



# The Professor and the Prostitute: And Other True Tales of Murder and Madness

By Linda Wolfe

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**Acclaimed true-crime journalist Linda Wolfe presents the chilling case of a college professor who bludgeoned to death the prostitute he loved—plus eight other true stories that expose the psychological forces that drive seemingly respectable people to commit violent, unexpected crimes**

A professor at Tufts University School of Medicine, a suburban husband, and father of three, William Douglas secretly frequented Boston's Combat Zone, a world of pimps, pushers, and porn shops. One night in 1982 he met twenty-year-old prostitute and former art student Robin Benedict, with whom he began a torrid affair that would end in murder.

With the revealing psychological insights that made her previous books such riveting character studies, Wolfe depicts the catastrophic results of Douglas's living out his secret love fantasies and the complex police investigation that brought the professor to justice.

Among the eight shorter true-crime stories included in this volume is the case of the notorious Marcus twins, Manhattan gynecologists and drug addicts who were found dead together in an Upper East Side apartment. Wolfe also takes readers into the gay and transsexual clubs of 1980s New York for a twisted story of love and murder, and to the Texas suburbs, where a privileged fourteen-year-old boy takes a semiautomatic to his parents one sweltering July morning.

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**Bibliography**

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Review

“Powerful.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“In *The Professor and the Prostitute*, Linda Wolfe has told an extraordinary suspense story with elegance, precision, and insight. It’s very seldom that we pick up a book wanting to know why something happened and put it down feeling that we’ve come to understand.” —Judith Rossner, *New York Times*–bestselling author of *Looking for Mr. Goodbar*

“Fascinating . . . compelling.” —*The New York Times*

About the Author

Linda Wolfe is the author of five true-crime books: *The Professor and the Prostitute and Other True Tales of Murder and Madness*, *Love Me to Death*, *Double Life*, *The Murder of Dr. Chapman*, and *Wasted: Inside the Robert Chambers–Jennifer Levin Murder*, an Edgar Award nominee and a *New York Times* Notable Book. She is also the author of *My Daughter, Myself*, a memoir; *The Literary Gourmet*, a classic cookbook; and *Private Practices*, a novel. Wolfe’s articles and essays have appeared in a wide variety of magazines, among them *Vanity Fair*, the *New York Times Magazine*, and *New York* magazine, of which she was a contributing editor. She currently writes a column about books for the website [www.FabOverFifty.com](http://www.FabOverFifty.com).

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