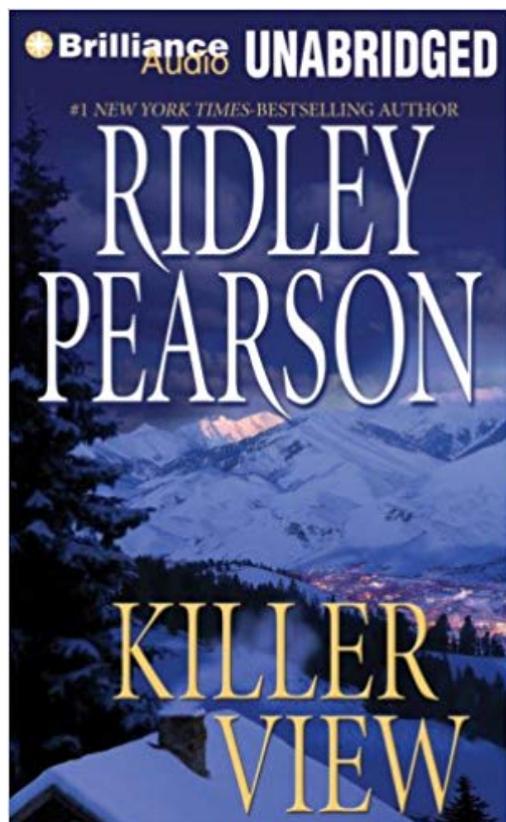


## Killer View (Sun Valley Series) by Christopher Lane, Ridley Pearson



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**Author:** Christopher Lane, Ridley Pearson

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When a skier goes missing at Sun Valley's Galena Summit, Sheriff Walt Fleming quickly assembles his crack Search and Rescue team and heads out into the snowy night. Despite the treacherous conditions, Walt and his group, including deputy Tommy Brandon and Walt's best friend, Mark Aker, set off on skis, accompanied by highly trained search dogs. Within minutes, something goes horribly wrong: one of their team is dead. By morning, Mark Aker has disappeared.

Torn between professional responsibility and the desperate urge to find his friend, Walt is further challenged by an unexplained illness at a local water-bottling plant that sends workers to the hospital and sets off biohazard warnings. Following threads of questionable evidence through the glitter of Sun Valley leads Walt to an unlikely—and darker—source, and reveals a crime played out on a much larger scale than he originally envisioned. Waist-deep in snow and knee-deep in lies, the life of his friend in the balance, Walt begins to suspect that the whole operation is controlled by people of great wealth and power, which leaves him where he started: out in the cold.

From adrenaline-charged start to explosive finish, *Killer View* is heart-stopping suspense at its very best.

"A terrific villain, an appealing protagonist, and breakneck pacing. Ridley Pearson writes thrillers, the kind that try to yank you to the edge of your seat and keep you there." —*Boston Sunday Globe*



## Reviews of the **Killer View (Sun Valley Series)** by Christopher Lane, Ridley Pearson

Ballazan

This was my first Ridley Pearson novel. I listened to this as an audio-book and probably wouldn't have bothered to read it under other circumstances. In fact, I listened to this as a kind of 'fall-back option' over a number of weeks, stopping and starting a few times, using it to fill in the gaps while I waited for an audio-book I really wanted to listen to become available from the library.

It's not a terrible novel but its pretty unremarkable stuff. My lack of enthusiasm is a result of:

1. Our hero, Sheriff Walt Fleming is a real dud of a character (at least in this novel). He struck me as remarkably indecisive and a little passive-aggressive. The guy needs to "Man Up" a bit.
2. A lot of the novel is dedicated to Walt's personal life which is pretty mundane stuff. His wife has left him, he's raising two children, his deputy is sleeping with his estranged wife, he likes a girl but is reluctant to make a move on her, and so on. Honestly, I just didn't care about any of it.
3. The motivation of the domestic terrorist group, the Samakinn, and its leader is a little sketchy. The group's doctrine is vague, the ultimate goal is a little thin, and their approach to getting there doesn't seem very well thought out.
4. The abduction and rape of a young woman felt really out of place in this novel. The abduction itself seems like overkill given the circumstances and the sexual assault doesn't appear to have any connection to anything else in the novel. If these guys are into sexual assault, wouldn't they have done this sort of thing before? If they only wanted information, would they take such apparent pleasure in the sexual assault? It just seemed out of sync with the rest of the novel.
5. I struggled with some far-fetched plot elements and I'm not convinced that a lot of the dots connected when all was said and done.
6. There is plenty of action, but somehow the novel still seemed to move sluggishly. The final face-off between Walt and the villain was over the top - and not in a good fun kind of way.

Overall, this was a marginally entertaining read. I wouldn't recommend it to anyone who isn't already a fan of the author, and even then....not with much enthusiasm.

Ielonere

In a sequel to last year's "Killer Weekend", Sun Valley Sheriff Walt Fleming is back, again juggling the mess of his personal life with his duties as a lawman.

Trying to solve the mystery of the disappearance of one of his best friends while also trying to solve the murder of that friend's brother, Fleming stumbles into a possible conspiracy with much broader implications and possible national ramifications.

It sounds better than it plays, unfortunately.

First, and most tediously, Fleming seems to be a very annoyingly passive-aggressive character who can't seem to get off the dime and make a decision about ANYTHING!

His wife's run off to shack up with his best deputy, abandoning him and their two young twin daughters. Fleming can't seem to decide how to deal with this in any way: fire the deputy? Fulfill his parental duties? File for divorce? Nada. Nothing happens, other than endless and boring angst and self-recriminations. He won't do or say anything much to the deputy; abandons his kids, essentially, to a caretaker; is afraid of his ex-wife; is too wussy to date anyone else.

We should care why?

As to the actual "mystery" itself, it's almost totally lost in the soap opera about Fleming's personal life and travel brochure descriptions of the Sun Valley area.

Yes, it's a beautiful place; I get it.

The characterizations of the secondary players range from thin and two-dimensional to virtually non-existent. Kira, the victim of a brutal rape in the opening segment, is a completely cartoonish character, for example; yet her rape is one of the driving events of the plot.

The "action" segments are strung together almost haphazardly. There's seldom a coherent flow to events, and some are completely skipped, only referred to in later dialogue in which you learn the outcome.

My three stars are generous, and are earned by Pearson's earlier works and the resultant goodwill from them.

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