# UNSPEAKABLE ACTS

TRUE TALES OF CRIME, MURDER, DECEIT, AND OBSESSION

SARAH WEINMAN

UNSPEAKABLE ACTS. Copyright © 2020 by Sarah Weinman. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information, address HarperCollins Publishers, 195 Broadway, New York, NY 10007.

HarperCollins books may be purchased for educational, business, or sales promotional use. For information, please email the Special Markets Department at SPsales@harpercollins.com.

 $Ecco^{\$}$  and  $HarperCollins^{\$}$  are trademarks of HarperCollins Publishers.

FIRST EDITION

Designed by Paula Russell Szafranski

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data has been applied for.

ISBN 978-0-06-283988-6

20 21 22 23 24 LSC 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

# OTHER NOTABLE CRIME STORIES

What to Read, Listen To, and Watch

#### **ESSAYS AND FEATURES**

- "Remembering the Murder You Didn't Commit" by Rachel Aviv (New Yorker, June 19, 2017)
- "The Indispensable Guide to Early American Murder" by Casey Cep (NewYorker.com, June 2016)
- "The Girl Detectives" by Marin Cogan (Topic, August 31, 2017; originally appeared in *Pop-Up Magazine*)
- "The Mystery of Leslie Arnold" by Henry Cordes (*Omaha World-Herald*, September 3–5, 2017)
- "Improbable Cause" by Amy Dempsey (Toronto Star, April 2018)
- "An Odd, Almost Senseless Series of Events" by Thomas Dybdahl (The Marshall Project, June 2018)
- "The Strange, Spectacular Con of Bobby Charles Thompson" by Daniel Fromson (*Washingtonian*, March 2017)
- "'I Killed Them All': The Life of One of America's Bloodiest Hitmen" by Jessica Garrison (*BuzzFeed*, May 2018)
- "Framed" by Christopher Goffard (Los Angeles Times, September 3, 2016)
- "Home Free" by Jennifer Gonnerman (New Yorker, June 20, 2016)
- "The Making of Dylann Roof" by Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah (*GQ*, September 2017)
- "A Positive Life" by Justin Heckert (GQ, April 28, 2016)

- "The Fugitive, His Dead Wife, and the 9/11 Conspiracy That Could Explain Everything" by Evan Hughes (*GQ*, June 28, 2016)
- "Accused" by Amber Hunt (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2016)
- "The Final, Terrible Voyage of the 'Nautilus'" by May Jeong (*Wired*, February 2018)
- "Murder, He Calculated" by Bob Kolker (*Bloomberg Businessweek*, February 8, 2017)
- "The Encyclopedia of the Missing" by Jeremy Lybarger (Longreads, January 2018)
- "The Murder House" by Jeff Maysh (Medium, October 2015)
- "Finding Lisa: A Story of Murders, Mysteries, Loss, and, Incredibly, New Life," by Shelley Murphy (*Boston Globe*, May 2017)
- "How an Aspiring 'It Girl' Tricked New York's Party People" by Jessica Pressler (*New York*, May 2018)
- "Bad Boys: How 'Cops' became the most polarizing reality TV show in America" by Tim Stelloh (The Marshall Project, January 2018)
- "Ted Bundy's Living Victim Tells Her Story" by Tori Telfer (*Rolling Stone*, March 2019)

#### BOOKS: NARRATIVE NONFICTION

Shane Bauer, American Prison (Penguin Press, 2018)

Maureen Callahan, American Predator (Viking, 2019)

Casey Cep, Furious Hours (Knopf, 2019)

Kate Winkler Dawson, Death in the Air (Hachette Books, 2017)

David Grann, Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI (Doubleday, 2017)

Monica Hesse, American Fire: Love, Arson, and Life in a Vanishing Land (Liveright, 2017)

Bill James and Rachel McCarthy James, *The Man from the Train: The Solving of a Century-Old Serial Killer Mystery* (Scribner, 2017)

Kirk Wallace Johnson, The Feather Thief (Viking, 2018)

Patrick Radden Keefe, Say Nothing (Doubleday, 2019)

Jill Leovy, Ghettoside (Spiegel & Grau, 2015)

Wesley Lowery, They Can't Kill Us All (Little, Brown, 2017)

Michelle McNamara, I'll Be Gone in the Dark (Harper, 2018)

Hallie Rubenhold, The Five (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2019)

Eli Sanders, While the City Slept (Viking, 2016)

Kate Summerscale, The Wicked Boy (Penguin Press, 2016)

Sarah Weinman, The Real Lolita: A Lost Girl, an Unthinkable Crime, and a Scandalous Masterpiece (Ecco, 2018)

Albert Woodfox, Solitary (Grove, 2019)

# BOOKS: MEMOIR, ESSAYS, CRITICISM

Alice Bolin, Dead Girls: Essays on Surviving an American Obsession (William Morrow, 2018)

Leah Carroll, Down City (Grand Central, 2017)

Myriam Gurba, Mean (Coffee House Press, 2017)

David Kushner, Alligator Candy (Simon & Schuster, 2016)

Rachel Monroe, Savage Appetites: Four True Stories of Women, Crime, and Obsession (Scribner, 2019)

Carolyn Murnick, The Hot One (Simon & Schuster, 2017)

Sarah Perry, After the Eclipse (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017)

Tori Telfer, Ladykillers (Harper, 2017)

Piper Weiss, You All Grow Up and Leave Me (Harper, 2018)

### **PODCASTS**

Accused (Cincinnati Enquirer)

Bear Brook (New Hampshire Public Radio)

Bundyville (Oregon Public Radio/Longreads)

Crimetown (Gimlet Media)

Crime Writers On (Partners in Crime Media)

Criminal (Radiotopia)

Dirty John (LA Times/Wondery)

Dr. Death (ProPublica/Wondery)

Headlong: Running from COPS (Pineapple Street Media/Topic Studios)

In the Dark (American Public Media)

Serial (WBEZ/This American Life)

S-Town (WBEZ/This American Life)

Someone Knows Something (CBC)

The Ballad of Billy Balls (Cadence 13/Crimetown Presents)

The Clearing (Pineapple Street Media)

Uncover: The Village (CBC)

## FILM AND TELEVISION

American Crime Story (Season 1: The People v. O.J. Simpson; Season 2: The Assassination of Gianni Versace)

American Vandal

Evil Genius

Making a Murderer

Mindhunter

Mommy Dead and Dearest

O.J.: Made in America

Tales of the Grim Sleeper

The Jinx

The Keepers

The Last Resort

Unbelievable

When They See Us

Wild Wild Country