



DADDY'S GIRL: The Campbell Murder Case

Clifford Irving

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James Campbell, well-liked Texas lawyer, successful although reputedly unscrupulous, and Virginia, his paralegal wife of 40 years, are found brutally shot to death in the bedroom of their Houston home. With no witnesses and only allegations of family greed, incest, and sexual abuse, the murder remains unsolved for years. The most likely suspects, the victims' youngest daughter Cindy, and her ex-Marine boyfriend, David West, had an alibi the police could not crack.

And then West fell in love with Kim Paris, a sexy ex-stripper turned private investigator. She coaxed a confession from him that led to a complex murder case exploding into national news.

Clifford Irving wrote: "I started out in Houston as a writer on assignment . . . but I became an investigator, a friend to many of the *dramatis personae*, and a trial witness. As a result, to my discomfort, I helped to determine the outcome of events . . ."

The story of Cindy, a tortured woman, and David, a man determined to do the right thing even if it required multiple murder, is as spectacular and thrilling a true-crime courtroom drama as you will ever read.

DADDY'S GIRL: The Campbell Murder Case Details

Date : Published March 15th 2014 (first published December 31st 1988)

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Author : Clifford Irving

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James Neff says

Too long

The story line was good but the book was way too long. Part 2 could have been omitted and the story line would have been just as good. If you are going to read the book, I would consider skipping the second part, in my opinion it doesn't add anything to the real story that is being told.

Abhishek says

Nice narration but a little biased perspective

The author has narrated the chain of events and built the crescendo very nicely. In fact the suspense at one point keeps you on the edge. But the disturbing part I felt in the book was the author's own confession of how he himself was influencing certain events in the background of the ongoing court proceedings and how he himself was more sympathetic towards the accused parties and was even jeopardizing the state's prosecution. In my opinion as an author of such narratives you have to stay neutral and not try to interfere or present your own opinions. Other than that very nicely written.

Hannah Jones at Watts says

I think this is the book. It's about a girl who is good friends with her 15 year old sister. One day when her sister doesn't come back from her study date, she looks in the garage and sees her sister on the ground with a sticky mask. As she peels it off, blood pours out. Follow the young girl and her father trying to figure out her sister's murderer. I am now done!

Samantha Gilbert says

Crazy! This is a good book about a tragic story. I like the way the book is written. Though a bit long, it tells all the necessary details of the Campbell family and how things went horribly wrong.

If you like true crime, I recommend this one.

Leigh Podgorski says

Writer's Bias & Ego Kill What Good Story Is Here

Clifford Irving continues to be his own worst enemy. Not quite able to live down his infamous Howard Hughes hoax, Irving has to work very hard to re-gain his audience's trust. Might I suggest commenting on what should be a reportage of facts, centering himself smack-dab at the core of his tale, writing adolescent and churlish descriptions of women he deems not proportioned correctly-- that is fat, would not be the way to accomplish that.

When Irving can move himself out of his way, we can see why readers buy his books. Some of the writing is smooth, powerful, and unsustainable.

And this tale is nothing short of Southern Gothic.

However, even at the Kindle low price of 2.99 it is simply not worth the effort.

And what is up with the use of the * as in s*x-i kid you not. That and the ice replaced with an apostrophe in the F word. When was this published? On top of everything else this was extremely distracting. And, yeah full-time.

I kept wondering what Queen Ann would have done with this material.

Skip it.

Melody says

Boring....really dragged. Got to page 135 and couldn't take much more.

David Sprague says

Long but enjoyable. There were too many characters to keep track of. If I did not set it down constantly I could have kept up with the multitude of characters. I probably restarted within the 43 chapters 30 times. A character is introduced and later the new first name or even last name left me lost.

Most of the book was the 3 trials. I stayed interested throughout. If I were in any jury I would have thought both main characters were guilty but with very little direct evidence I would have had a hard time giving much of a sentence knowing that.

The author put down a few characters too much past where it was needed. There was too much shaming overweight and living standards. That was a turn-off. Maybe it had to be mentioned but it was dwelled on too much to where it was overkill.

Nita Clark says

Interesting!

A well written and interesting court room drama, but way too much detail. Recommend to all who are interested in true crime stories.

Nancy says

This 617 page book took me way too long to read and that is sincerely the nicest thing I can say about it. This book had me seriously questioning myself on my reading hobby. Read this if you must for a legal how-

to, but not for the true crime aspects, because that is all over and done with by like page 50 or some other unGodly early page number and no, I will not go over and pick it up to look up the exact page thankyouverymuch. So as the title suggests, this book is less about the actual murder of Mr. and Mrs. Campbell in Houston, Texas in the early 80's and more about prosecuting the murderers, specifically one of them. The author went to Texas to investigate the crime and became a little too wrapped up in the case, to the point where he was offering legal advice to the attorneys and being subpoenaed to testify. Don't worry; I'm not spoiling anything here that the author hasn't already spoiled himself....and by that I mean at least twice, no three times...

Consider yourself warned. This book really isn't all that great in the annals of true crime books. You can probably Wikipedia this case and save yourself some time. Also, as a PS, this case has also been covered by Jack Olsen in his book, "Cold Kill," although apparently before the outcome of the murder trials.

Karen says

Long but enjoyable

One of the most intriguing true crime books i have ever read. I am from Houston and lived for several years in Montrose so I couldn't get enough of hearing about the city back around the time of my birth. I found the closeness of the author to the story to be a positive.

Ms Vickie says

Well Written!

This is the first book I have read by Clifford Irving and I thought it was very well written. He draws you into the story, I felt like I was there in the court room! I won't give anything away in the outcome of the case, but I think daddy's girl had a lot of people fooled.

Kathe Masterson says

This was a long laborious read. I have read many true crime books and I have never seen the author insert him or herself in the book as much as Mr. Irving did. I felt the book was more about Mr. Irving than the victims or the crime.

One of the things that annoyed me was the apparent challenge that Mr. Irving has some with non perfect people. There were several descriptions of people in the book that were (in my opinion) needlessly rude. For example in his description of Cindy Campbell he described her face as pig like with her eyes and snout swollen. His description of the prosecutors co-council is equally unkind. I did not feel that these descriptions added anything to the book and in most instances distracted from the story.

The book was not all bad, there were brief examples of excellent writing that gave me hope the book would improve, but sadly it did not.

Overall the book was too long and the author inserted himself too much in to the trial and the book.

Mary says

Lawyer James Campbell and his wife Virginia shot in bed while their grandsons slept on the floor at the foot of their bed. This made headlines for years in 1970s Texas. Suspicion focused on probably bipolar Cindy, the third of their four children, and her sometime lover David West. But proof was very difficult to come by. The better book is Jack Olsen's *Cold Kill: The True Story Of A Murderous Love* published in 1987. This one needs drastic editing.

Beverly says

One of my free Book Bub selections. True crime is one of my guilty pleasures - maybe from a latent desire I had to go into forensics to probe the criminal mind.

It took me forever to read this book - granted I had a lot of distractions. The story is about murder done Texas style - which means it's done big with sex, drugs, incest, and a lot of strange characters proving you just don't really know what goes on behind close doors in middle America. I'm afraid after reading this book I'm still not quite sure what really happened.

Maybe I'm spoiled, but nobody does real crime like Ann Rule.

There were typos in the Kindle version.

Nicole says

It's been kinda a slow start...But the book is starting to pick up now..It's crazy to read this and see what some people are capable of doing in this world..I'll let you know more when I get further along in it.
