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The Desert Murders: How Junk Science, Witness Contamination, and Arizona Politics Condemned an Innocent Man

By Mary Lash

Grist Mill Press, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. The Desert Murders: How Junk Science, Witness Contamination, and Arizona Politics Condemned an Innocent Man reconstructs the case of Scott Lehr, a man sentenced to death in Arizona - despite abundant evidence of his innocence. In 1991-92, an epidemic of seven rapes in the desert outskirts of Phoenix mystified local law enforcement. Television and newspaper reports described the assaults against girls and women ranging in age from 10 to 47 as related, for the victims had all accepted rides from personable men, whom some of the women described as generally similar. The theory quickly evolved that one man - nicknamed the I-17 rapist or the baby-seat rapist - was guilty of all the attacks. When the bodies of Margaret Christorf, Michelle Morales, and Belinda Cronin were found in the desert over a six-month period, investigators assumed that the hypothetical serial rapist had committed those murders as well. Based primarily on a vague resemblance among the cars used in some of the assaults, detectives arrested 32-year-old Scott Lehr, a devoted father of three with no criminal...



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