



Killing the Messenger: A Story of Radical Faith, Racism's Backlash, and the Assassination of a Journalist

By Thomas Peele

Crown, 2012. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. A searing work of narrative nonfiction, *Killing the Messenger* explores one of the most blatant attacks on the First Amendment and free speech in American history and the small Black Muslim cult that carried it out. When a nineteen-year-old member of a Black Muslim cult assassinated Oakland newspaper editor Chauncey Bailey in 2007 — the most shocking killing of a journalist in the United States in thirty years — the question was, Why? Award-winning investigative reporter Thomas Peele examines the Black Muslim movement from its founding in the early twentieth century by a con man who claimed to be God, to the height of power of the movement's leading figure, Elijah Muhammad, to how the great-grandson of Texas slaves reinvented himself as a Muslim leader in Oakland and built the violent cult that the young gunman eventually joined. Peel delves into how charlatans exploited poor African Americans with tales from a religion they falsely claimed was Islam and the years of bloodshed that followed, from a human sacrifice in Detroit to police shootings of unarmed Muslims to the horrible backlash of racism known as the "zebra murders," and finally to the brazen killing of...



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