

# TEXAS TRUE CRIME STORIES

## **White Lies: Rape, Murder, and Justice, Texas Style**

**by Nick Davies**

**345.73 DAVIES**

*When the dead body of sixteen year-old Cheryl Ferguson was found dead in a Texas high school auditorium, the investigation prompted the arrest of Clarence Brandley, school janitor and only black man present at the scene of the crime. The charges of rape and murder were brought against him eventually bringing a conviction of guilt by the jury and a sentence of execution. For nine years, Clarence along with his lawyer and a team of private investigators battled the legal system eventually overturning the decision.*

## **Death Without Dignity: The Story of the First Nursing Home Corporation Indicted for Murder**

**by Steven Long**

**345.73 L**

*This is a very detailed account of the infamous trial involving six executives implicated in the murder of an 87-year-old woman and wrongful deaths of numerous other elderly patients. All of the horrific accounts of abuse and injustice within a corporate chain of Texas nursing homes are described as documented from the original Galveston DA's report and investigation.*

**Related Titles:**

**The Death Shift: the True Story of Nurse  
Gene Jones and the Texas Baby Murders**

**by Peter Elkind**

**364.152309 ELKIND**

## **Adams v. Texas**

**by Randall Adams**

**345.730252 ADAMS**

*For 12 years, Randall Adams sat on death row in Dallas waiting to be electrocuted for a crime he did not commit. Accused of murdering a police officer, Adams was tried, convicted and sentenced to death undergoing enormous personal anguish before finally being exonerated. Told in the first person by the Adams himself, this book reveals one man's nightmare up close and personal.*

**Related titles:**

**Chasing Justice: My Story of Freeing Myself after  
two Decades on Death Row for a Crime I didn't Commit**

**By Cook, Max Kerry**

**345.764 COOK**

## **Daddy's Girl: The Campbell Murder Case: A True Tale of Betrayal, Vengeance, and Texas Justice**

**by Clifford Irving**

**345.730252 IRVING**

*In 1982, James and Virginia Campbell were two of Houston's most renowned lawyers. A husband and wife team, they upheld the law and were pillars of the community in their own right until in 1982 when they were murdered side-by-side in their bed. Without any justifiable evidence and lack of a prime suspect, the case remained unsolved for years prompting rumors that the Campbells' third daughter and her boyfriend had a part to play.*

**Related Titles:**

**Blind Love**

**by Peter Meyer**

**364.1523 MEYER**

## **Texas vs. Davis : The Only Complete Account of the Bizarre Thomas Cullen Davis Murder Case**

**by Mike Cochran**

**345.764 C**

*In the early 1970's, T. Cullen Davis was CEO and largest shareholder of the Kendavis Oil Company, then one of the leading industrial corporations of the Texas oil boom. His wife Priscilla was one of the most beautiful and glamorously decorated women in Fort Worth until marital discord led to a separation in 1974. The subsequent divorce litigation went on for years as both Priscilla and Cullen continued to live separately; the former acquiring a new live-in boyfriend. One night in 1976 a lone gunman entered Priscilla's home opening*

firing on Priscilla, her boyfriend Stan Farr, and her daughter from a previous marriage Andrea Wilborn. Farr and Wilborn were both killed instantly but Priscilla escaped with minor wounds. Despite the eyewitness testimony of Priscilla and two others that Cullen himself was the gunman, he was acquitted of all charges only to be arrested again in 1978 for allegedly hiring a hit man to kill the judge in the couples' divorce case. Yet again he was acquitted due to lack of evidence and remains a free man today.

**Related titles:**

**The Great Texas Murder Trials: A Compelling Account of the Sensational T. Cullen Davis Case**

by David Atlee Phillips

345.73 PHILLIPS

**Blood Will Tell: The Murder Trials of T. Cullen Davis**

by Gary Cartwright

345.73 CARTWRIG

**Final Justice: The True Story of the Richest Man Ever Tried for Murder**

by Steven Naifeh

364.1523 NAIFEH

**And Deliver Us From Evil:**

**A Trilogy of Millionaires, Ministers, and Murder**

by Mike Cochran

364.152309 COCHRAN

**A Sniper in Tow: The Charles Whitman Murders**

by Gary Lavergne

364.15 LAVERGNE

*The infamous tower shootings at The University of Texas-Austin have been apart of Texas lore and national speculation since the event made headlines across the nation in 1966. On a bright day in August around lunchtime, former US Army sniper Charles Whitman opened fire from the top of a university tower taking sixteen lives and injuring countless others before finally being shot killed by police officers. Lavergne investigates several possible motives behind the shootings including Whitman's own troubled childhood and unstable mental condition at the time.*

**Dirty Dealing**

by Gary Cartwright

364.1523 C

*Noted author and journalist Gary Cartwright delves into the legendary case of the "Dixie Mafia", a west Texas family who for decades ran a dope smuggling racket in El Paso. Pursued by state police, border patrol and eventually the State Legislature, the 'Mafia' was still able to elude federal agents even after the assassination of a federal judge was linked to a hitman within their gang.*

**Without a Trace: [Inside the Robert Durst Case]**

by Marion Collins

364.1523 COLLINS

*Robert Durst was the son of a New York real estate mogul who, together with his brother, continued in the family business amassing a personal wealth into the billions. When Durst was seven, he reportedly witnessed his mother's suicide; an event which doctors later attributed to his bizarre and even schizophrenic behavior. It was his wife Kathleen who first disappeared in 1982 followed by the murder of his longtime friend Susan Berman in 2000 which first led authorities to suspect Durst of criminal behavior. Although questioned, he was acquitted of charges in both cases only to be arrested for the murder of his Galveston neighbor Morris Black in 2001. Despite missing his court date and becoming a fugitive only to be caught and tried; he was acquitted of the murder and given probation with a verdict of self-defense.*

**Mother Love, Deadly Love: The Texas Cheerleader Murder Plot**

by Anne Maler

364.1523 MAIER

*Another bizarre criminal case involving a Houston woman that spawned yet another TV movie, the Texas cheerleader murder plot made headlines across the country and brought the Houston port town of Channelview into the national spotlight. Wanda Holloway, the mother of a Texas high school cheerleader, wanted so much for her daughter to be head cheerleader that she hired an assassin for the purpose of "eliminating" the competition. The formulated plot almost succeeded until the police caught and convicted Wanda for attempted murder and sentenced her to 15 years in prison.*

**The Mystery of I-45 [videorecording]**

VC 364.1523 MYSTERY

*Transcript of an original A&E program chronicling a prolific string of grisly murders near Interstate 45 in Houston since 1971. This documentary examines the cases of several of the murder victims and the evidence pointing towards the possibility of a serial killer still on the loose.*

**Deliberate Indifference**

**by Howard Swindle**

**364.1523 SWINDLE**

*Swindle presents the story of three Hemphill, TX police officers involved in the savage beating and abuse of an East Texas man on Christmas day 1987. The incident, in which the victim was killed later in a hospital, prompted a full-scale investigation into the legality of municipal police jurisdiction.*

**Related Titles:**

**The First Waco Horror: The Lynching of Jesse Washington and the Rise of the NAACP**

**by Patricia Bernstein**

**364.1523 BERNSTEI**

**The Zani Murders**

**by Kelly Fero**

**364.152309 FERRO**

*This is the true story of a UT-Austin graduate responsible for the brutal slaying of at least three people in the late sixties and early seventies. Known to have psychopathic tendencies, Frederick Zani was originally let off after a faulty investigation but convicted 14 years later after evidence given by his wife.*

**Sleeping with The Devil**

**by Suzanne Finstad**

**364.152309 FINSTAD**

*When Texas millionaire and career-adventurist Richard Minns met the much younger Barbra Piotrowski of California, love soon blossomed in spite of their age difference and the fact that Minns was already married. Barbra quit life as a college student and moved to Houston as Minns' girlfriend only to find herself endangered by Minns' increasingly obsessive behavior. One night after recently breaking ties with Minns, Barbra was mortally wounded in a drive by shooting paralyzing her from the waist down. Though Minns was suspected and eventually implicated in the attempted murder plot, the prosecutors never gained enough evidence to convict allowing Minns to flee the country.*

**Sacrifice: The Tragic Cult Murder of Mark Kilroy in Matamoros: A Father's Determination to Turn Evil into Good**

**by Jim Kilroy**

**364.152309 KILROY**

*The Kilroys of Santa Fe, TX enjoyed a fruitful life with their two sons Mark and Keith until Mark's sudden disappearance shattered their livelihood. Mark was a third year pre-med student in 1989 when he disappeared during a Spring Break trip in South Texas. Nearly a month of searching availed nothing until officials crossed the border into Mexico and unearthed Mark's dismembered remains. Mark had been abducted by a drug cult and made the victim of a blood sacrifice ritual along with over 15 other people.*

**Related titles:**

**Buried Secrets**

**by Edward Humes**

**364.152309 HUMES**

**Texas Crime Chronicles: Outrageous True Stories of Murder and Mayhem in the Lone Star State**

**The Editors of Texas Monthly Magazine**

**364.1523 TEXAS**

*From the editors of Texas Monthly magazine comes an anthology of some of the most compelling criminal cases ever to occur in the state of Texas. From UT Tower sniper Charles Whitman to satanic sacrifices, this book chronicles several of the most notable, most horrific, and most grisly true crime stories in state history.*

**Long Dark Road: Bill King and Murder in Jasper, Texas**

**by Ricardo Ainslie**

**364.1523 AINSLIE**

*In this, the most recent work on the tragic death of James Byrd Jr. in Jasper, TX; Ainslie outlines the motives and circumstances involved in the highly publicized investigation and trial. Giving rise an abundance of news stories, a made-for-TV movie and a PBS documentary, the case inspired much debate over hate-crime legislation policies in the subsequent 2000 presidential election.*

**Related titles:**

**Hate Crime: The Story of a Dragging in Jasper, Texas**

**by Joyce King**

**364.1523 KING**

**A Death in Texas: A Story of Race, Murder, and a Small Town's Struggle for Redemption**

**by Dina Temple-Raston**

**364.1523 TEMPLERA**

**Out of Control:**

**the Clara Harris Murder Case**

**by Steven Long**

**364.1523 LONG**

*In 2002, Clara Harris became so distraught amidst her husband David's affair with another woman that she ran him over with her car in the parking lot of a Houston-area Hilton Hotel. The case became a focal point for numerous 24/7 news shows as well as the topic for the made-for-TV movie Suburban Madness starring Sela Ward.*

***Suburban Madness [videorecording]***

**DVD SUBURBAN**

**"Are You There Alone?":**

**The Unspeakable Crime of Andrea Yates**

**by Suzanne O'Malley**

**364.1523 OMALLEY**

*In 2001, the nation was shocked to hear of a Texas woman who drowned her five children in her home's bathtub and then called the police to confess her crime. Andrea Yates was the wife of a NASA engineer and seemingly happy mother of five boys when this horrendous event occurred in 2001 spawning debates over the woman's mental stability prior to the trial in which she was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.*

***Related Titles:***

**Breaking Point**

**by Suzy Spencer**

**364.1523092 SPENCER**