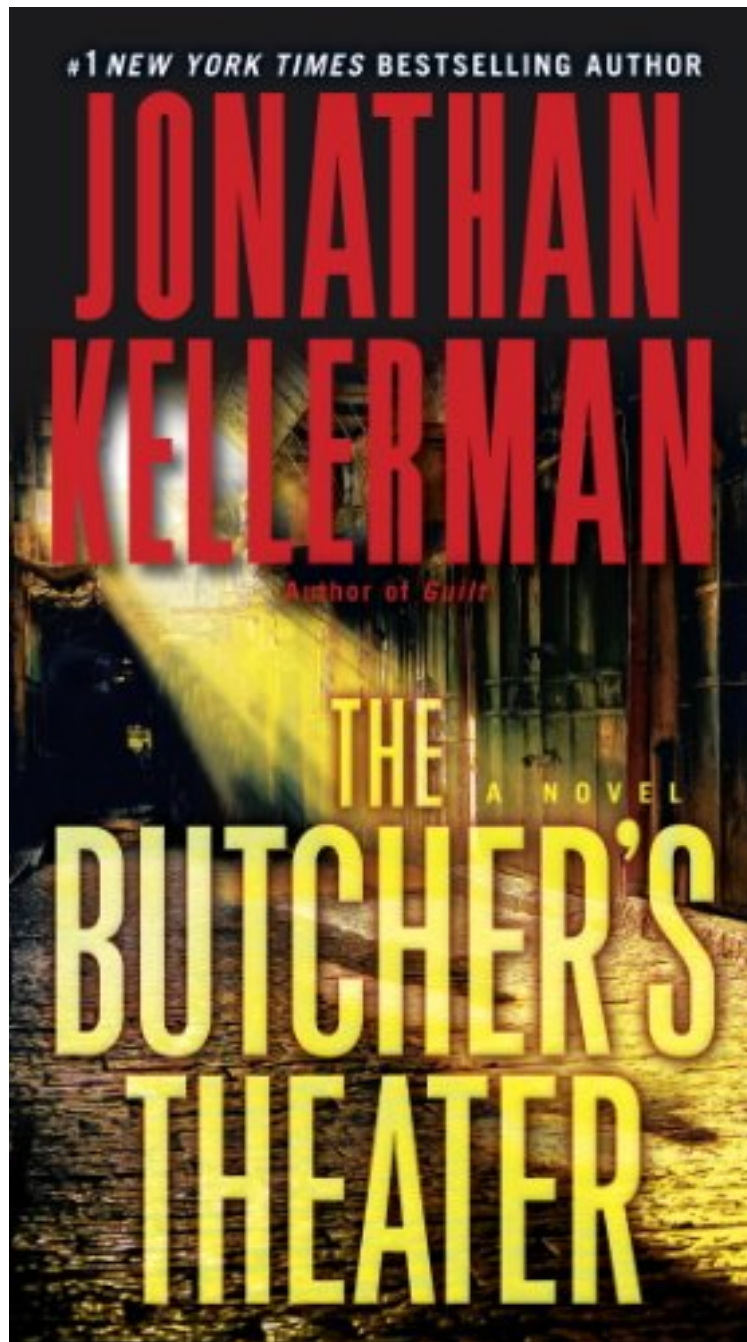


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## The Butcher's Theater: A Novel

Von Jonathan Kellerman

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Von Jonathan Kellerman : The Butcher's Theater: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it

would be worth my time, and all praised *The Butcher's Theater: A Novel*:

Kundenrezensionen  
Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen  
1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Top marks - a gritty thriller in an unusual locale  
Von Ein Kunde  
Detailed and disturbing in its portrait of a demented, racist killer, 'The Butcher's Theatre' delivers plausible and - three cheers - genuinely interesting characters in an unusually exotic location. This is the first of Kellerman's novels I have read, and must confess that it was the setting that initially attracted me. Those who love Israel and Jerusalem can revel in a tale that deals with murder and sexual depravity in a society where bloody family quarrels and the horror of political terrorism are the norms. They can also rejoice, as I did, in descriptions of the city that do justice to its beauty. The tension generated by ignorance and decades of habitual racial intolerance fades as the very different detectives in Sharavi's team learn to resolve their differences and work together to catch a psychopath. As well as the analysis of the serial killer which I suppose, given his psychologist background, is to be expected of Kellerman, he deserves credit for credible insights into the lives of his detectives outside the case. From Sharavi's experiences in the '67 war to Schmeltzer's bitterness over the deaths of his wife and son, finally to North Tel-Aviv rich-kid Cohen and the concept of protekzia; we are presented with characters to think about. In fact, one of my few gripes about a more or less flawless read was the absence of the Chinaman or Schmeltzer in the closing pages. What happened to the latter's burgeoning relationship with Eva, hmm? In conclusion, I had no reservations about the book's ending; I thought it was intriguing, well executed (no pun intended), not to mention suitably gruesome. The ambiguity surrounding the future of Avi Cohen frustrated me deeply - but only because I was so desperate to tie up all those pesky loose ends! Congratulations to Jonathan Kellerman! I should add that finding out that Pakadani Sharavi is due to feature in another novel absolutely made my day. I look forward to renewing our acquaintance. I've not been so impressed with a novel since reading King and Straub's *The Talisman*, and Pat Barker's *Regeneration* trilogy. Both radically different sure, but masterpieces nonetheless. 'The Butcher's Theatre' is up there with them. Truly a triumph.  
0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Critique of the book as racist  
Von Ein Kunde  
I read *The Butcher's Theatre* some years ago, and recently read the reviews featured here. I am surprised that no one commented on the book's most striking feature - its racist portrayal of the Arabs, and a corresponding idealisation of Israeli society. The frequent excursions into political history were very biased, and did not advance the plot. Given the author's standpoint, one knew from early on that the killer could not be Jewish, and this detracted from the suspense. The author is a psychologist, yet he shows very little understanding of his own prejudices. The virulent passage in which he accuses Arab men in the Israeli prison camp "Al-Ansar" of homosexuality (of all things - the least of their problems in that hell hole) was very revealing of Kellerman's own mind. He might like to read some European anti-Semitic fictions from the early 20th century, where Jews are routinely accused of corruption, murder, lust and homosexuality.  
0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Enjoyable, but not a page-turner  
Von bfgallow@hic.net  
I've enjoyed Kellerman as a new find this year; I've read every one of his books since April, *THE BUTCHER'S THEATER* being the last. Normally, I can't wait to finish his work, staying up later than my wife would like and taking longer lunch breaks than my boss would like. I usually finish his novels in 2-3 days. This one, however, didn't grab me like the others. Perhaps it was the unfamiliar locale that distracted me, but it took me 2 weeks to finish it, and frankly, it didn't bother me if I didn't get a chance to read it. The characterizations were good, as Kellerman's usually are, but I found the psychopath and his "political" leanings a little trite. I never felt like he was as scary as he was made out to be. This book also suffers from Kellerman's biggest weakness: endings. The "big confrontation" that is telegraphed from about half-way through the book is not entirely satisfactory.

Kurzbeschreibung  
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER  
They call the ancient hills of Jerusalem the Butcher's Theater. Here, upon this bloodstained stage, a faceless killer performs his violent specialty. The first to die brutally is a girl. She is drained of blood, then carefully bathed and shrouded in white. Precisely one week later, a second victim is found. Crisp . . . suspenseful . . . intense.  
The New York Times Book  
From the sacred Wailing Wall to monasteries where dark secrets are cloistered, from black-clad Bedouin enclaves to labyrinthine midnight alleys, veteran police inspector Daniel Sharavi and his crack team plunge deep into a city simmering with religious and political passions to hunt for a murderer whose insatiable taste for bloodshed could destroy the delicate balance on which Jerusalem's very survival depends.  
BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from Jonathan Kellerman's *Guilt*.  
From Library Journal  
The horribly mutilated body of a young woman, the first of a grim series discovered in Jerusalem, and Chief Inspector Daniel Sharavi takes charge. The ambitious scope of this extensively detailed and forcefully written novel, however, encompasses much more than mystery. Kellerman immerses the reader in the cultural ambience of Jerusalem and delves deeply into character and motivation; he creates well-drawn images, a vicious and unnerving psychopathic villain, and a chillingly gruesome confrontation scene. A stunning work from the author of *When the Bough Breaks*.  
REK  
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Pressestimmen  
"Crisp ... suspenseful ... intense." -- *The New York Times Book*  
"Spellbinding ... a fascinating tale." -- *Time*  
"A finish as tense and suspenseful as that of *The Day Of*

The Jackal or Eye Of The Needle. " -- USA Today "This one is going to scare the hell out of a lot of people on its way to the bestseller lists"-- Elmore Leonard From the Paperback edition.