Non-Fiction: Profile of Israel Keyes

Samantha Koenig was an 18-year-old barista from Anchorage, Alaska. She had a bright future ahead of her and was on the cusp of adulthood, when Israel Keyes stopped her dead in her tracks. Keyes was meticulous when planning his rapes and murders. He would often case out the perfect spot well in advance, learning everything about the surrounding area, and his potential victims. Keyes considered other coffee stands around the area, before settling on the one Koenig worked at. His reasoning for this was that it opened later than the other stands in the area. Poor Koenig was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Keyes had never met the unsuspecting Koenig prior to the abduction, he had never even seen her at the coffee stand. When he approached the stand, close to closing time, it was the first time he had ever laid eyes on Koenig. Which makes Keyes' crimes even more chilling. Keyes asked for a coffee, which Koenig made and handed to her customer. At this point, he forced himself into the stand, zip-tied her hands together and asked where her car was. Koenig didn't have a car, so the pair walked together towards Keyes' white truck. Koenig managed to escape briefly, but Keyes tackled her to the floor and threatened her, telling her he had a gun and wouldn't hesitate to kill her.

Of course, the meticulous Keyes had prepared for the eventuality that Koenig would not have transportation. His truck was a ready-made kidnapping machine, with the licence plates and mounted toolboxes removed. He bound Koenig and drove around town for a while. During this time, he told his conquest that she was being kidnapped for ransom. This must have terrified Koenig as she said her family didn't have a lot of money. Keyes shared with her his plan that the whole town would chip in and that if she cooperated with him, she would be released completely unharmed. On their drive around town, Keyes realised Koenig didn't have her cell phone. He needed this for his ransom plans, so returned back to the coffee stand to pick it up, all the while with Koenig bound in his truck. Having retrieved the phone, Keyes sent a text to Koenig's boyfriend posing as Koenig, telling him she was going out of town for the weekend. He then sent a similar message to her boss at the coffee stand.

Keyes then drove to his home and tied Koenig up in a shed at the front of his house, turning the radio up so that no one could hear her calling for help. Keyes told her that he would know if she alerted the neighbours as he had a police scanner. He drove to Koenig's house to retrieve her ATM card from her truck, Koenig had been forced to tell him where it was, along with her pin number. When he arrived at the truck Keyes was confronted by the boyfriend, but he, unfortunately, managed to evade being caught. On the way back to where Koenig was held, Keyes tested the ATM card to check Koenig had given him the correct information. He now no longer had any use for his hostage and got down to what he did best... raping and killing her. After strangling her to death, Israel Keyes felt that little of the killing, that he left the body in the shed and went on a cruise with his family for two weeks. It seems like there's nothing quite like feeling the sun on your face while your victim is dead in your shed, waiting for your return.

On his return, he dismembered the two-week-old body and dumped it in a nearby lake. After this, Keyes made his fatal mistake. Upon travelling to Texas, Keyes used his victim's ATM card, the machine snapped a pic of his rental car. The police unknowingly had a killer they weren't looking for. He was arrested for credit card fraud. Yes, credit card fraud. After his extradition to Alaska, he confessed to killing Koenig. This is where the fun began for law enforcement... Once Keyes started talking, he didn't seem to want to stop. The information he shared about Samantha Koenig enabled law enforcement to find her body. As a result of this, the investigators believed Keyes to be telling the truth and they needed to know more.