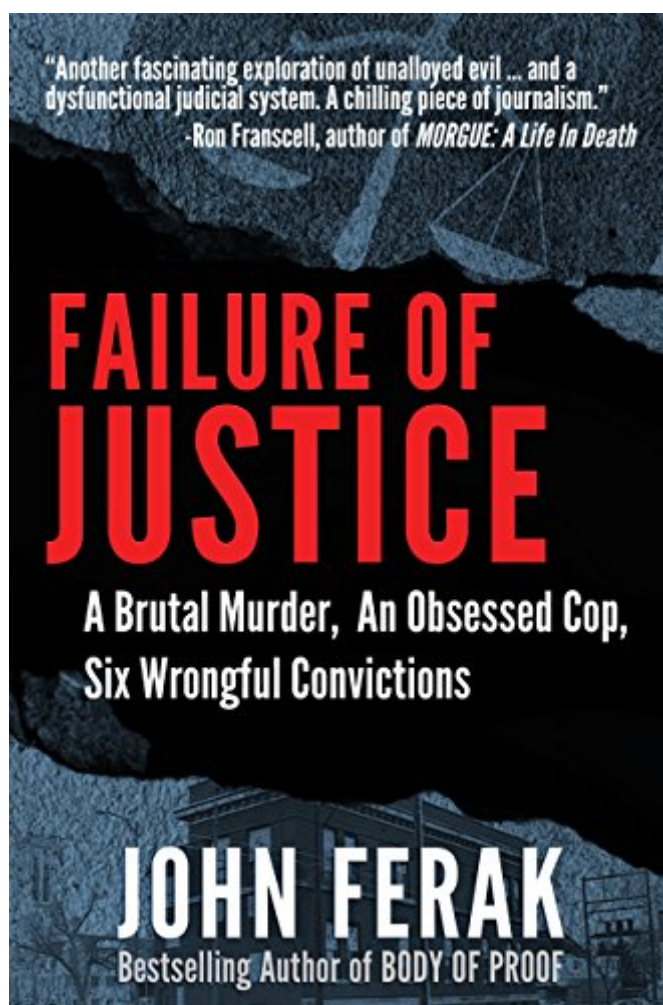




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Failure Of Justice: A Brutal Murder, An Obsessed Cop, Six Wrongful Convictions



Synopsis

Six Times More Explosive Than 'Making A Murderer'!" John Ferak has carved his necessary true-crime niche with another fascinating exploration of unalloyed evil in overlooked places, and a dysfunctional judicial system. A chilling piece of journalism." — Ron Franscell, author of *THE DARKEST NIGHT* and *MORGUE: A LIFE IN DEATH* From The Bestselling Author of *BODY OF PROOF* and *DIXIE'S LAST STAND* Everyone felt the same way: small-town Nebraska widow Helen Wilson didn't have an ounce of meanness inside her body. Then on February 5, 1985, one of the coldest nights on record, the unthinkable happened. The sixty-eight-year-old resident was murdered inside her second-floor apartment, but why? Local residents were floored. What type of monster would target a vulnerable widow to fulfill his homicidal sexual fantasies? The crime scene was eerily ritualistic. The trail of evidence turned frustratingly cold until an astonishing breakthrough occurred four years later. A torn scrap of money recovered at the crime scene became the presumed smoking gun that helped solve the hideous crime. The news of six arrests was absolutely stunning to the locals in this easy-going, blue-collar community of 12,000 residents. But why were six loosely connected misfits who lived as far away as Alabama, Colorado and North Carolina being linked to the rape and murder of a beloved Nebraska widow? As they sat in jail, the constant threat of Nebraska's barbaric electric chair scared the daylights out of these troubled souls, except for one of them. Joseph White remained defiant in his fight to prove his innocence. It didn't matter. All six of the condemned were convicted of murder and sent away to prison for the ghastly crime. The town moved on, convinced that justice was served. For more than twenty-five years, the Beatrice 6 rotted in prison, until the unthinkable occurred in 2008. Now, the red state in America's Heartland faced a real quandary that could only mean one thing: Nebraska had a colossal FAILURE OF JUSTICE on its hands. In his latest thrilling true crime book, bestselling and award-winning author John Ferak explores the murder, investigation, trial, conviction and eventual exoneration--the largest such ever in the United States--of the Beatrice 6. For more great WildBlue Press reads, visit our site at wildbluepress.com

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Customer Reviews

This book was exceptionally written! It gave detailed info about the people who were involved, the facts of the crime and the way it all came about. I found it astonishing how not one but five people could be manipulated into believing they were at a crime they knew nothing about, by the authorities, by using head games. Especially a crime this horrendous. That is scary! I was appalled with the authorities involvement, it was so clear these people knew nothing about the crime. They ruined six lives for their own gratification! And even more upsetting is that the authorities that felt this was wrong... Just walked away without even trying to help them or find the truth. Unbelievable! If I hadn't know this was a true story, I'd have said the book wasn't even a believable plot. But, they do say truth is sometimes stranger than fiction... This book is proof. I'm adding this because when I wrote this review I was so overwhelmed! These stories need to be told! We need to be aware of the possibility of becoming a victim... It does happen... It needs to be stopped... The only way is through knowing and not being naive.. I thank you for bring this to our attention!

In a time where, wrongful convictions and calls for Criminal justice reform are getting plenty of attention. John Ferak delivers a book that is a compelling study on The Beatrice six case. I highly recommend this heartbreaking look at when Law enforcement fails not only the accused but the victims Family as well. Every bit as compelling as Making a Murderer which coincidentally it parallels in many ways, with one huge difference. This is a story that more people should be made aware of.

Book Review *Failure of Justice* by John Ferak True crime is a genre with a lot of sub-categories. There's serial killers, non-murder crime books, mob/gang crime, cold cases, and most recently miscarriages of justice. John Ferak's book *Failure of Justice* falls into that latter category. It is almost like a twisted season of *Fargo* (which is a compliment). A woman is brutally raped and murdered in a small Nebraska town (Beatrice). The crime goes unsolved for four years. Then deputy of questionable reputation (a failed pig farmer) picks up the case. Through deception and coercion, one suspect after another is forced to turn against others, confession and implicating the others. Only one of these alleged perpetrators digs his heels in and claims his innocence. It is a spiderweb of unfounded accusations and confessions that have nothing to do with the physical evidence. Soon the "Beatrice Six" are convicted on their own mutual words and sent off the prison. And that's just the start of the story! What Ferak does is untangle this complicated plot, one spiderweb strand at a time. What the reader comes to see is that these people, in some cases virtual strangers, have been manipulated by the legal system. It is raw and unfair and downright scary. This could happen to anyone. When you watch HBO's outstanding *The Night Of* it is a mirror of what the Beatrice Six went through. John Ferak kept me in-line as a reader as he unravels this story no small task given the complexities of the case and the number of characters involved. Outstanding work here. He takes us through the eventual release of these perpetrators and the pursuit of the real killer. This is a story of horrific miscarriages (multiple) of justice of small towns, bitterness, nepotism, and the gritty underbelly of almost every community. I was riveted through the entire book and the level of detail provided is outstanding. The only thing I can compare this too is *Mardi Link*'s *Wicked Takes the Witness Stand*, a similar story in the same sub-genre of true crime. *Failure of Justice* should be required reading in law schools as a lesson in what not to do.

Excellent, I enjoyed the in-depth, detailed description and explanation of exactly how human nature, human failure, human weakness and the hindrances of a legal system and laws, can combine to steer evidence and unscientific investigation in the wrong direction. 6 people ended up having their freedom taken from them for many years and their lives irrevocably altered as a result. A very frightening situation and made more so because once you are ensnared in such a situation, you are at the mercy of fate and happenstance.

This was an amazing story about 6 people in Nebraska who were wrongfully convicted or were frightened into taking a plea deal in the vicious murder of 68 year old Helen Wilson in her 2nd floor apartment during the night of February 5, 1985. Three men and three women, some with a history of mental illness, were sent to prison over it, some for nearly 20 years. But after DNA testing became commonplace it ultimately proved that all 6 were completely innocent in the case. The case had gone unsolved for 4 years by the local police in Beatrice, Nebraska. Then a former local cop who had quit to take up hog farming decided he was going to make them look lame by solving the case himself. He was eventually hired by the Sheriff of the county and got the go-ahead to take the case on. His misdirected investigation ended in the arrest of the 6 people later called "The Beatrice 6". Most of them denied any involvement but were eventually persuaded with threats of the electric chair to confess. A lot of failures happened in many areas for this whole thing to go through, such as bad polygraph readings, bad reading of DNA test results, false confessions and ignored exculpatory evidence.

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