

# A BIRD WITH A KNIFE

*A Bird with a Knife examines the fifty-year mystery surrounding the mutilation of thousands of cattle across the American West. Following a veteran investigator, an Oregon sheriff, and the ranchers whose cases they're working to solve, this is a story about obsession, mystery, and how we live with the unknown.*

In the 1970s, thousands of cattle across the American West began turning up dead and mutilated with surgical precision. The cases spawned a media frenzy, and their strangeness ignited a string of theories: Aliens? Satanists? The CIA? Or predators - a widespread delusion? Despite years of investigation, no cases were solved. Now, after a long hiatus, there's been twenty cases in rural Oregon, and history seems to be repeating itself. There, a deputy sheriff is intent on solving the crimes, but as he examines the facts at hand, he must reckon with the decades of unsolved cases that came before.

Meanwhile in New Mexico, Dave Perkins has spent the past 47 years investigating this mystery. Perkins, and fellow investigator Chris O'Brien, have been on hundreds of mutilation site visits, making this mystery their life's work. Just as Perkins came to figure out what it would take to solve this mystery, he died. Before his death, he told us *"Cattle mutilation has brought me closer to enlightenment than anything I could have studied."*

*A Bird with a Knife* will weave between the active investigation playing out in rural Oregon and the arc of Perkins' lifelong investigation, which will take us through the history of this phenomenon using a trove of archival materials. We'll be taken from rural pasture lands and local sheriffs offices, to alien watchtowers and congressional hearings on UFOs. It will be quirky but emotional, informative but engaging, and will ask us to interrogate our relationship to the unknown. As the film closes, we will come to understand cattle mutilation as a strange and winding thread stitched through the mythology of the American West.



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