

history detectives

TUKUFU: DECEMBER 30TH 1884. RESIDENTS OF AUSTIN, TEXAS. PREPARE TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR. BUT AS THE CLOCK STRIKES TWELVE -- A NIGHTMARE BEGINS FOR THE CITY. THAT NIGHT A 25 YEAR-OLD COOK MOLLIE SMITH IS ATTACKED IN HER BED.

TUKUFU: IN THE LIGHT OF DAWN... GRUESOME REVELATIONS. A ROOM IN VIOLENT DISARRAY. A BLOODY AX. AND A BROKEN, RAVAGED BODY... THERE WOULD BE SEVEN MORE KILLINGS THAT FOLLOWING YEAR

SCHecter: In many ways it was more horrifying than the Jack the Ripper murders

TUKUFU: AND THE ORGY OF VIOLENCE WOULD ALMOST TEAR THE CITY APART.

Wagner: "They are starting to say the whole leadership of the city is broken"

TUKUFU: THREE YEARS BEFORE JACK THE RIPPER TERRORIZED LONDON. EIGHT YEARS BEFORE H.H HOLMES STALKED THE CHICAGO WORLD'S FAIR –

Wes: "More butchery, another women terribly stabbed." They can't imagine that the same person might be doing all these crimes.

TUKUFU: WERE THE AUSTIN DEATHS THE WORK OF THE COUNTRY'S FIRST SERIAL KILLER?

TUKUFU: ON THIS HISTORY DETECTIVES SPECIAL INVESTIGATION WE UNCOVER THE BLOODY DETAILS.

SAFRIK: Part of this is sexually assaulting the victim.

TUKUFU: AND BRING MODERN DAY FORENSICS.

KIM ROSSMO: "He's really in the top 1% of the profile."

KAIAMA: Definitely in the hot zone.

TUKUFU: ... TO FIND THE SUSPECTS

TUKUFU: "Can you tell me the profile of the man who committed these murders?"

TUKUFU: AS WE ANSWER THE QUESTION..... WHO WAS THE TEXAS SERVANT GIRL KILLER?

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HDSI: Texas Servant Girl Murders
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TUKUFU: Here's our next case: 1885, Servant Girl Murders. This is a murder mystery in the Deep South, that's been all but forgotten

KAIAMA: Eight people were killed – six African-Americans, and two whites – all attacked in the middle of the night several of them with an ax

TUKUFU: THE MURDERS TOOK PLACE OVER A YEAR AND WERE SHOCKINGLY VIOLENT TERROR CONVULSED THE CITY -- ONE OF THE VICTIMS WAS ONLY ELEVEN YEARS OLD.

TUKUFU: The thing is, about as soon as these murders mysteriously started, BAM it's over and they're gone. And the person who did it has never been caught.

WES: You know, and what I find so curious is that in spite of the fact that this case garnered national attention, everybody's forgotten about it today. And what's more nobody even knows if there were eight murderers or one murderer.

KAIAMA : Well you know this is 1885, three years before Jack the Ripper. Before HH Holmes the 1893 Chicago World's Fair –

WES: That's a really good point this may be the first serial killer in the United States

KAIAMA: That's part of the most interesting thing about this case I think.

TUKUFU: I'm also interested in who were these women. The first 6 were African American. And you gotta remember that this is post-Reconstruction Texas, the Klan is very active there.

WES: So you're thinking there's some racial undertone to this?

TUKUFU: Well, I don't think we can ignore it.

KAIAMA: I think you're right the historical context is incredibly important. But gentleman, let's not forget there were also two white women who were killed. I guess I really want to know who killed these women

WES: What I think I will do is pull together all of the evidence that I can find. Look at newspaper articles, look at police reports...

KAIAMA: I'd like to get down to Austin, Texas actually. See if there are any living traces of the story, any leads that we can follow at this point because if you think about it no one's ever really applied modern scientific techniques to this story, right?

WES (overlapping): Yeah, right. Right!

TUKUFU: I'm with you I'm in Texas. I wanna find out more about the racial angle here. We need to dig down to get the truth of this story.

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WES: Sounds like we got a plan.

TUKUFU: I'll see you in Texas

KAIAMA: I'll see you there.

WES: Are the killings in Austin, Texas in 1885 the work of America's first serial killer? To help figure that out I need to look at some coverage from the time.

WES: THE AUSTIN STATESMAN PAINTS A PICTURE OF A CAPITOL CITY COMING OF AGE. WITH AN OPERA HOUSE, THREE COLLEGES AND A NEW CAPITAL BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AUSTIN'S ECONOMY WAS BOOMING. AND ITS CITIZENS WERE SHAPING A MORE INTEGRATED VISION FOR THE SOUTH, JUST TWENTY YEARS AFTER THE CIVIL WAR,

WES: There was a thriving community of Freedmen, who were in the emerging middle class, who were living side by side with their white neighbors.

WES: BUT THERE WAS A SWELLING UNDERCURRENT OF VICE AND VIOLENCE TOO. THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER AND FALL OF 1884 THERE ARE A SERIES OF HOME INVASIONS, AND ASSAULTS ON SERVANT WOMEN, MOST OF THEM AFRICAN AMERICAN. AS 1884 ENDS, THE VIOLENCE TURNS DEADLY.

WES: MOLLIE SMITH IS A 25 YEAR OLD SERVANT LIVING ON WEST PECAN STREET, WITH HER BOYFRIEND WALTER SPENCER. BUT ON NEW YEARS EVE MOLLIE'S BED IS FOUND EMPTY, WITH EVIDENCE OF A VIOLENT STRUGGLE.

WES: Here's the headline for the Austin daily statesman: Bloody work: a fearful midnight murder on pecan street. "A colored woman killed outright, and her lover almost done for."

WES: ALONGSIDE HER BED IS AN AX AND A TRAIL OF BLOOD. HER BOYFRIEND HAD BEEN KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS

WES: "And there lay the woman stark dead. A ghastly object to behold. A horrible hole in the side of her head told the tale." Man.

WES: FOR FIVE MONTHS THERE WERE NO MORE MURDERS THEN, IN MID-SPRING, THE KILLER, OR KILLERS, STRIKE AGAIN. ELIZA SHELLEY IS A COOK, FOR THE JOHNSON FAMILY. IN EARLY MAY, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, SOMEONE BREAKS INTO HER BEDROOM.

WES: "The Foul Fiends Keep Up Their Wicked Work. Another Woman Cruelly Murdered." MAY 8, 1885.

WES: ELIZA'S CHILDREN WITNESS THE CRIME, BUT ARE TOO TRAUMATIZED TO GIVE ANY USEFUL INFORMATION.

WES: "Stretched out on the floor lay the poor woman...dead with a gaping wound over her right eye. It was done with some sharp instrument, probably a hatchet"

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WES: THE PACE OF THE KILLING QUICKENS

WES: This is just from just two weeks later, on May 23rd...

WES: IRENE CROSS SHARES HER ROOM WITH A YOUNG NEPHEW

WES: "More Butchery. Another Colored Woman Terribly Stabbed By An Unknown Fiend. When will it end?"

WES: A REPORTER SAID SHE LOOKED AS IF SHE HAD BEEN SCALPED. IRENE WAS VICTIM NUMBER 3. OVER THE SUMMER AND EARLY FALL THE BLOOD LETTING CONTINUES, WITH THREE MORE KILLINGS. AND ON CHRISTMAS EVE NIGHT TWO WHITE WOMEN, SUSAN HANCOCK AND EULA PHILLIPS ARE MURDERED. IT'S INTERESTING. THE POLICE DIDN'T APPEAR TO SUSPECT A LONE KILLER. AFTER EACH DEATH, THEY ARREST EITHER A FORMER BOYFRIEND OF THE VICTIM, THEIR HUSBANDS OR KNOWN STREET CRIMINALS. BUT I'VE DUG UP SOME INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING WHICH SUGGESTS THE KILLINGS WERE DONE BY A SINGLE MONSTER...

WES: It's an article in Texas Monthly published in 2000. Which describes at the time a rampage of murders.

WES: THE AUTHOR SKIP HOLLANDSWORTH NOTES HOW MOST OF THE VICTIMS ARE ATTACKED BY MOONLIGHT, DISABLED WITH AN AXE AND, IN MANY CASES, SEXUALLY ATTACKED. HE BELIEVES AN UNIDENTIFIED SERIAL KILLER, ESCAPED THE POLICE AND THE HISTORY BOOKS.

WES: Listen to this " One reason that the story is so little known is that another flamboyant murderer, Jack the Ripper, came along a mere three years after the Austin killer."

WES: DID HISTORY'S MOST INFAMOUS SERIAL KILLER FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF AN EVEN MORE PROLIFIC SERIAL KILLER IN AUSTIN, TEXAS? IT'S A GOOD ARTICLE – BUT I'M NOT SO SURE....

WES: All of these killings are so grotesque but they're not all the same. In some cases there is sexual violence. In some cases the victim is killed with an axe, sometimes with a blunt instrument. And the final two killings are not of African Americans but they're of two white women.

WES: Hey, Kaiama.

KAIAMA: Wes, Hi.

WES: Hey listen this is a great case, fascinating, but was this the work of a serial killer, the cops certainly didn't think, They were interviewing boyfriends, friends, acquaintances.

KAIAMA: YEAH – I REMEMBER THAT FROM THE RESEARCH.

WES: Listen I've got a couple of possible leads

KAIAMA: Okay.

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WES: According to this article in Texas Monthly, there might even a surviving relative of one of the victims, um Dorothy Larson. And something else there's a guy in Austin, Martin Wagner. He studied the case.

KAIAMA: Right.

WES: I think that those would both be good leads to follow up on.

KAIAMA: I'm on it!

KAIAMA: THESE UNSOLVED MURDERS ARE PART OF AUSTIN'S PAST. BUT DO ANY CLUES REMAIN IN TODAY'S CITY?

MARTIN: I became more interested in it as a filmmaker and a story teller

KAIMA: I'm in Austin, Texas to meet Martin Wagner, a filmmaker whose investigated the killings

KAIAMA: So tell me – Why are we here?

MARTIN: Just a few blocks from here, Shoal Creek. That would have been close to where the first murder took place, Molly Smith, on, uh, New Year's Eve, 1884. And then towards Congress Avenue, 1st Street, 8th Street, Lavaca—those are where the final murders took place, on Christmas Eve, 1885

KAIAMA: So now, what was the community's response to this?

KAIAMA: MARTIN SAYS THE KILLINGS SENT WAVES OF FEAR THROUGH THIS CITY, ESPECIALLY INTO THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY. BUT IT WAS A DISCOVERY MADE BY LIVERY OWNER V.O. WEED IN LATE AUGUST THAT TOOK AUSTIN'S FEAR TO A FEVER PITCH.

MARTIN: He had a cook working for him, Rebecca Ramey, and she was living at the residence with her 11-year-old daughter, Mary.

MARTIN: V.O. Weed wakes up at about 4:30, 5 in the morning, and he hears a strange sound outside.

MARTIN: Mr. Weed opens the door to his wash house, and he finds Mary Ramey lying there. She has been beaten about the head and she has a long spike of some kind driven into her ears, piercing her brains—these are the fatal wounds. And was raped she's eleven years old. That it was such a small child, just added to the level of horror and anger.

MARTIN: You see this increasing sense of outrage and demands for just completely new leadership in the whole city.

KAIAMA: So, this was really rocking the foundations of Austin, at the time?

MARTIN: Oh yes. They're starting to say the whole leadership of the city is broken

KAIAMA: What were people doing at the time, to protect themselves, or in response?

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MARTIN: At one point, you even hear, uh, the editorials outright advocating "vigilance committees". You know, if the police can't do this job, citizens just need to start loading up with shotguns, and do it themselves.

KAIAMA: I ASK MARTIN WHO THE POLICE THOUGHT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BLOODSHED.

MARTIN: Well, at the time, it was a common opinion, that these had to be gangs. Quite possibly the same gangs who were attempting the home invasion attacks earlier in the spring.

KAIAMA: And these gangs would have been, what,

MARTIN: it was certainly the thought that the assailants were probably African-American. One popular theory put forth by the African-American community at the time was that these were women, who were, living with their men out of wedlock, a sinful lifestyle. And so, the killers were targeting these women, and punishing them for a sinful way of life.

KAIAMA: IT WAS ONE OF SEVERAL POPULAR THEORIES WHICH EMERGED, AS THE CITY STRUGGLED TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE RISING DEATH TOLL.

MARTIN: if you read the newspapers, you see the attackers referred to as demons, monsters, fiends... Certainly, it was the feeling that this was part of a much larger pattern of violence, and that there had to have been multiple assailants involved, because how could one individual be this savage?

TUKUFU: SO A LARGE PART OF THE COMMUNITY THOUGHT THERE WERE MULTIPLE ASSAILANTS. BUT WHAT EVIDENCE DID THE POLICE HAVE BACK THAT UP?

TUKUFU: I'M MEETING HISTORIAN, AND FORMER POLICE OFFICER, DOUG DUKES AT THE OLD WILLIAMSON COUNTY JAIL. HE SAYS THAT IN 1885 THE 12-MAN POLICE FORCE HAD PLENTY OF VIOLENT CRIME TO DEAL WITH, BUT LITTLE EXPERIENCE WITH DETECTIVE INVESTIGATION OR MODERN POLICE WORK.

DOUG: Mostly it was jealousy of business dealings disagreements but there was a witness 9 times out of 10 that says so and so shot John Smith.

TUKUFU: Well talk to me a little bit about the kinds of techniques that they would have had available to them in their investigation?

DOUG: You might call them old school because they brought in blood hounds ah to because there were barefoot tracks at some of the crime scenes and several of the, the people that they arrested they arrested them for no other reason than when the dogs uh would follow the tracks into a stable this person would be in the stable and would be barefoot.

DOUG: In one particular case, they cut out a piece of wood floor from one of the, the murder scenes because it had a bloody footprint in it.

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TUKUFU: THE POLICE RESPONSE WAS ESPECIALLY HARD ON AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN. HUNDREDS WERE ROUNDED UP AND HERDED INTO THE LOCAL JAILS. THE CITY ALSO CALLED IN OUTSIDE DETECTIVES, WHO TURNED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT TECHNIQUES FROM THE DAYS OF THE OLD SOUTH.

DOUG: There was testimony from several of the suspects in the cases later on that these detectives with the help of a couple members of the Austin Police Department ah actually took them out and tried to beat a confession out of them as well as in one case ah was going to hang them if they didn't get the truth.

TUKUFU: So lynching was used as a threat?

DOUG: Lynching was used as a threat.

TUKUFU: DOUG SAYS IT'S CLEAR THE POLICE MAY HAVE MISSED EVIDENCE AND CLUES AT THE MURDER SCENES.

DOUG: In one case in particular ah they picked the body up and carried it back into the house. And as a, a police officer I cringed when I saw that thinking about what all evidence that they left there when they just picked the body up.

DOUG D: It would have been anarchy.

TUKUFU: THE COPS MIGHT HAVE BELIEVED THERE WERE MULTIPLE KILLERS, BUT DOUG SAYS THEY HAD LITTLE EVIDENCE TO BASE THIS ON. AFTER EACH MURDER THEY SIMPLY ARRESTED SCORES OF YOUNG MEN, OR BLAMED A FORMER BOYFRIEND. WHEN THE TWO WHITE WOMEN WERE KILLED IN DECEMBER, AGAIN, THE POLICE SUSPECTED A CRIME OF PASSION.

DOUG: The husbands are now suspects in these cases. Was there marital discord? Uh was one or both of them stepping out on the other?

TUKUFU: HE BELIEVES THE POLICE RESPONSE HAD AS MUCH TO DO WITH POLITICAL PRESSURE AS SOLID POLICE WORK.

DOUG: I think they were trying to arrest anybody and everybody they could hoping that they would get lucky and get the right person off the street just to allow people to feel better about what was going on.

TUKUFU: THE AUSTIN POLICE HAD CLEARLY STRUGGLED THAT YEAR. BUT I'M NO CLOSER TO FIGURING OUT IF THE KILLINGS WERE CONNECTED. THE MURDERS OF THE TWO WHITE WOMEN ON CHRISTMAS EVE ARE ESPECIALLY BAFFLING. CONSISTENT WITH THEIR MULTIPLE KILLER THEORY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY HAD CHARGED THE TWO HUSBANDS, MOSES HANCOCK AND JAMES PHILIPS. BUT WERE THEY GUILTY?

KAIAMA: THE FINAL MURDER VICTIM WAS 17-YEAR OLD EULA PHILIPS. WE'VE MANAGED TO TRACK DOWN A RELATIVE, DOROTHY LARSON WHOSE NAME WE SAW IN THE TEXAS MONTHLY ARTICLE.

DOROTHY: I have a picture of Eula that I found in my grandmother's photo album.

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KAIAMA: I WANT TO SEE IF SHE MIGHT HAVE FAMILY KNOWLEDGE THAT CAN SHED LIGHT ON THE MYSTERY.

KAIAMA: Dorothy. Tell me, how are you related to Eula Phillips?

DOROTHY: Eula was my grandmother's sister. So, that would make her be my great-aunt.

KAIAMA: How old was Eula when she married James Phillips?

DOROTHY: I think she was probably only 15.

KAIAMA: EULA WAS BEAUTIFUL, AND DOROTHY SAYS ON THE SURFACE, SHE APPEARED TO HAVE MARRIED WELL.

DOROTHY: the Phillips family was a very wealthy family in Austin, and their son was several years older than Eula. I mean, it sounds to me like she married him because it was a marriage of necessity.

KAIAMA: What do you mean by that?

DOROTHY: Um – By that, that in those days, if you got a girl pregnant, you married her.

KAIAMA: Oh. That kind of necessity.

DOROTHY: That kind of necessity.

KAIAMA: EULA AND 24 YEAR-OLD JIMMIE MARRIED IN 1883. THEIR SON, THOMAS, WAS BORN SOON AFTER. BUT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, THE MARRIAGE FOUNDERED.

DOROTHY: He was from a lovely family, but apparently he was an alcoholic, and apparently, he was very unkind to her– both physically and emotionally.

KAIAMA: I ASK DOROTHY IF SHE HAS ANY FAMILY INFORMATION TO HELP US FIGURE OUT WHO KILLED EULA, OR THE OTHER WOMEN. BUT SHE SAYS HER GRANDMOTHER HAD KEPT THE STORY OF EULA'S DEATH AWAY FROM HER, EVEN AS AN ADULT.

DOROTHY: I was already married and had children. And I was sitting in her living room, and I noticed a picture that I had never seen before. I said, "Grandmother, who is that beautiful young woman on the - shelf in your living room?" She said, "That's my sister, honey." I said, "Your sister? Grandmother, I never knew you had a sister."

DOROTHY: And she said, "She was killed." And I said, "She was killed? What happened?" And she said, "Honey, I don't want to talk about it." And that was the end of that conversation.

KAIAMA: And you press it further?

DOROTHY: Well, no. You didn't – You didn't press my grandmother. [laughs]

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KAIAMA: THE SECRET REMAINED UNTIL DOROTHY GOT A CALL A FEW YEARS AGO FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE TEXAS MONTHLY STORY, SKIP HOLLANDSWORTH. HE SUGGESTED HER GRANDMOTHER'S SISTER MAY HAVE BEEN THE FINAL VICTIM OF AMERICA'S FIRST SERIAL KILLER.

DOROTHY: He said there were several women, young women, killed, and he said, "Your great-aunt was one of them." And I said, "You're kidding."

KAIAMA: SHE LEARNED OF THE TERRIBLE EVENTS OF CHRISTMAS EVE 1885. JIMMY, EULA AND THEIR YOUNG SON WERE HOME THAT NIGHT.

DOROTHY: the story is the three of them were in the bed together

KAIAMA: DOROTHY LEARNED THAT JIMMY PHILIPS HAD TOLD POLICE THAT HE'D GONE TO BED WITH EULA AND THEIR SON BETWEEN THEM. PHILIPS CLAIMED HE'D BEEN ATTACKED, ALTHOUGH HE DIDN'T REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

DOROTHY: And apparently her husband was covered with blood. The little boy who was in bed with them was not harmed.

DOROTHY: She was dragged outside, and the job was finished out in the yard.

KAIAMA: So within the space of a few years, you found out that your grandmother had a sister, you had a great-aunt. Not only this, but in fact that your great-aunt had been involved in this very complicated series of events?

DOROTHY: I mean, I thought, "My poor grandmother..." She carried this load of grief, and - and - and apparently, a load of shame that it was to her, that her sister was killed in the way she was killed

KAIAMA: It seems it was very much buried in your family history, in ways that remind me of the - the extent to which the entire incident has been somewhat buried in - in Austin's history.

DOROTHY: (overlapping) In Austin's history. It's an embarrassment to Austin, and it was an embarrassment to my family. And a mystery that was never solved

KAIAMA: IN SPITE OF THE NEW INFORMATION, I'M NO CLOSER TO FIGURING OUT IF THERE WAS ONE MURDERER OR MANY. TO TRY AND PIN IT DOWN, I'M MEETING UP WITH INVESTIGATOR AND AUTHOR STEVEN SAYLOR, WHO HAS STUDIED JIMMY PHILIPS' MURDER TRIAL.

STEVEN: I came across that headline bloody work, murders in Austin, Texas and that set me on the trial.

KAIAMA: HISTORY HAS LARGELY FORGOTTEN THE AUSTIN MURDERS, BUT THE HEADLINES WHICH FOLLOWED THE PROSECUTION OF THE WELL-BORN JIMMY PHILIPS – MADE HIS TRIAL THE 19TH CENTURY EQUIVALENT OF THE OJ SIMPSON CASE.

STEVEN: There are reporters there from Chicago, from St. Louis, from New York.

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KAIAMA: DISTRICT ATTORNEY JAMES ROBERTSON CHARGED PHILLIPS WITH KILLING HIS WIFE IN AN ACT OF MURDEROUS RAGE. TO MAKE HIS CASE – THE DA INTRODUCED SENSATIONAL INFORMATION. HE CLAIMED JIMMY’S TEENAGE BRIDE HAD BEEN LIVING A SECRET LIFE.

STEVEN: Eula Phillips was apparently either acting as a prostitute or having a series of affairs with men behind Jimmy's back.

KAIAMA: THE POSSIBILITY THAT EULA HAD BEEN A VICTIM OF A FIEND WHO HAD ALREADY KILLED SEVEN TIMES THAT YEAR, WAS LARGELY IGNORED. INSTEAD THE DETAILS OF EULA’S LOVE LIFE SPLASHED INTO NEWSPAPERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

STEVEN: apparently Eula was seeing some very big names in the state government. Uh rumors were swirling that it may be Controller Swain who's running for Governor.

KAIAMA: So Austin's dirty laundry is exposed to the state, to the nation

KAIAMA: THE DA APPEARED TO IMPLY THAT EULA HAD BROUGHT ABOUT HER OWN DEATH BY HER EXTRAMARITAL AFFAIRS, AND FRIENDSHIPS: AN HOUR BEFORE SHE WAS MURDERED, EULA HAD VISITED MAY TOBIN’S WHOREHOUSE AND SHE COUNTED AN AFRICAN AMERICAN BROTHEL OWNER AMONG HER ASSOCIATES.

KAIAMA: Steven let me get this straight Eula Phillips 17 year old society white woman is hanging out with a black madam in Austin how does this come about?

STEVEN: Well we don’t really know that. The fact that Eula is either acting as a prostitute or is a needs an assignation house for her string of lovers ah clearly Eula is not following the rules of society. In many ways it becomes not just the trial of Jimmy Phillips but Eula is put on trial as well for her behavior

KAIAMA: THAT CHRISTMAS EVE, ANOTHER WHITE WOMAN, SUSAN HANCOCK HAD BEEN ATTACKED WITH SOME SORT OF OBJECT, DRAGGED OUTSIDE, SHE LATER DIED OF HER INJURIES.

KAIAMA: You know Steven what is the likelihood that these 2 men woke up that night, killed their wives within an hour more or less of one another in the exact same way?

STEVEN: it's interesting that that idea was not introduced in the Philips case. No linkage was made between the 2 crimes.

KAIAMA: I’m sorry, 2 women killed on the same night within about an hour of one another in the same way no one puts these 2 circumstances together?

STEVEN: Well certainly public opinion and the Statesmen newspaper, I think the very next day has that headline Have the Veins Transferred Their Thirst For Blood to White People. So uh certainly a connection was made in the public mind right away that these must be a part of the pattern that’s been going on all year. But the prosecutors for whatever motivations decide to go after the 2 husbands.

KAIAMA: Was there any concrete evidence against James Phillips in the murder of his wife.

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STEVEN: In the trial it was established that uh Jimmy had said if I were to find out that Eula were cheating on me I would kill her and kill myself.

KAIAMA: This is the most damning piece of evidence against him?

STEVEN: It's a damning piece of evidence.

KAIAMA: A DRAMATIC MOMENT CAME WHEN THE PROSECUTION INTRODUCED AN ITEM DISCOVERED AT THE CRIME SCENE.

STEVEN: Brought into court as a piece of evidence is a plank from the veranda which has been sawed out. And this has a fairly clear bloody footprint on it. Can Jimmy be matched to that footprint?

STEVEN: He's made to put his foot in a pan of ink and then to stand on a piece of board. And we all know if it does not fit you must acquit. We hear the echo through history. And it's just not big enough. It does not fit.

KAIAMA: INCREDIBLY, IN SPITE OF THE FOOTPRINT EVIDENCE, PERHAPS SWAYED BY TALES OF ADULTERY AND TEENAGE PROSTITUTION, THE JURY VOTED TO CONVICT. STEVEN SUGGESTS THE PROSECUTION OF JIMMY PHILIPS WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY A SHOW TRIAL.

STEVEN: It's no small detail that the district attorney is a Robertson brother and the Mayor's a Robertson.

KAIAMA: MAYOR ROBERTSON NEEDED HELP SHORING UP HIS IMAGE AS A CRIME FIGHTER.

STEVEN: He's just barely held on to his office in the recent elections largely because many people thought there needed to be shake up these murders haven't been solved.

KAIAMA: It's starting to sound to me like the fix was in almost they wanted this conviction of Jimmy Phillips

STEVEN: As the Dallas Morning News Editorial would eventually say um the 3 things we learn from this trial are that Mrs. Philips was not what she should be. Certain attaches of the state government are not what they should be and we may never know the truth of who killed her.

WES: THE EXTRAORDINARY PURSUIT OF JAMES PHILIPS BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY MAY BE ONE REASON THAT THE AUSTIN MURDERS HAVE LARGELY ESCAPED THE HISTORY BOOKS.

WES: Harold? Wes Cowan.

HAROLD: Pleased to meet you.

WES: CRIME HISTORIAN HAROLD SCHECTER HAS RECENTLY LOOKED AT SOME OF THE PERIOD NEWS COVERAGE OF THE AUSTIN STORY

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HAROLD: I was actually surprised that nobody had explored it in greater depth.

WES: HE'S CONVINCED THAT THE KILLINGS WERE THE WORK OF A SINGLE HOMICIDAL MANIAC, ON A PAR WITH HISTORY'S WORST SERIAL KILLERS.

HAROLD: In many ways it was more horrifying than the Jack the Ripper murders , the Servant Girl Annihilator would savage these women in their bedrooms, inflict these horrible injuries on them while they were still alive. And he actually ended up killing more victims than Jack the Ripper.

WES: THE AUSTIN MURDERS TOOK PLACE EIGHT YEARS BEFORE H.H. HOLMES STALKED THE CHICAGO WORLD'S FAIR. HOLMES HAD CONFESSED TO A SCORE OF KILLINGS, GASSING AND TORTURING YOUNG WOMEN IN A HOTEL HE'D BUILT.

WES: BUT HAROLD SAYS THAT EVEN IF THE SERVANT MURDERS WERE THE WORK OF A SERIAL KILLER, THEY WERE NOT THE COUNTRY'S FIRST.

HAROLD: Serial murder is a - a very recent term for a - an age-old phenomenon. In the past, it used to be called "lust murder". Uh – And these are killers who derive their deepest pleasure from committing certain kinds of sexual atrocities.

WES: What you're saying is that this is – this is as old as the human species, probably?

HAROLD: Many people have a misconception about what serial murder is. Many people feel it began, again, with Ted Bundy, or John Wayne Gacy, uh, or Charles Manson I think it's important for people to recognize that this is a feature, you know, of human culture, and has always been that.

WES: IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY THE NATION EXPERIENCED RAPID EXPANSION, AND ANONYMITY CLOAKED BIG CITIES. THERE WERE A DISTURBING NUMBER OF HORRIFIC SERIAL KILLINGS.

HAROLD: one person that many scholars of American crime regard as America's youngest serial killer, a guy named Jesse Pomeroy, who was known as the Boston Boy Fiend, uh, tortured and murdered a string of children in South Boston in the 1870's.

Wes: Let me ask you a question because I mean everybody knows about Jack the Ripper. So why has this story been forgotten?

HAROLD: The Servant Girl Murders happened away from the centers of the national media. Austin was considered to be something of a backwater.

WES: THE TRIAL OF JAMES PHILIPS IN AUSTIN BECAME A FORM OF CELEBRITY SPECTACLE.

WES: HAROLD SUSPECTS THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER, UGLIER REASON THE AUSTIN KILLINGS MAY HAVE BEEN PUSHED FROM THE HISTORY BOOKS: MOST OF THE VICTIMS WERE AFRICAN AMERICAN, WITH A SHAMEFUL RESULT THAT IS ALL TOO FAMILIAR.

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HAROLD: Even today, you know, a white middle class girl who is abducted from her home, is going to generate a kind of 24/7 news coverage if a young African-American inner city girl is abducted from her home nobody...well people are going to pay relatively little attention to it.

KAIAMA: IF THE MURDERS WERE THE WORK OF A SERIAL KILLER – IS THERE SURVIVING EVIDENCE THE POLICE AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY OVERLOOKED? THE PROSECUTION OF JIMMY PHILIPS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DEEPLY FLAWED: BUT THE COURT PROCEEDINGS ARE SOME OF THE BEST SURVIVING RECORDS.

KAIAMA: I can't count the number of witnesses who testified in this trial.

KAIAMA: AS I MAKE MY WAY THROUGH THE WITNESS ACCOUNTS – I NOTICE SOMETHING CURIOUS.

KAIAMA: AS WE KNOW, PHYSICAL EVIDENCE HAD BEEN DISCOVERED AT THE CRIME SCENE.

KAIAMA: A bloody footprint was found at the Phillips' house on the night of the murder.

KAIAMA: AND WE ALSO KNOW THAT JIMMY HAD BEEN MADE TO COMPARE HIS FOOT IN COURT WITH ONE OF THESE PRINTS. JIMMY'S FOOTPRINT TURNED OUT TO BE SMALLER.

KAIAMA: BUT HERE'S WHAT'S INTERESTING: IT SEEMS THAT SEVERAL OTHER PRINTS WERE FOUND THAT NIGHT. THEY WERE UNUSUAL IN SOME WAY, AND HAD BEEN, QUOTE: "DISTINCTLY MARKED BY THE TOES."

KAIAMA: THE SUBJECT OF DISFIGURED OR UNUSUAL FEET COME UP AGAIN, IN THE CROSS EXAMINATION OF A WITNESS.

KAIAMA: Here's something interesting a witness testified about George McCudgeon, one of Eula's alleged lovers. He's asked if George had anything peculiar about his feet. But the witness said he never noticed anything about George's feet.

KAIAMA: I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF THIS. BUT IT SEEMS THE POLICE HAD EVIDENCE THAT, WHOEVER EULA'S KILLER WAS, MAY HAVE HAD SOME SORT OF FOOT ABNORMALITY.

KAIAMA: My question is what is all this business about the peculiarity of the suspects' feet?

TUFUKU: ALTHOUGH JIMMY PHILIPS WAS ACQUITTED ON APPEAL THE FOLLOWING YEAR, THE PROSECUTORS CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THERE WERE MULTIPLE KILLERS. THEY PRESSED CHARGES AGAINST MOSES HANCOCK FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE MURDER OF HIS WIFE. BUT I'M GROWING SKEPTICAL OF THIS THEORY.

TUKUFU: We have all of our information let's try to put it up here

TUFUKU: WES HAS SHARED HIS NOTES AND KAIAMA AND I ARE GOING BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD, TO PLOT OUT EXACTLY WHAT WERE THE DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES IN THE MURDERS. WAS A SINGLE KILLER STALKING AUSTIN THAT YEAR?

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KAIAMA: Molly Smith.

TUKUFU: She's 25 yrs old. Sexually assaulted.

KAIAMA: Weapons

TUKUFU: Bloody axe, dragged into the back yard.

KAIAMA: Alright. She was a cook right?

TUKUFU: A cook. That's right.

KAIAMA: Eliza Shelley.

TUKUFU: A hatchet. She's definitely dragged out of the bed. . Irene Cross. The weapon was a knife. And she was a servant

KAIAMA: Alright, so Mary Ramey...

TUKUFU: Sharp object.

KAIAMA: Gracie Vance.

TUKUFU: Servant... Susan Hancock, an axe.

TUKUFU: Eula Philips –dragged into the back yard. Alright

KAIAMA: Okay. I gotta say, TUKUFU, looking at this it really does seem like we have more similarities than differences.

TUKUFU: Yes, absolutely.

KAIAMA: It looks like with the exception of Irene cross everyone was dragged, everyone was moved from somewhere, everyone was attacked at night, in their bed initially and then dragged somewhere else.

TUKUFU: Occupation: with the exception of the white women, everybody is a servant, three of them are cooks.

KAIAMA: Right.

TUKUFU: THE SIMILARITIES IN THE CASES ARE INESCAPABLE. IT CERTAINLY SEEMS TO US WE ARE ON THE TRAIL OF A SERIAL KILLER. I WANT TO SHOW THE EVIDENCE WE'VE DISCOVERED TO A MODERN PROFILER.

TUKUFU: How do you know when there is a serial murder?

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SAFRICK: I look at behavior.

TUKUFU: MARK SAFRIK SPENT 17 YEARS IN THE FBI AS A PROFILER. WE'VE SENT HIM A DOSSIER OF OUR NOTES AND FINDINGS.

TUKUFU: So how many people do you believe committed these murders?

MARK: One guy, one guy is there's only one guy that's ever seen at all these crime scenes. Never two.

MARK: Secondly, forensically, blood is not drips of blood, its drag marks of blood //One offender is dragging the victim 'cause it's really the most efficient way for him to move the victim rather than trying to pick her up, that covers him in blood.

TUKUFU: MARK SAYS THE NEWS REPORTS TRACK CLEAR, CONSISTENT BEHAVIOR.

MARK: He is coming under a cover of darkness.

MARK: he is accessing residences that are easy for him to get into. He's waiting until the victims are asleep. He's using a weapon that is going to cause massive damage. That's probably is the bulk of what we know is his m.o. So let me just differentiate his m.o from his need driven behavior.

TUKUFU: So exactly what do you mean by need driven behavior

MARK: Once the victim is dead, if you are interested in lowering your risk, you should probably leave the crime but he doesn't. Part of this is sexually assaulting the victim.

TUKUFU: Okay.

MARK: A lot of these women have been moved a great distance. That's part of the ritual behavior. It's important for him to take them out where he has some time. At least he feels he has more time, take them away from the crime scene.

TUFUKU: MARK HAS NO DOUBT THE AUSTIN MURDERS WERE THE CRIMES OF A SERIAL KILLER – A CLASSIC PREDATOR, WITH AN MO, AND SIGNATURE PATHOLOGICAL NEEDS.

MARK: It's about a guy who doesn't have a lot of power and control in his own life. And so he takes that power and control back by rendering power and control over someone's life.

TUKUFU: Can you tell me the profile of the man who committed these murders?

MARK: The first five assaults are on black females so I think we are dealing with a black male. Because crimes of violence intra-racial. Black on black, white on white, Hispanic on Hispanic, that's true today across all races, across all age groups.

TUKUFU: Why is that?

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MARK: People are connected to people that they know. And they are generally of the same race as they are right, so when there is anger, when there is conflict, when there is jealousy, it's generally with people that you know.

TUKUFU: Christmas eve, two white women are killed. They happen almost one hour apart.

MARK: But that's a different dynamic.

MARK: By the time you have committed six homicides and you've not been caught, that's pretty emboldening.

TUKUFU: So he got cocky.

MARK: That's how we catch a lot of serial offenders. They think that they're just that smart. That I've been able to do this and I'm watching the police run around, murder after murder after murder, nobody's catching me. And you understand, their M.O. is getting better. Right?

TUKUFU: Yeah.

MARK: Because they might be making some mistakes but in the next crime he may be correcting that. And that allows him to maybe go after a victim he didn't think he could go after earlier in his career.

TUKUFU: What else can you tell me about him?

MARK: The risks he's sort of willing to take to go into these residences, take on a male suggests to me he's probably on the younger side, so probably uh maybe early 20s. So you've got a guy who's going to be fairly muscular, I mean he's going to have some strength because of he's got to drag these women, he's got to get them out of a window, over a fence.

TUKUFU: MARK SAYS THE SUDDEN END TO THE RAMPAGE IS MAY BE A CLUE TO THE KILLER'S IDENTITY

MARK: This kind of a guy doesn't stop. He's going to continue until he gets caught, so very likely there is something that's preventing him from acting out.

TUKUFU: THE KILLER MAY HAVE MOVED FROM AUSTIN, DIED, OR BEEN SWEEPED UP IN THE POLICE DRAGNET.

MARK: May have been incarcerated for something else and simply cannot act out. That's a very strong likelihood

KAIAMA: WE'VE GOT THE BEGINNING OF A PROFILE. WE MAY BE LOOKING FOR A YOUNG, STRONG, AFRICAN AMERICAN MAN – WHO MAY HAVE HAD A FOOT ABNORMALITY. OUR KILLER HAD ESCAPED THE HISTORY BOOKS AND THE AUTHORITIES. CAN MODERN POLICE TECHNIQUES PICK UP HIS TRAIL AFTER MORE THAN A CENTURY?

KIM: One of the things that is interesting about a serial killer. Is that there is a mathematical pattern that they create

KAIAMA: KIM ROSSMO IS A PIONEER IN A SPECIALIZED DETECTIVE SKILL KNOWN AS "GEOGRAPHIC PROFILING." HE'S STUDIED THE SERVANT MURDERS AND IS FAMILIAR WITH AUSTIN IN 1885.

KAIAMA: Kim we've been working with this map here and I'm hoping you can talk me through this a little bit.

KIM: Well, this is a perspective map of Austin 1887 so it's going to accurately reflect what the city looked like at the time of the murders.

KAIAMA: THE RED DOTS INDICATE WHERE THE KILLINGS OCCURRED.

KIM: This is the 1st, this is the last. This is a double murder here. But all these distances are very close.

KAIAMA: KIM EXPLAINS HOW GEOGRAPHIC PROFILING IS BASED ON A SIMPLE TRUTH OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR.

KIM: The best way to know what you are doing when you are committing a crime is to have some familiarity with an area. So most of the time we're going to find offenders live in the areas of their crimes.

KAIAMA: I see.

KAIAMA: HE POINTS OUT THAT MOST OF THE MURDERS ARE IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS, BUT THAT MANY OF THEM FALL CLOSE TO A ROUGH AND TUMBLE PART OF TOWN

KIM: this part of Austin was known as Guy Town. It was the center of prostitution, it was um a place with a lot of gambling joints, and it was mixed race.

KAIAMA: THE KILLER MAY HAVE WORKED IN THIS AREA. KIM ALSO NOTES THAT MANY OF THE FREEDMEN'S COMMUNITIES LAY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, BUT WITHIN EASY WALKING DISTANCE OF THE CRIME SCENES.

KIM: At the time there were segregated black communities in Austin, Mason Town, Wheatsville, Clarksville. I'll also point out Shoal Creek. A number of the tracks of the killer seem to lead towards that area.

KAIAMA: So you would say then comfortably the suspect, the person that committed these crimes most likely lived and or worked somewhere within this area?

KIM: Yes.

KAIAMA: KIM POINTS OUT A CURIOUS CONNECTION BETWEEN TWO OF THE MURDERS.

KIM: here's where Susan Hancock was murdered. Here's where Eula Phillips was murdered and interestingly between them and only about a block or two from Susan Hancock's home is May Tobin's brothel here on S. Congress.

KAIAMA: That's where Eula Phillips had gone that evening, yeah?

KIM: Yes. It raises the possibility that Susan Hancock's killer saw Eula Phillips, perhaps even followed her back home. It is you know quite an unusual set of coincidences.

KAIAMA: KIM'S ENTERED THE MURDER LOCATIONS INTO THE COMPUTER.

KIM: This pattern of crime sites in effect is a geographic clue that helps point towards who was the killer.

KAIAMA: AN ALGORITHM THEN PROCESSES THIS INFORMATION, NOTING WHERE THE BULK OF THE MURDERS TOOK PLACE. IT THEN GENERATES ZONES OR BANDS OF PROBABILITY FOR WHERE THE MURDERER LIVED, OR WORKED.

KIM: The dark orange area is the area that most likely contains the offender's base. So we can see that more or less falls around Congress Avenue .

KAIAMA: CONGRESS AVENUE WAS THE MAIN COMMERCIAL ARTERY FOR AUSTIN IN 1885, A BUSY HUB OF RESTAURANTS AND STORES, WHERE BLACK AND WHITE MIXED FREELY. KIM'S PLOTTED A FEW OTHER LOCATIONS THAT FEATURED IN THE POLICE INVESTIGATION.

KIM: One of the best fits is Union Depot Train Station.

KAIAMA: Wow, okay so that's right on top of that red zone.

KIM: Right. Possibility that the offender worked at the train station or maybe came into Austin by train, and departed at this particular point. We'll look at one of the Guy Town brothels. So this is the Guy Town area. This is the heart of the brothel area we can see that's also very high in the profile.

KAIAMA: Hmm, might that be where an investigation would get started?

KIM: It would be one of the places they definitely would want to focus on.

TUKUFU: IS IT POSSIBLE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS TO GIVE THIS MONSTER A NAME AND A FACE?

TUKUFU: Hey, how you doing?

LIBRARIAN: Good. Here are the records you requested.

TUKUFU: Cool, cool.

LIBRARIAN: Don't have a whole lot from the police department, from this era. What I'm putting out for you first is a ledger listing all of the police calls. That, uh, this lists by date every time a police officer was called out to investigate something.

TUKUFU: Nice, nice.

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TUKUFU: OUR INVESTIGATION SO FAR HAS GIVEN US AN IDEA OF WHO WE MAY BE LOOKING FOR...AND WHERE HE MAY HAVE LIVED OR WORKED.

LIBRARIAN: The other volumes will then detail all the, uh, arrests. It's a record of arrests.

TUKUFU: Okay. Thank you very much.

LIBRARIAN: You're welcome.

TUKUFU: Alright. Let's see what we've got here...

TUKUFU: I'M LOOKING THROUGH RECORDS FOR 1886. MARK SAFRICK SAID THE VIOLENCE OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR MAY HAVE STOPPED BECAUSE THE MURDERER WAS KILLED, SKIPPED TOWN, OR BEEN ARRESTED.

TUKUFU: First impression is, we don't get much information in this at all.

TUKUFU: UNFORTUNATELY, THE RECORDS ARE EITHER MISSING, OR CURSORY.

TUKUFU: This is not going to give us a lot of information. Forensic science was in its infancy at this point. And this is playing out in these records. They're not very informative, and they don't help us with our investigation.

TUKUFU: THERE IS NOT ENOUGH IN THE CALL RECORDS TO MATCH WITH OUR PROFILE: NO INFORMATION ON ADDRESS, AND CERTAINLY NOTHING ON A FOOT ABNORMALITY.

TUKUFU: Let's see what we can find in the arrest records.

TUKUFU: This book is old, and it has a lot of character. "Common prostitute". "Disturbing the peace"

TUKUFU: AFTER THE MURDERS END, THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF PETTY CRIME IN AUSTIN

TUKUFU: "intoxication" "Vagrancy".

TUKUFU: BUT THERE IS NO SUDDEN DEATH OR INCARCERATION OF A YOUNG BLACK MAN FROM THE DOWNTOWN AREA, WHO MIGHT FIT OUR PROFILE. I'M DRAWING A BLANK.

TUKUFU: Okay. We had to try. But I don't think we're gonna add to our investigation from these documents.

TUKUFU: TRUTHFULLY – ITS BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE A WILD GOOSE CHASE. I WANT TO TRY ONE MORE WAY TO MATCH OUR KILLER'S PROFILE, AND CAST OUR NET AS WIDE AS I CAN.

TUKUFU: The papers in Austin gave us a tremendous amount of information so now I want to broaden my search to the newspapers in the surrounding cities. Maybe we can get some clues that they weren't reporting in Austin. Cause you got to remember this was an ongoing investigation. The reporters in the neighboring cities may not have been under the same constraints. Let's see what we can find.

TUKUFU: IT'S MOSTLY THE SAME HORRIFIC DETAILS OF THE MURDERS AND GROWING PUBLIC OUTRAGE AT THE AUSTIN AUTHORITIES. BUT WHEN I LOOK IN THE PERIOD AFTER THE MURDERS STOP I SPOT SOME THING INTERESTING.

TUKUFU: This is from the San Antonio Daily Express Friday morning Feb. 12th, 1886.

TUKUFU: IT'S A SUMMARY OF THE NEWS OUT OF AUSTIN, FOR SAN ANTONIO READERS. THE BIG STORY IS JIMMY PHILIPS COURT APPEARANCE.

TUKUFU: Ok, so the article is about the Phillips trial, but we know all about that and that's not the most surprising thing about this article. What is most surprising about it is a name comes up.

TUKUFU: THE NEWS SUMMARY INCLUDES AN ACCOUNT OF A BARROOM BRAWL INVOLVING A YOUNG AFRICAN AMERICAN MAN, WHICH ENDED IN GUNSHOTS.

TUKUFU: The name is Nathan Elgin and he was killed by the police.

TUKUFU: ELGIN HAD ALLEGEDLY ATTACKED A WOMAN IN A SALOON AND BEEN SHOT RESISTING ARREST. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...AN AUTOPSY REVEALS AN ODD CHARACTERISTIC.

TUKUFU: It is stated he had the little toe gone from one of his feet.

TUKUFU: KAIAMA HAD TOLD ME HOW FOOTPRINTS HAD BEEN FOUND AT THE PHILIPS MURDER SCENE, WHICH HAD BEEN PECULIAR IN SOME WAY. THE SAN ANTONIO PAPER THEN REVEALS SOME BLOCKBUSTER INFORMATION. IT DIRECTLY CONNECTS THE AUTOPSY RESULTS WITH ONE OF THE SERVANT GIRL MURDERS.

TUKUFU: Listen to this! The foot corresponding in this respect to the track of the murder of the Ramey girl.

TUKUFU: MARY RAMEY WAS THE ELEVEN-YEAR OLD WHO HAD BEEN THE FOURTH VICTIM OF THE SERIAL KILLER. A FOOTPRINT HAD BEEN FOUND AT THE MURDER SCENE, BUT THERE HAD BEEN NO MENTION BY THE AUTHORITIES OR THE AUSTIN NEWSPAPERS THAT THE PRINTS TAKEN HAD INCLUDED A FOOT WITH A MISSING TOE.

TUKUFU: We didn't know we had this guy as a suspect. I need to find out more about this Nathan Elgin

TUKUFU: HE CERTAINLY FITS SOME OF OUR PROFILE: A YOUNG BLACK MAN, KILLED SOON AFTER THE MURDERS STOPPED, WHO HAD A MISSING TOE.

TUKUFU: It may actually blow our investigation open.

TUKUFU: I'VE EMAILED WES AND HE'S BEEN RESEARCHING ELGIN SOME MORE.

WES: Hey man –

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TUKUFU: Hey, Wes.

WES: I've found a website that may be able to help us out.

TUKUFU: OK

WES: It's put together by a guy named J. R. Galloway. He's actually at the University of Texas. He's a librarian there. And, uh, looks like he's gone down some of the same rabbit holes that we have

TUKUFU: He's got Elgin's name too?

WES: Yeah, that's right. Elgin that's his name

TUKUFU: OK – I'm gonna head over there.

WES: OK, talk to you later.

TUKUFU: JAMES GALLOWAY STUMBLED ACROSS THE SERVANT GIRL MURDERS WHILE IN GRAD SCHOOL.

JAMES: Since no one else had really delved into it pretty much, I thought it would be a good research topic

TUKUFU: HE FOUND THE SAME STORY IN THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS, OF NATHAN ELGIN'S DEATH AND HIS POSSIBLE CONNECTION TO THE MARY RAMEY MURDER.

JAMES: I had the same experience you had reading that and I was interested to see if his name came up anywhere else,

TUKUFU: GALLOWAY WAS BAFFLED THAT INFORMATION THAT COULD HAVE HELPED FIND THE KILLER OF 11-YEAR OLD MARY RAMEY HAD NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC. HE HUNTED FOR ANY OTHER MENTION OF NATHAN ELGIN IN NEWS ACCOUNTS OF THE MURDERS.

JAMES: And so I worked my way through the reports of the Hancock trial

TUKUFU: SUSAN HANCOCK WAS THE OTHER WHITE WOMAN MURDERED ON CHRISTMAS EVE. HER HUSBAND MOSES HANCOCK HAD BEEN ACCUSED OF THE KILLING. BUT THAT TRIAL HAD GOTTEN A LOT LESS ATTENTION AND COME MONTHS LATER. AS GALLOWAY READ, A STORY FROM JUNE 3RD 1887 INCLUDED A JAW-DROPPING DETAIL.

JAMES: the very last thing they reported in that story was Sheriff Hornsby's testimony for the defense.

TUKUFU: SHERRIF MALCOM HORNSBY REVEALED THAT NATHAN ELGIN MAY HAVE BEEN GUILTY IN THE MOST HIGH-PROFILE OF ALL THE KILLINGS, THE RAPE AND MURDER OF EULA PHILIPS.

JAMES: Hornsby said that a plaster cast was taken of Elgin's foot after his death which corresponded to the track at the Phillips murder

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TUKUFU: IT IS AN EXTRAORDINARY DISCOVERY. THERE HAD BEEN NO MENTION IN THE NEWSPAPERS THAT A MISSING TOE FOOTPRINT HAD BEEN FOUND AT THE PHILIPS MURDERS SCENE. IN FACT, THE AUTHORITIES HAD ATTEMPTED TO CONVICT JIMMMY PHILPS BY COMPARING HIS FOOTPRINT TO A NORMAL FOOTRPINT THEY CLAIMED HAD BEEN FOUND AT THE CRIME SCENE.

TUKUFU: So a missing toe footprint was found at the Phillips murder scene?

JAMES: Right.

TUKUFU: The Ramey murder and the Phillips murder.

JAMES: Right.

TUKUFU: Do you think the police department was aware of this?

JAMES: Yes. Some members of the police department were aware of that.

TUKUFU: THE SHERRIF HINTED IN COURT THAT NATHAN ELGIN HAD MURDERED SUSAN HANCOCK, EULA PHILIPS AND ALL SIX OTHER VICTIMS.

JAMES: Hornsby commented that after the death of Elgin that there was no further murders

TUKUFU: So you're saying is that Moses Hancock was not convicted because the Sheriff held Nathan Elgin as the prime suspect in the wife's murder.

JAMES: Correct

TUKUFU: ELGIN ALREADY FIT OUR PROFILE. NOW A FORENSIC DETAIL APPEARS TO TIE HIM TO TWO OF THE VICTIMS.

TUKUFU: And so were you able to find out anything else about this Nathan Elgin? I mean who was he?

JAMES: The 1880 census records list his occupation at that time as being a servant.

JAMES: in the time period the murders were occurring he was working as a cook at a restaurant called Simon's which is one of the most upscale restaurants in Austin. A lot of Simon's employees also boarded at the restaurant, some waiters and cooks.

TUKUFU: And exactly where is Simon's located?

JAMES: Right at of Pecan St. 6th St. and Congress,

TUKUFU: THAT'S IN THE HEART OF THE ZONE WHERE WE DISCOVERED THE KILLER MAY HAVE LIVED, OR WORKED. OUR EVIDENCE IS POINTING DIRECTLY AT NATHAN ELGIN. JAMES AGREES. HE THINKS ELGIN WAS THE AUSTIN SERIAL KILLER, AND THAT BEHIND THE SCENES THE AUSTIN AUTHORITIES HAD LONG SUSPECTED THE SAME THING.

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TUKUFU: why don't you think Nathan Elgin was made an issue as a possible uh perpetrator in the Phillips trial?

JAMES: I believe mainly still at that point, they were really focused on convicting James Phillips and Moses Hancock.

TUKUFU: IS IT POSSIBLE THAT IN THEIR RUSH TO WIN A CONVICTION POLICE INTENTIONALLY OVERLOOKED A PRIME SUSPECT? I'M HEADED BACK TO NEW YORK TO FILL IN WES AND KAIAMA.

KAIAMA: Hey Guys!

WES: Hey there!

TUKUFU: Hey.

KAIAMA: Well we have a fascinating case on our hands.

TUKUFU: You know its chilling because this really brought terror to the city of Austin, and the most vulnerable populations were put through the ringer.

WES: So, who is our serial killer here?

KAIAMA: We probably will never know whether it was Nathan Elgin that committed these brutal murders in 1885 but we do know a few things. We know that he was arrested for attacking women. We know the killing stopped when he was killed. And we know the profile fits almost to a tee.

TUKUFU: ELGIN WAS A YOUNG AFRICAN AMERICAN – AS SUGGESTED BY OUR PROFILER. HE'D LIVED AND WORKED AT SIMONS RESTAURANT ON CONGRESS AVENUE, WITH EASY ACCESS TO MOST OF THE MURDER LOCATIONS. THAT ADDRESS WAS IN THE TOP 1% HOT ZONE OF PROBABILITY IN THE MAP OUR GEOGRAPHIC PROFILER HAD CREATED. AND ELGIN'S MISSING TOE MIGHT CONNECT HIM WITH THE FOOTPRINT FOUND AT SEVERAL OF THE MURDER SCENES.

WES: You know there is something that bothers me about this. You know the police had the footprint from the crime scenes from both the Ramey murder and the Philips murder, – and yet during the trial, they withheld that evidence. Why?

KAIAMA : Wes the Austin establishment really wanted to put this case to bed. The police, the politicians, this was a huge mess so you can see why they might have rushed to judgment in some cases.

Wes: So they basically railroaded Jimmy Phillips.

TUKUFU: They may have railroaded this guy but you know his conviction was overturned. I think what we learn from this case is that the Austin police at that time had no notion of serial murders or what that was about. Which led them to not connecting the various murders together. They were using primitive techniques to solve a problem that required a very modern conceptualization of crime. I think what we've done in this case is we've shed a light on a very dark corner of history. We've illuminated how this community suffered as a consequence.

