

David Grann's nonfiction book investigates the series of murders of wealthy Osage Nation People in 1920's Oklahoma. The author presents the evidence and tactics that the FBI gathered to find the killer and bring him to justice.

The Osage people faced a series of tragedies and betrayals. The United States Government forced them off their land again and again, breaking all treaties and promises. Finally, the Osage settled on a parcel of land in Oklahoma that was unsuitable for farmland and unwanted by white settlers. The Osage bought the land for themselves with the provision that they own it all. Including the land itself and any oil or minerals that lay beneath.

The oil was there and the Osage were set to profit. Suddenly, the Osage people were the wealthiest per capita population in the world. In 1923, they made \$30 million, which is the equivalent of \$400 million today.

The Federal Government began to insist that the Osage Indians were incompetent and needed guardians to oversee their accounts. This need for guardianship meant that the Osage became easy targets for cons, grafts, and marriage proposals.

That is when the Osage began dying in masse. The ways they died were always suspicious. Poisonings, bombs, and mysterious disappearances were among the many ways that they perished.

In 1924, J. Edgar Hoover was appointed the director of the FBI. He chose Tom White, an upstanding agent, to head up the Osage Team. The team was successful in their investigation. They arrested William Hale, a white rancher, who was related to the Osage by marriage.

The group had a lively discussion. The book is a well written, informative and gripping. It depicts an episode in American history that none of us had heard of before. All agreed that it is a book worth reading.

A film adaption of the book is currently under production. The film is starring Leonardo DiCaprio and directed by Martin Scorses. The film is to be released in February, 2019.