



True Story: Murder, Memoir, Mea Culpa

By Michael Finkel

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In February 2002, *New York Times Magazine* writer Michael Finkel received a startling piece of news: a young man named Christian Longo, wanted for killing his entire family, had been captured in Mexico, where he'd taken on a new identity: Michael Finkel of the *New York Times*.

The next day, on page A-3 of the *Times*, came another troubling item: a note from the editors explaining that Finkel, having falsified parts of an investigative article, had been fired. Nonetheless, the only journalist Longo would speak with was the real Michael Finkel, and so Finkel placed a call to Oregon's Lincoln County jail, intent on getting the true story. So began a bizarre and intense relationship—a reporting job that morphed into a shrewd game of cat-and-mouse. Part mystery, part memoir, part mea culpa, *True Story* weaves a spellbinding tale of murder, love, and deceit with a deeply personal inquiry into the slippery nature of truth.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Carefully structured, rigorously reported, and fascinating till the end.” (Esquire)

“Astute and hypnotically absorbing . . . there’s a burning sincerity and beautifully modulated writing on every page.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

A riveting, disturbing and magnificent merging of two men at their lowest moments. (New York Newsday)

Combines crime and intellectual heft...could well become a classic of the genre. (Washington Post Book World)

Always fascinating, sometimes funny, often very weird . . . simply terrific from the first page to the last. (Jeffrey Toobin)

A compulsively readable amorality tale. (Boston Globe)

A memoir as creepy as it is compelling...expertly and suspensefully told. (Outside magazine)

About the Author

Michael Finkel has written for *National Geographic*, *GQ*, *Rolling Stone*, *Esquire*, *Vanity Fair*, the *Atlantic*, and the *New York Times Magazine*. He lives in western Montana.

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