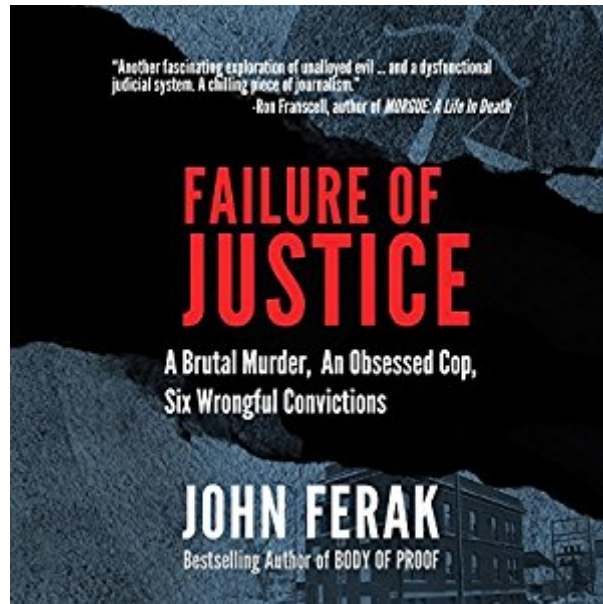


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# Failure Of Justice: A Brutal Murder, An Obsessed Cop, Six Wrongful Convictions



## Synopsis

Everyone felt the same way: Small-town Nebraska widow Helen Wilson didn't have an ounce of meanness in her body. Then, on February 5, 1985, one of the coldest nights on record, the unthinkable happened. The 68-year-old resident was murdered inside her second-floor apartment. But why? Local residents were horrified. 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 easygoing 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 frightened 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 had been served. For more than 25 years, the Beatrice 6 rotted in prison. In 2008, DNA tests proved that there'd been a terrible failure of justice, but what would it mean to the prisoners?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Back in 1985, in Nebraska, a widow was murdered in a very brutal way. Six people were arrested,

convicted and the case everyone thought, was closed. Fast Forward: 2008, the case is brought back into the spotlight, and the reality of a wrongful conviction comes into play, A fantastic book. A must read! John Ferak once again has done a magnificent job in bringing to light, how justice had failed.

This book is a must read for true crime readers. John has a way of putting his reader in the book. Readers are able to visualize what is going on as if they were there. His description of the people involved lets you get to know them as people in your life. Sercey overwhelmed me with his idiotic logic. He was no more a cop then some kid on the street who has watched CSI for years and proclaims he can solve a case. NO ONE looked at the mental back grounds of these six people. This was the hardest part for me. Having worked in corrections for years it is easy to manipulate someone with a low IQ. All law enforcement involved that are still alive should be very ashamed of themselves. The psychic was a joke. As a psychic myself who has worked on several murder cases; police cases are number 1 priority for me. She put the police case on the back burner to make money doing readings. Plus she was WRONG. Let me explain that we are only tools. MY job is not to solve the case that is up to police.

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 then 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!

Author John Ferak tells a riveting and heartbreaking story that was not only about the murder and rape of an elderly widow, but also a travesty of justice when 6 young people are falsely accused of the horrific crime! It's almost like 2 stories in one! There is the story of the murder of 68 year old

Helen Wilson on February 5, 1985 in the small Nebraska town of Beatrice. The Beatrice PD have a few clues but not many. This was before the technology of DNA profiling. They had a blood type of their suspect. They knew the motive probably was NOT robbery since they found a fair amount of cash still in her apartment. Then there is a former police officer who wants to be like his tv heroes, Starsky and Hutch. He wants to make a name for himself and he doesn't care who he takes down as long as it's big! He follows a few "leads", (which in my opinion was nothing more than gossip), gets himself hired on as a sheriff's deputy and proceeds to build his case against 6 people that were easy marks to make his name! Of course he talks others in on this. A prosecuting attorney, and others. Without giving away too much of the story, they pretty much brainwashed 5 of the 6 accused into believing that they did do this horrific crime. Those 5 took plea deals for lighter sentences and to avoid the death penalty! The one who went to trial was convicted and sentenced to life without parole. He never once quit fighting to prove his innocence. It took 20 years before all 6, The Beatrice 6, were exonerated. That left the Beatrice PD with the task of starting all over to find the real killer. Justice definitely Failed! Well researched and the chapters were written in a way that made the story flow and was hard to put down!

FAILURE OF JUSTICE is about! the Beatrice 6 who were wrongfully accused of the brutal, ritualistic rape and murder of an elderly widow in Beatrice, Nebraska, and then railroaded by law enforcement into prison for a crime they did not commit. Gage County hog farmer Burt Searcey was three years removed from the Beatrice police force. He quickly became obsessed with solving the gruesome murder. Searcey arrested the six for the terrorizing rape and murder. The six of the codefendants were convicted and sentenced to prison in 1990. All of the six people who hardly knew each other, where all in the wrong places at the wrong times, and all get railroaded into convictions for a murder they did not commit? James Dean was now obligated to plead guilty in the death of Helen Wilson thanks to the failed polygraph test results. But there remained a giant problem: Dean remained forceful in his claims of innocence – even after being told he flunked that dubious polygraph test. The prosecutor and sheriff reached the conclusion that Dean needed a friendly visit from Doc • Wayne Price, the clinical director at the Blue Valley Mental Health Center. That helped seal the prosecution's case without giving too much away. Then in 2008, One of the accused, Joseph White was fighting for a chance to allow DNA testing. Would the DNA tests cement his guilt or lead to a shocking new revelation? Was Helen Wilson's twisted rapist and killer still out there somewhere, waiting to be identified? How could not just one person, but an overzealous police investigation that generated false confessions and false evidence get so out of hand. This book will

make you realise how quickly things can get out of hand and how your life can change forever in a split second

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