

# **TRUE STORIES OF LAW & ORDER**

## **Introduction**

### **Chapter 1**

**LAW & ORDER:** An eccentric cross-dresser is accused of murdering three people, one of whom was his wife.

**TRUE STORY:** Acquitted of murdering a neighbor, transvestite Robert Durst remains a suspect in his wife's disappearance.

### **Chapter 2**

**LAW & ORDER:** The wife of a war veteran hires a hit man to kill her husband.

**TRUE STORY:** Weeks after returning from combat duty in the Gulf War, Anthony Riggs was killed in a life-insurance scheme hatched by his wife and brother in law.

### **Chapter 3**

**LAW & ORDER:** A well-meaning but misguided priest comes to the aid of a poor college student accused of murdering his wealthy girlfriend.

**TRUE STORY:** Bonnie Garland, a student at Yale University, was murdered in her Scarsdale home by fellow student and ex-boyfriend Richard Herrin; the Catholic church spoke out in Herrin's defense.

## **Chapter 4**

**LAW & ORDER:** Sports Rage is offered up as a defense in the murder of a hockey coach.

**TRUE STORY:** Hockey dad Thomas Junta beats Michael Costin to death after their kids' practice game in Massachusetts.

## **Chapter 5**

**LAW & ORDER:** The murder of a taxi driver is linked to a famous author and the brilliant ex-con he has taken under his wing.

**TRUE STORY:** Pulitzer Prize-winning author Norman Mailer helped get Jack Abbott, a convict with literary promise, paroled. Six weeks later, Abbott killed a waiter and was sent back to prison.

## **Chapter 6**

**LAW & ORDER:** Neighbors look on as a woman is viciously attacked on the street. Years later, the woman must relive her ordeal when new questions surface about the guilt of her rapist.

**TRUE STORY:** Kitty Genovese was repeatedly stabbed on a street in a Queens, NY, neighborhood. No one called the police until after she had been killed.

## **Chapter 7**

**LAW & ORDER:** A sweet-faced preteen and her slow-witted friend kill a little boy.

**TRUE STORY:** Two British ten-year-olds were charged with the abduction and murder of two-year-old James Bulger in Liverpool.

## **Chapter 8**

**LAW & ORDER:** The prime suspect in a brutal murder argues his innocence based on the fact that he was in an alcoholic blackout while committing the crime.

**TRUE STORY:** The murder of a married couple went unsolved for four years until Paul Cox confessed to the crime during an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

## **Chapter 9**

**LAW & ORDER:** A soap opera star is attacked and left for dead by an obsessed fan.

**TRUE STORY:** Hollywood starlet Rebecca Schaeffer is murdered outside her home by a fan who had been stalking her for several years.

## **Chapter 10**

**LAW & ORDER:** A white, former ballerina is charged with shooting three black teenage boys on the subway.

**TRUE STORY:** On a winter day in 1984, Bernie Goetz shot four black teenagers when they approached him on the subway demanding money. Was it self defense or vigilantism?

## **Chapter 11**

**LAW & ORDER:** A police officer is stabbed to death in the park by a killer who finds religion after she's apprehended.

**TRUE STORY:** Death row inmate Karla Faye Tucker underwent a religious transformation and lobbied to have her death sentence commuted. Despite the support of Newt Gingrich and Pat Roberston, she was executed in 1998.

## **Chapter 12**

**LAW & ORDER:** A woman dies at the hands of a privileged preppie with a penchant for rough sex.

**TRUE STORY:** Robert Chambers strangled Jennifer Levin in New York City's Central Park in what the press quickly dubbed "The Preppie Murder."

## **Chapter 13**

**LAW & ORDER:** The leader of a Neo-Nazi organization is charged for a murder his members committed.

**TRUE STORY:** Skinhead leader Thomas Metzger was tried for the slaying of Ethiopian immigrant Mulageta Sera, even though he wasn't present during the murder.

## **Chapter 14**

**LAW & ORDER:** A young girl is killed during an unconventional psychological treatment session.

**TRUE STORY:** Candace Newmaker, a ten-year-old Colorado girl, was smothered to death during a rebirthing session with her therapists.

### **Chapter 15**

**LAW & ORDER:** Two men are executed in a trendy Italian restaurant after someone insults a patron as she's singing.

**TRUE STORY:** Mafia wise guy Louis "Louie Lump" Barone, a regular at the exclusive Harlem eatery Rao's, shot and killed a fellow patron for insulting him.

### **Chapter 16**

**LAW & ORDER:** An exorcism performed on a troubled teen causes the young girl's death.

**TRUE STORY:** In Milwaukee, eight-year-old Terrance Cottrell was smothered during a church exorcism intended to cure his autism.

### **Chapter 17**

*LAW & ORDER:* The repressed memory of an emotionally fragile woman holds the key to a thirty-one-year-old murder.

**TRUE STORY:** Californian George Franklin was tried and convicted of the murder of an eight-year-old girl based on his daughter's recovered memory of the crime.

## **Chapter 18**

*LAW & ORDER*: A gangster is the number one suspect in the murder of a businessman, but the FBI stymies the cops' investigation.

TRUE STORY: Whitey Bulger, head of Boston's Winter Hill Gang, spent decades murdering, robbing and extorting his neighbors at will, thanks an old neighbor in the FBI.

## **Chapter 19**

*LAW & ORDER*: Two punks commit a random murder, leaving ADA Jack McCoy searching for a motive.

TRUE STORY: New Jersey teens Thomas Kosovich and Jason Vreeland ambushed and killed a pizza delivery boy for the "thrill" of it.

## **Chapter 20**

*LAW & ORDER*: A young Jewish man flees to Israel to avoid a murder prosecution.

TRUE STORY: The Israeli government refused to extradite Samuel Sheinbein, an American teenager charged with murder in Maryland.

## **Chapter 21**

*LAW & ORDER:* A pit bull bred to be aggressive kills a woman and her dog in the park.

TRUE STORY: Diane Whipple, a popular lacrosse coach, was mauled to death by her neighbor's dogs in San Francisco.

## **Chapter 22**

*LAW & ORDER:* A fire in a Dominican night club leaves dozens of patrons dead.

TRUE STORY: Cuban boatlift refugee Julio Gonzalez committed the worst mass murder in American history when he set fire to the Happy Land night club in the Bronx, killing 87 people.

## **Chapter 23**

*LAW & ORDER:* Shoddy forensic science leads a homicide to be wrongly classified as a suicide.

TRUE STORY: Oklahoma City police chemist Joyce Gilchrist's faulty forensic work sent innocent men and women to prison—and cost one man his life.

## **Chapter 24**

*LAW & ORDER*: An unbalanced young man with a grudge against women goes on a shooting spree in Central Park.

TRUE STORY: Misogynist Marc Lépine killed fourteen women in an anti-feminist tear through a Canadian engineering school armed with a semi-automatic rifle.

## **Chapter 25**

*LAW & ORDER*: A witness to a robbery turns out to be a fugitive running from a twenty-year-old murder conviction.

TRUE STORY: Sixties radical Ira “Unicorn” Einhorn fled the country after police discovered his girlfriend’s badly decomposed body inside a trunk in his closet.