



## **Evidence of Love: A True Story of Passion and Death in the Suburbs**

*John Bloom , Jim Atkinson*

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**Evidence of Love: A True Story of Passion and Death in the Suburbs** John Bloom , Jim Atkinson  
**Edgar Award Finalist: The “sensational” true story of two desperate housewives and the killing that shocked a Texas community** (*Los Angeles Times Book Review*).

Candy Montgomery and Betty Gore had a lot in common: They sang together in the Methodist church choir, their daughters were best friends, and their husbands had good jobs working for technology companies in the north Dallas suburbs known as Silicon Prairie. But beneath the placid surface of their seemingly perfect lives, both women simmered with unspoken frustrations and unanswered desires.

On a hot summer day in 1980, the secret passions and jealousies that linked Candy and Betty exploded into murderous rage. What happened next is usually the stuff of fiction. But the bizarre and terrible act of violence that occurred in Betty’s utility room that morning was all too real.

Based on exclusive interviews with the Gore and Montgomery families, *Evidence of Love* is the “superbly written” account of a gruesome tragedy and the trial that made national headlines when the defendant entered the most unexpected of pleas: not guilty by reason of self-defense (*Fort Worth Star-Telegram*).

Adapted into the Emmy and Golden Globe Award–winning television movie *A Killing in a Small Town*, this chilling tale of sin and savagery will “fascinate true crime aficionados” (*Kirkus Reviews*).

## Evidence of Love: A True Story of Passion and Death in the Suburbs Details

Date : Published December 20th 2016 by Open Road Media (first published January 1984)

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Author : John Bloom , Jim Atkinson

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# **From Reader Review Evidence of Love: A True Story of Passion and Death in the Suburbs for online ebook**

## **Angie and the Daily Book Dose says**

So I was home alone and watched the Amazon Prime Instant Stream of this old Lifetime type movie.....in a fit of excessive girlishness I bought a couple of true crime books based on my day of movie watching. I digress.

I've come to the conclusion that the genre of True Crime was better written in the 1970's - 1980's. This book was actually very interesting and well written. It tells the story of a suburban wife and mother who commits an axe murder in Wylie, Texas. The victim was a friend, and the murder itself was total Overkill (cue Men at Work). The victim was hacked 41 times. The chilling part was when the coroner determined that the victim was most probably alive for most of the blows.....The woman who committed the crime; her story is very interesting.

This book seems to be heartier than most of the modern True Crime I've Read. I compare it more to Fatal Vision, and The Sea Will Tell....., than I would any of the modern works in the genre which seem to be churned out with frightening regularity by certain authors who specialize in the field.

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## **Alison says**

"Marriage and love, once united in a supreme white goddess, had become warring forces within the soul of every woman."

Brilliant book.

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## **j e w e l s [Books Bejeweled] says**

### **FIVE ENGROSSING STARS**

I actually read this for the first time back in 1985 when I was a mere toddler. Well, maybe a little older than that. I grew up in Plano, TX (go Wildcats!) and I remember this particular Friday the 13th, 1980, almost like it was yesterday.

I had just graduated from high school a few days before. It was the hottest summer in a sweltering Texas history of summers. And most importantly, the very first Friday the 13th movie was being released in theaters that night.

But that afternoon, an average housewife walked in to her friend's house after vacation bible school and butchered her with an ax. FORTY splintering and brutal whacks to her face.

This happened about 5 miles away in a new subdivision of homes right down the road from the noteworthy Southfork Ranch of Dallas TV fame.

**At first, there was news that an escaped mental patient was the killer. OMG. We were actually living out the Friday the 13th movie plot. The unresolved panic went on for a couple of weeks before an arrest was made. And it wasn't a known psycho, it was Candy Montgomery. Sweet, beloved popular church member.**

This case, more than any other in my life, shook me to the core. It was so close to home. It was so crazy. So bizarre. Our little town was obsessed with wanting to know why...I started reading anything I could get my hands on--which wasn't much. We didn't have Reddit to scour and hash out our theories and we didn't have Twitter to get the latest updates. Heck, even the newspaper articles were already a couple of days old by the time they were published and delivered to the front driveway.

What we did have was gossip. Chatter, stories and tales, but all speculation. None of it made sense. You can imagine by the time this fantastic book was published a few years later, it was snatched off the shelves so fast I'm sure it broke records. Finally, we could have some answers about what happened that unforgettable day. AND WHY???? (The Perfect Nanny anyone?)

John Bloom and Jim Atkinson were local journalists at the time and somehow, who knows how, they were able to get up close and personal with all the major players in this demented story. I think journalists were a lot more trusted and respected back then. You don't see a lot of murder defendants spilling their stories to news reporters these days.

We hear first-hand from Candy Montgomery, her childhood, her strict upbringing, salacious details of her marriage. She tells Bloom exactly what happened that murderous day in a chilling, hypnotic tone. I don't believe Montgomery has ever given anymore interviews--so it is especially effective in this book. Bloom takes us from beginning to end (yes, the shocking trial verdict!!!) and leaves no details out. Yes, it's juicy and sensationalist, but utterly mesmerizing.

I hadn't thought of this book in awhile, but I saw it mentioned in a Goodreads Blog featuring psychological suspense authors Laura Lippman and Alice Bolin sharing their favorites. Thanks for reminding me to have another look at one of the best true crime novels out there! I'm pleased to report it still holds up. 38 years later, it is as bizarre and fascinating as ever.

*Brush with infamy note: I sat right behind Candy Montgomery at a movie in Dallas. This was either right before her trial or afterwards, I don't remember which movie (definitely not Friday the 13th) probably a rom-com because I remember her smiling and laughing during it. Yes, I stared at her for a long time. Trying to read her face. I could not see any traces of an ax-murderer. Just an ordinary woman with pretty skin, permed hair and white teeth. Which was all the more terrifying to me.*

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## **Jenni Snider says**

True Crime is my guilty pleasure genre. I read a couple of them every year. This one was rather boring but I slogged through it anyway. Apparently there wasn't enough information to make it long enough so they went into a lot of unnecessary details. I didn't really need to know the life story of the defense attorney or the church pastor as it really had nothing to do with the case.

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## **Jim Thomas says**

Reading Evidence of Love I became so absorbed in the story and especially the characters that I felt like I was right there in the middle of what happened. I was so amazed and fascinated by this book that when I was in the area where it took place, I went to the neighborhood of the murder and also drove by the little motel where the lovers met. I even talked to one of the citizens of the community and asked her opinion about all of it (she knew the people involved quite well) and man, did she have a lot to say! I was almost sorry I asked. She got all bent out of shape remembering it and was practically yelling at me before she was through. Read the book and you'll understand how the people in this small town near Dallas would have such strong emotional reactions.

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## **Teddie says**

### **The story about two young church-going mothers and a bloody axe...**

This true crime takes place in a small town near Dallas in 1980. Candy Montgomery and Betty Gore were friends, both married and raising small children, and both very active in their small church. One day, one of them is murdered, hit 41 times with an axe, and apparently the other one did it.

I'm giving this book five stars because every time I put it down, I couldn't wait to get back to it. What a well-written book! In chapter one, Candy is in her car, hurrying back to the church to help with lunch on the last day of Bible School. She is concentrating very hard on the tasks at hand. No one sees her bandaged toe or notices the cut near her hairline.

At the beginning, the reader knows of the grizzly murder, and who did it. But not why. And not the details of exactly what happened in that utility room on that morning.

If you enjoy true crime, and haven't read this book yet (written in 1984) or are familiar with the story, it should hold your interest. Seems to me it's hard to find true crime books published today that are this good. One minor fault: The title on the cover. Doesn't seem like a good fit for the contents inside.

Five stars.

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## **Hari Brandl says**

A very well-written book about a puzzling case. I enjoyed reading it because Mr Bloom's style is straightforward, concise, organized and presented for maximum understanding by the reader. There is perhaps too much information he presents about the earlier years of the primary characters, but that can be debated. However, I will mention two specific things that struck me about the content provided:

- 1) Mr Bloom used the word "wretch" when he meant "retch".
- 2) At one point toward the very end of the book, Mr Bloom writes to the effect that Candy knew where some candy was in Betty's living room, and that this was a detail "a bald-faced liar wouldn't know". I don't know what being a liar has to do with having the ability to know where objects are in a room. Maybe that's me, though.

Other than those minor points, it is a good read

But ultimately I'm not convinced the outcome is valid. Some of testimony was unbelievable to me, and I disagree with the verdict, which has nothing to do with the quality of the writing.

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### **Ionia says**

This is the kind of nonfiction book that makes you read the blurb a second time to ensure you didn't accidentally pick up a crime thriller instead of a true crime book. It is so easy to look at just the surface of people's lives and make assumptions about them based on that image alone, but this book blows the cover off of those illusions.

This is a story of rage, love, hidden desires and consequences and one that will leave you reading breathlessly until the very last page. It is hard to put this story down once you get into it. The author did a good job remaining mostly impartial, but at times, sympathetic and keeping the story about the victim.

If you are looking for an excellent and detailed true crime book, may I recommend this one. You will be thankful that you weren't in this situation.

This review is based on a complementary copy from the publisher, provided through Netgalley. All opinions are my own.

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### **Sandy James says**

This was a well-researched story, but I can't give it a 5-star rating for two reasons.

First, it takes A LOT of liberties with stating speculation as fact. It reads more like fiction than non-fiction. Second, the authors go a little too far in showing exactly how much research they did--to the point they often drown the readers in superfluous details.

But this was a decent true crime read. Not "Ann Rule" by any stretch, but much better than the majority of the genre.

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### **Lisa says**

What can I say that hasn't already been said about this novel? It is a true crime novel based on the murder of a young woman in the suburbs of Dallas in the summer of 1980. The writing style of John Bloom allowed the reader to travel easily between the present and the past. The facts were present and it made a genuinely good read. As a fan of true crime, I rate this one up there with Ann Rule's work and would recommend to others.

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### **Fishface says**

Very interesting, but very poorly written axe-murder case. I knew I was in trouble when I read, on the very first page, that the main character "started to wretch." The killer's defense was one of the most laughable in criminal history. I'm happy to say the author gave a great deal of respect and consideration to the victim, who

was evidently a very troubled woman. Tell me something, seriously... What is it about Texas and axe murders? Is it the heat?

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### **Julie says**

This is the best True-Crime book I have EVER read. Fascinating--you won't be able to put it down.

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### **Kristen says**

This book is the can't put down true story of the murder of Betty Gore by Candy Montgomery that happened back in 1980 in Wylie, Texas. It's a riveting read with descriptions of local area businesses, churches, and other landmarks where this tragic saga unfolded. It's a must-read for fans of true crime and especially for those who live in the Dallas area near where the crime took place.

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### **♥ Marlene♥ says**

Evidence of Love", by John Bloom and Jim Atkinson , is about a real-life axe murder that took place several years ago in Texas.

it has great reviews on amazon and I am definitely looking forward to reading this one.

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on Wednesday, January 30, 2008 I wrote...

Very interesting read. Different than the normal true crime books.  
You will find out only at the end of the book what really happened.  
Very well written and a book I recommend for any true crime reader.

Completed this yesterday. January 29th 2008  
4.5 stars out of 5

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### **Amy says**

359 p.



