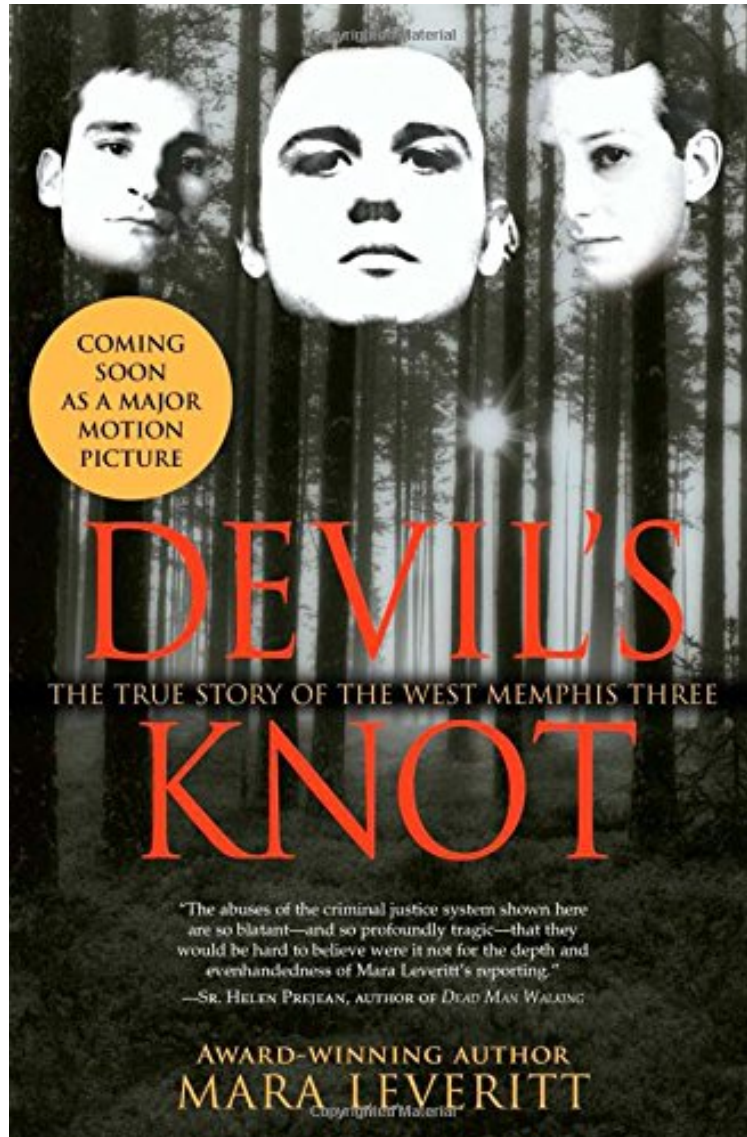


[Free read ebook] Devil's Knot: The True Story of the West Memphis Three

## Devil's Knot: The True Story of the West Memphis Three

*Mara Leveritt*

*\*Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#138170 in Books Atria 2002-10-08 2002-10-08Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.25 x 6.00l, #File Name: 0743417593432 pages | File size: 58.Mb

**Mara Leveritt : Devil's Knot: The True Story of the West Memphis Three** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Devil's Knot: The True Story of the West Memphis Three:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. When Justice is UnjustBy ReactingtoLitAmerica's criminal justice system is far from perfect for many reasons. When three 8-year-old boys are gruesomely murdered, the people of West Memphis are outraged and scared. The police and detectives need to solve the crime to mitigate people's fear. Unfortunately, they accomplish this objective by finding suspects and attempting to prove their guilt rather than truly

finding those responsible for the murders. The police, the district attorney's office, and the judge all contribute to the lack of justice in this case as three teenage boys are found guilty of murder with nothing more than circumstantial evidence. The unethical practices of those in charge show that those who wield power can often have more control than anyone desires. Leveritt presents an unfortunate, disturbing example of how our justice systems creates injustice. We must remember, "There by the grace of God go I" for anyone could find themselves in a similar situation.<sup>3</sup> of 3 people found the following review helpful. Love this book. By Kindle Customer I absolutely loved this book. However it makes me sick the way the police department handled this case. Not to mention the way the judge wouldn't even give these three boys a fair trial. No matter what their defense tried to do the judge would not let them defend their clients the way they should have been. My belief is the step-dad is the guilty one. Why did this little town not want the Arkansas State Police involved? What were they trying to cover up? This book lays out just how sometimes people have to prove their innocent. All the police, judge, lawyers had these three boys guilty before they even arrested them! How can did they get by talking to these kids without a lawyer or a parent present? Why did they only record or videotape only when they wanted to? Lots of questions about this police department. I only wish someone would investigate the police judge! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not conclusive of course, but blows some big holes in case. By Jack I I did not truly remember this story, even though I live in Arkansas, as I was a younger teenager at the time. After reading this alongside other online stories and recollections, I am embarrassed by the willful ignorance of the prosecutors and a judge vying for higher office. The mismanagement of evidence and railroading of someone with low mental capacity, alongside relying heavily on the local "occult expert" generating Salem like hysteria is ludicrous. The police truly needed some outside help with this one. Just glad these guys made it out the other side.

On the evening of May 5, 1993, in the small town of West Memphis, Arkansas, three eight-year-old boys disappeared. The next afternoon, the naked bodies of Stevie Branch, Christopher Byers, and Michael Moore were found submerged in a nearby stream. The boys had been bound from ankle to wrist with their own shoelaces and severely beaten. Christopher had been castrated. The crime scene had yielded few clues, and despite Christopher's castration, there was a remarkable absence of blood. The police were stymied, and citizens' alarm mounted as weeks passed without an arrest. Finally, a month after the murders, detectives announced three arrests -- and a startling theory of the crime: that the children had been killed by members of a satanic cult. Detectives attributed their break in the case to a former special education student, seventeen-year-old Jessie Misskelley Jr. Although Jessie insisted he knew nothing of the crime, after eight hours of questioning, police announced that he had implicated himself and accused two other teenagers, eighteen-year-old Damien Echols and sixteen-year-old Jason Baldwin. Damien and Jason both denied Jessie's account, and Jessie himself recanted it within hours, but by then all three had been charged with the murders. With no physical evidence connecting anyone to the crime, prosecutors contended that the murders bore signs of "the occult" and that the three accused teenagers possessed a "state of mind" that pointed to them as the killers. As proof of the defendants' mental states, they introduced items taken from their rooms -- such as books by Anne Rice and album posters for the rock group Metallica. Jurors found all three teenagers guilty. Jessie and Jason were sentenced to life in prison. Damien was sentenced to death. While the verdicts were popular in Arkansas, an HBO documentary raised questions about the lack of evidence in the case, and a Web site was formed to support the inmates, now known as "The West Memphis Three." When the Arkansas Supreme Court affirmed the verdicts, state officials insisted that anyone who questioned the trials simply did not know "the facts." Now, for the first time, an award-winning investigative reporter examines that official stand. In riveting narrative, "Devil's Knot" draws readers into the drama of a modern-day courtroom dominated by references to Satan. In laying out "the facts" of this still-unfolding case, it offers a frightening look into America's system of justice.

From Publishers Weekly Arkansas investigative journalist Leveritt (*The Boys on the Tracks*) presents an affecting account of a controversial trial in the wake of three child murders in Arkansas. In May 1993, three eight-year-old boys were found mutilated and murdered in West Memphis, a small and tattered Arkansas town. The crime scene and forensic evidence were mishandled, but a probation officer directed the police toward Damien Echols, a youth with a troubled home life, antiauthoritarian attitudes and admiration for the "Goth" and Wiccan subcultures. Amid rumors of satanic cult activity, investigators browbeat Jesse Misskelley, a mentally challenged 16-year-old acquaintance of Echols, into providing a wildly inconsistent confession that he'd helped Echols and a third teen, Jason Baldwin, assault the boys. Leveritt meticulously reconstructs the clamorous investigation and two jury trials that followed. All three boys were convicted on the basis of Misskelley's dubious statements and such "evidence" as Echols's fondness for William Blake and Stephen King. Leveritt, who makes a strong argument that the convictions were a miscarriage of justice, also suggests an alternative suspect: one victim's stepfather, who had a history of domestic violence, yet was seemingly shielded by authorities because he was a drug informant for local investigators. Sure to be locally controversial, Leveritt's carefully researched book offers a riveting portrait of a down-at-the-heels, socially conservative rural town with more than its share of corruption and violence. Copyright 2002 Reed Business

Information, Inc. From Library Journal Arkansas Times investigative reporter Leveritt explores the 1993 West Memphis Three murder convictions, which have been the subject of two HBO documentaries. The book is arranged chronologically, from the crime through the trial, and dispassionately dissects the prosecution's case against three teens who were convicted of the grisly murders of three eight-year-old boys. Leveritt interviewed the principals, reviewed the police file and trial transcripts, and leads the reader to conclude from her exhaustive research (430 footnotes) that the case was botched, improperly based on a single confession from a retarded youth and the defendants' alleged ties to satanic rituals. Well written in descriptive language, the book is an indictment of a culture and legal system that failed to protect children as defendants or victims. Highly recommended. Harry Charles, Attorney at Law, St. Louis Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. Arkansas Times Devil's Knot becomes the best horror novel you've ever read, one of those that leaves you wondering what new sick dread might be lying in wait on the next page, one of those that telegraphs the frustration and fear of its characters through the cover like a chunk of iron struck with a mallet. The monster Leveritt reveals in the end, however, is more terrifying than even the fork-tailed bogeymen conjured by West Memphis police and prosecutors to fit their crime. --