

Title: *Catch and Kill* by Ronan Farrow

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## Why this Book?

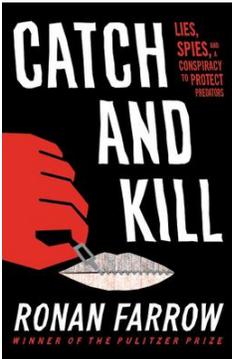
*Catch and Kill* is a timely, page turning piece of investigative journalism sure to spark discussion, regardless of how much you know about the Harvey Weinstein case. This book will open your eyes to the conspiracy, spies, double agents and secret foreign agencies working to bury stories and silence the victims of sexual abuse by wealthy, powerful men. This book will lead you to ask difficult questions and have important discussions about sexual abuse, justice, the #MeToo movement, intimidation and the silencing of victims.

## About the Author

Ronan Farrow is a contributing writer to *The New Yorker*, where his investigative reporting has won the Pulitzer Prize for public service, the National Magazine Award, and the George Polk Award, among other honours. He previously worked as an anchor and investigative reporter at *MSNBC* and *NBC News*, with his print commentary and reporting appearing in publications including the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Washington Post*.

Before his career in journalism, he served as a State Department official in Afghanistan and Pakistan. He is also the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *War on Peace: The End of Diplomacy and the Decline of American Influence*. Farrow is a graduate of Yale Law School and a member of the New York Bar. He recently completed a Ph.D. in political science at Oxford University, where he studies as a Rhodes Scholar. He lives in New York.

## About the Book



In a dramatic account of violence and espionage, Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter Ronan Farrow exposes serial abusers and a cabal of powerful interests hell-bent on covering up the truth, at any cost. In 2017, a routine network television investigation led Ronan Farrow to a story only whispered about: one of Hollywood's most powerful producers was a predator, protected by fear, wealth, and a conspiracy of silence. As Farrow drew closer to the truth, shadowy operatives, from high-priced lawyers to elite war-hardened spies, mounted a secret campaign of intimidation, threatening his career, following his every move and weaponizing an account of abuse in his own family.

All the while, Farrow and his producer faced a degree of resistance that could not be explained – until now. And a trail of clues revealed corruption and cover-ups from Hollywood, to Washington, and beyond. This is the untold story of the exotic tactics of surveillance and intimidation deployed by wealthy and connected men to threaten journalists, evade accountability and silence victims of abuse – and it's the story of the women who risked everything to expose the truth and spark a global movement.

(Excerpted from the publisher)

### Author Interview

Ronan Farrow explains the plot of *Catch and Kill* on theSkimm. [Watch interview \(2:16\)](#)

### Book Reviews

"Meticulous and devastating...part All the President's Men, part spy thriller." – Rasha Madkour, *Associated Press*

"At the heart of every great noir is a conspiracy of evil that imbues the initial crime uncovered by the hero with a weightier resonance than was immediately obvious. So it goes with *Catch and Kill*." – Elizabeth Bruenig, *The Washington Post*

"The connections between presidents, media moguls, and spies described in *Catch and Kill* are stranger than fiction. As a novel, it would be a page-turner. As a reported piece of nonfiction, it's terrifying." – Eliana Dockterman, *Time*

"The year's best spy thriller is stranger – and more horrifying – than fiction...He weaves a breathless narrative as compelling as it is disturbing...bracing exposes the rot that's

persisted across elite American institutions for decades.” – David Canfield,  
*Entertainment Weekly*

## Get the Book

Download *Catch and Kill* in your preferred format:

### eBook

[OverDrive for Burlington Public Library](#)

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### eAudiobook

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## Discussion Questions

For discussion tips & tech support: [How to Start Your Own Online Book Club](#)

1. How much did you know about Ronan Farrow and his investigation into Harvey Weinstein prior to reading this book? Have you read his original *New Yorker* article?
2. How did Harvey Weinstein get away with his sexual predation for so long? Who, or more important, *what* protected him?
3. Talk about the term “catch and kill” – and the ethics, or lack of ethics, reflected in that journalistic practice. Although catch and kill is typically deployed by tabloids, to what extent were the same, or similar, tactics practiced by NBC, Farrow’s own employer?
4. In addition to the scare tactics (threats, lawyers, firing) what were some of the hurdles Farrow and Rich McHugh faced in actually reporting. Why, for instance, was it so difficult to get women to talk on the record? Would you have had the courage to open up?
5. A number of women Farrow spoke to continued to have sexual encounters with the men who assaulted them. How can you explain that? Does that lessen the guilt of the men? Does that make the women complicit? Or is it part and parcel of the coercive powers of high-placed men?
6. Then there is Black Cube. Want to talk about that episode in Farrow’s life? What was the purpose of hiring the intelligence firm? What about the other methods of intimidation leveled at Farrow?

7. Talk about one of the most stunning revelations toward the end of the book: Matt Lauer. What is it with powerful men? Tackle that one.
8. Ultimately, will this book, and all the other coverage of sexual harassment, make a difference? Has it already? What about #MeToo? Has it made a lasting difference? In other words, do you foresee effective change – in both male behavior and society’s attitude toward female abuse?

[More discussion questions on \*Catch and Kill\*](#)

## Read-alikes

- [She Said](#) by Jodi Kantor
- [Had It Coming](#) by Robyn Doolittle
- [Missoula](#) by John Krakauer
- [Chasing Cosby](#) by Nicole Egan
- [Nobody’s Victim](#) by Carrie Goldberg