I look forward to seeing more.

Donna says

I won this novel in a goodreads giveaway, and was excited to get going on what promised to be a page-turner. I enjoyed the Ugandan setting and am always up for a good mystery, but I struggled with this one in that there were just too many characters to keep track of. I wished that I had kept a running tab of them all so that I could keep checking to confirm just who I was reading about (Hank? Henry, Howard?) and which agency he/she was connected with. With a lot of skipping around and new characters at every turn, I found myself too often lost. As a debut novel, there was some promise here, and had it been a bit more cohesive, I would probably have been drawn into the intrigue. As it was, the really clever plot was a bit mired in the confusion. I found little that some aggressive editing couldn't rescue, however, and thought this was a fine first publication.

David Duncan says

This is my fifty-third book that I have received and read from Goodreads. This setting of this book takes place in Uganda. The thing I really like is the cover of this book. You look at it, than the title and you start to draw a conclusion to the story. I really enjoyed seeing where the author showed his appreciation for the cover of the book.

This is a great story. It has it all: international Intelligence Agencies such as CIA, FBI, British Intelligence M16, Corrupt Politicians and Police Officers, Private Security Companies, Chicago mobsters and innocent civilians.

This story starts out with people getting killed, deaths of whole family's of coffee growers, around a mountain site which is the site of a new water plant.

This is a great mystery with lots of suspense throughout the book. This book was fast and exciting to read right up to the last page. Things happen that are really unexpected.

I would like to thank the author A.K.Goode for taking the time to sign my book. Hope to see more books from this author.

Katherine says

An engrossing mystery thriller set in Uganda, which is why I entered the Goodreads first reads giveaway for a review copy. One of the appreciations expressed by the author is to the artist who designed the cover and I have to agree that this is one of the best covers I've seen and it would have captured my interest online or on the table or shelves of the bookstore. It is as open and stark as the descriptions of the coffee fields around the mysterious mountain surrounded by chain link fence and armed guards.

What an assembly of international intelligence agencies, private security companies, innocent bystanders, Chicago mobsters, and corrupt politicians and police populate this story! The question is, why are people getting killed, starting with the deaths of families of coffee growers, killed by an over strong pesticide, around this mountain? Why is the site where, supposedly, a simple water treatment plant is soon to be put on line, guarded by armed former military security guards? Why has a CIA agent been killed but the CIA has not come to investigate his death nor arranged to retrieve his body? Why is the property of an old coffee grower, who is supposed to have been killed in self-defense by one of the guards, got to be sold to an unknown buyer within 48 hours? These questions and more are investigated by American Intelligence Agent Dan Becker and his partner, Piper Lee.

There is much convolution and strands to this fast moving story. Lots of computer stuff I didn't totally understand but loved the young geeks, Harold and Jane et al who raced to decode an encrypted memory disc, hoping the mystery of what is hidden in the mountain could be solved before more deaths occur. And they will, since various and sundry characters either order someone be taken care of or eliminated. The attempts to carry out these orders are not always successfully carried out but they are exciting. Once an old Russian encrypter who was a double agent before he moved to London and gave his all to M16 entered the plot and the name of Yellowtail, as an old covert ops, entered the picture I knew what was in the mountain. That, however, still didn't answer how it got there, who all was trying to retrieve it and what they were going to do with it.

A few things in the writing seemed unnecessary to the plot--who cares that the US Ambassador liked to beat up women and that one woman died? It definitely pegged him as a scumbag but the reader already knew that--there was much else he did for which he wasn't prosecuted because he had diplomatic immunity--so this lame effort to throw sex into the mixture was irritating. Also, not knowing what to do with Henry after awhile so throwing him into the hospital with a shot up leg halfway through the book was distracting. He wasn't even given a great deal of protection and considering the escalating body count it seemed a weak handling of what had been a predominant character. Also couldn't see the point of the whole gambling debt and confrontation with the guy to whom he owed money. Lastly, what's with the male names beginning with " H ". After awhile I found I had to go back to remember how Hank and Harold fit together--Henry I kept pretty straight.

Nevertheless, even with these plot points, the book was a fast and exciting read and right up to the last page kept coming up with twists that were totally unexpected.

Tammy Hastings says

I received this through First Reads giveaways.

Unlike a lot of the reviews here, I did not really enjoy the Uganda setting. However, I DID enjoy the story, itself. It had some errors and some inconsistencies, but I believe that this is a first time novel, and so those are to be expected. I really did like the story though. It took me a while to get around to reading it because I have had so much other stuff going on, but once I finally got to it, I finished it quite quickly. It is a quick, easy, and interesting read. I recommend it to anyone who likes mysteries/thrillers.

Nancy Steinle gummel says

The Harvest Killings by A.K. Goods is a first read win and I'm giving my honest opinion. The author contacted me and asked if I would add a spoiler alert. I did not think this was necessary but after rereading my review I concur. This book gets into the nitty gritty of the spook business. It's full of corrupt officials, private security commandos, a country's integrity and more intrigue than you can shake a stick at. It begins with Sam Becker being notified that his good friend, Leonard James was murdered. Becker flies to Uganda to investigate. Piper Lee, another agent who does research analysis follows him there. They are from a company the CIA hires at times. Jackson Spence, a college student, traveling through Uganda witnesses a kidnapping. He takes pictures and videotapes it. Then the kidnappers are after him to clean up loose ends. The kidnappers find a book in his room with his name and address. He fled out the window dropping his cellphone and his passport. One of the kidnappers is the US Ambassador to Uganda. Meanwhile, Becker goes to visit the police chief. He told Becker it was justifiable homicide since Leonard was trespassing. Next Becker goes to hospital where the doctor performed the autopsy. Becker tells him to hide Leonard's body. M16 agent starts nosing around. The British are hiding something they don't want found. The Ambassador is crooked. He is abusing diplomatic immunity. During this time, CIA Bureau chief for the Asian, African and Australia continents, Parker, orders the death of Becker, Piper, the doctor, Henry James, Jackson, Jackson's father Walter Spence (in the States), the police chief among others. M16 chief Campbell orders for people to be silenced and shoots at one of their own. This person is the Russian. The Russian was wearing one of his inventions, a light weight bullet proof vest. the Russian decides to help the Americans cypher the encrypted code. All of this killing for weapons grade uranium.

Peggy says

This promising debut novel was a Good Reads giveaway. The Ugandan setting was a real plus for this novel which allowed for a few unexpected plot twists. Murder, mayhem and multiple competing intelligence agencies make for an entertaining brew that keep the reader guessing right up to the last page. Not only is it a diverting read, but you'll be supporting Ovarian & Uterine Cancer Research by purchasing *The Harvest Killings*. Thanks, A.K. Goode!

Carly Simes says

This book was a fast read with an engrossing plot. The story takes place in Uganda, and surrounds a man that was murdered on his coffee farm. I was very impressed with the ingenuity of the plot, the characters, and the suspense and build-up of the end. This a great first novel. I would have given it five stars, but there were some editorial mistakes and misappropriated words. Overall, it was a solid book.

Mamie says

I was given a e-copy of this book by the author in exchange for my honest review.

In an international CSI/FBI - type thriller, A.K. Goode delivers a pulse-raising story that starts as a who-dunnit but quickly becomes much more. American Intelligence Agent Dan Becker travels to Uganda to help an old friend investigate the “accidental” death of his uncle; he soon uncovers details that lead him to think murder rather than accident. As his investigation both widens and deepens to include high-ranking British government officials, the plot thickens.

With the breath-taking setting of rural Uganda, this is international thriller/mystery at its best. As I read, it seemed like the words jumped off the pages, and the pages raced through to the end. The story started from the first page and didn’t stop til the conclusion. One of my favorite characters was Dan’s assistant/partner, Piper, who immediately joins him in Uganda and is all in – a partner to be coveted. Her sharp, quick wit kept Dan and the other men on their toes. Not admin assistant material, to say the least; Piper is a fire-cracker and talented agent.

Thrillers are not my usual choice for reading but I thoroughly enjoyed this one. All fans of James Patterson, Michael Connelly, and Greg Iles will gobble this book up. As my only criticism, I would have loved more character development and scene-setting at the outset, with a slower build to the main heart of the story. I also love to read descriptions, and *Harvest Killings* was heavier on dialogue. The upside is that this book seems ready to be an action-thriller movie! And a further bonus is that A.K. Goode is a local Richmond author, and it feels great to support our hometown friends! Four star rating from me.

Brenda says

A page-turner that will keep you guessing until the very end, *The Harvest Killings* is rich in characters that are both well-drawn but flawed humans. A police chief in Uganda, a Chicago mobster, a U.S. intelligence agent, a Richmond lawyer, the CIA and Britain's M16 all provide the clues and the motives piece by piece to solve a murder in Uganda that must be solved in three days or a catastrophe of international consequences is likely to occur. Not usually a fan of this type of novel, AK Goode had me hooked from the very beginning and I found the ending stunning!

Colleen says

A great first novel! I initially requested the book from the Goodreads giveaway program and was excited to start reading because it is set in Uganda. The story draws you in from the beginning and keeps you hooked through the end. The only drawbacks were...

1. there are so many characters to keep track of. The book jumps between story-lines for all of the characters and I occasionally found myself wondering "wait, have we already met this character?"...
2. Having lived in Uganda for a while, and was hoping the story would bring in a bit more of the culture and environment of that country. Instead, it seemed to just be used as a randomly selected "third world" setting

that fit the plot line well. However, the author does give fair warning in the beginning that the events and locations are depictions of her imagination. So, no harm done :)

Overall though, I really enjoyed this book and hope the author expands the story into a 2nd novel. Well done for a first go!

Denise says

I won this book through the First Reads program.

The Harvest Killing is an engrossing, fast read that takes place in Uganda. Intelligence agent Dan Becker heads to Uganda to investigate the murder of his mentor, coffee farmer Leonard. This leads to an investigation where everyone seems to want him dead. This fast-paced, high action espionage novel is highly recommended for fans of the genre. The only complaint I have is the similarity of a number of names. It made it a little difficult to keep them straight.

Laura says

My first win from Goodreads First Reads - thanks!

As one who dabbles in writing, I am always impressed by - and slightly jealous of ;)- anyone who can hold a story together from beginning to end. Then, to have the courage to submit it for publishing is something I'll never know. And if that fails, to have the determination to self-publish and push your own work is nothing short of admirable.

That being said, I just wish self-published authors would pay an editor to run through their manuscripts once for basic errors, once again for inconsistencies, and once more for the integrity of the work. Just a few polishes, and this could have been an amazing first novel.

For Ms. Goode has a great story here: she's got good pacing, she's got a cast of characters that could be developed in further novels, she's got twists and turns and surprises. The story has a broad scope, from the Caribbean to Africa back to the States and on to Great Britain. It's a true international thriller. She also develops characters that you care about and want to see through to the end. And everything is tied up, just like it should be for a crime/thriller like this.

I would read another book by A.K. Goode, particularly if she revisited these characters. I sincerely hope that a publisher picks up on this book and works with her in the future. And in lieu of that, I hope she finds a first-class editor next time. For the glitches that slow down the read of this story could mostly disappear with a decent re-read.

Stuart says

I honestly picked this book because of the great cover and just needed something to read. I didn't expect to not be able to put it down. I enjoy good mysteries and suspense, and the Ugandan settings for The Harvest Killings made it very unique. So many diverse characters, plot twists, and suspense, all set in a land so unknown by most. Congratulations to Mr. Goode on such an outstanding first novel. I will be looking for the next...

Lauren says

Quick, engaging read. I'm not sure what I had in mind for this story, I purposely didn't delve into the description, but knew there was some mystery to solve. The setting of Uganda was fascinating and rare; I wish there had been more about the culture and landscape, though I appreciate that it might have distracted from the plot. It kept moving at a quick pace, kept you guessing, and even where you had it figured it out, you were invested to see how everything was resolved. The ability to move from a "whodunit" of a beloved father figure to a conspiracy of grand proportions smoothly, without having to suspend too much belief, is a credit to Goode's writing skills.

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