

THE INNOCENCE NETWORK

Wrongful Conviction Media

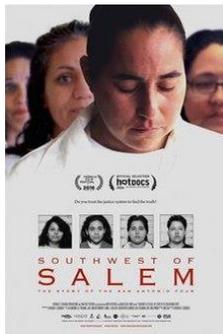
Below you will find lists of books, movies, and podcasts that tell stories of wrongful convictions and actual innocence.

Movies and TV Series

[When They See Us \(2019\)](#)

Ava DuVernay's Netflix mini-series chronicles the wrongful convictions of [Yusef Salaam](#), [Antron McCray](#), [Kevin Richardson](#), [Raymond Santana](#), and [Korey Wise](#) for the rape and murder of a jogger in Central Park (dubbed by the media "the Central Park Five"). It exposes the human cost of wrongful imprisonment and sheds light on the horror and pain endured by the young Black men, their loved ones, and their communities.

Stream on Netflix. Four episodes total. Running time: 64-88 minutes per episode.



[Southwest of Salem: The Story of the San Antonio Four \(2016\)](#)

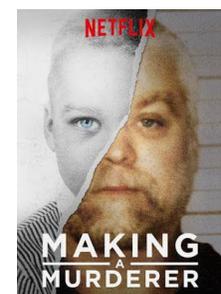
Four friends, [Elizabeth Ramirez](#), [Kristie Mayhugh](#), [Cassandra Rivera](#) and [Anna Vasquez](#), who came to be known as the "San Antonio Four," were wrongfully convicted in 1994 of raping Ms. Ramirez's seven and nine-year-old nieces. These convictions were driven by homophobia and the evidence used in courtroom testimony was later found to be faulty. One of the victims also admitted that she was forced by family members to deliver false testimony and later recanted her testimony.

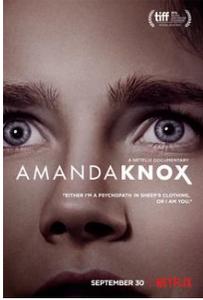
Stream on Amazon Prime. Running time: 90 minutes.

[Making a Murderer \(2015\)](#)

This Netflix documentary series examines the case of [Steven Avery](#), a man who was wrongfully convicted of rape in 1985 based on a mistaken eyewitness identification. After it was discovered that DNA found at the scene did not match Mr. Avery, he was exonerated in 2003. However, shortly after, in 2005, Mr. Avery was convicted of a murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Stream on Netflix. Two seasons, 20 episodes total. Running time: 47-77 minutes per episode.





[Amanda Knox \(2016\)](#)

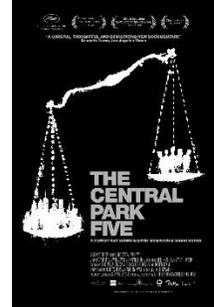
This Netflix production looks at the widely publicized conviction of Amanda Knox, an American foreign exchange student in Italy, who was wrongly convicted, along with her then-boyfriend, of killing her roommate in what prosecutors claimed was a sex act gone wrong. Ms. Knox tells the story of her conviction and subsequent vilification by media around the world.

Stream on Netflix. Running time: 92 minutes.

[The Central Park Five \(2012\)](#)

In this documentary, filmmakers Ken Burns, Sarah Burns and David McMahon examine the Central Park Jogger Case, exposing the injustices carried out by law enforcement, prosecutors and the media in the convictions of five Black teenagers-- [Yusef Salaam](#), [Antron McCray](#), [Kevin Richardson](#), [Raymond Santana](#), and [Korey Wise](#)-- for a rape and murder they did not commit.

Free on Amazon Prime. Running time: 119 minutes.



[David and Me \(2014\)](#)

Filmmakers Ray Klonsky and Marc Lamy examine the case of [David McCallum](#), a man who was coerced into confessing to a murder he did not commit when he was 16. Mr. McCallum's conviction was plagued with false accusations, misconduct by law enforcement, and a district attorney unwilling to reconsider the case.

Stream on Netflix. Running time: 69 minutes.

[Crown Heights \(2017\)](#)

This movie tells the true story of [Colin Warner](#), an immigrant from Trinidad in Brooklyn who was wrongfully convicted of murder and sentenced to 25 years to life in prison. Mr. Warner's childhood friend, Carl King, sets out to prove Mr. Warner's innocence.

Stream on Amazon Prime. Running time: 94 minutes.





[West of Memphis \(2012\)](#)

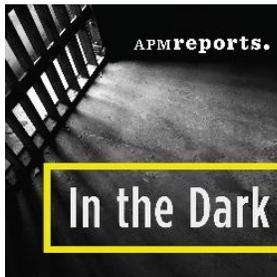
This documentary is part of a trilogy that looks at the case of the West Memphis Three in which three teenagers, Jessie Misskelley, Damien Echols and Jason Baldwin, were wrongfully convicted of the murders of three eight-year-old children in 1993. The documentary focuses on Terry Hobbs, stepfather to one of the victims, whose DNA was found at the scene of the crime and who lacked an alibi. The documentary reveals the evidence against Mr. Hobbs and that law enforcement failed to ever question him at the time of the murders. *Stream on Amazon Prime. Running time: 147 minutes.*

Podcasts

[Mass Exoneration](#)

Hear from former prisoners in Massachusetts who have been wrongfully convicted, their lawyers, and their loved ones. This podcast is created in collaboration with the [New England Innocence Project](#).

Listen on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, and Google Play Music. Running time: about 60 minutes per episode.



[In The Dark, Season 2](#)

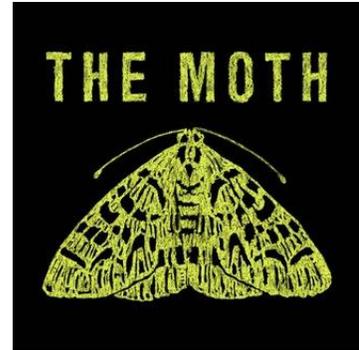
Podcast host Madeleine Baran tells the story of Curtis Flowers, a Black man in Mississippi who was tried six times and ultimately convicted of murdering four people. Mr. Flowers has maintained his innocence since his conviction in 1996, and evidence used by District Attorney Doug Evans is found to be circumstantial at best. Taking his appeal to the Supreme Court, Mr. Flowers' case reveals racial bias in the jury selection for each of his trials, and more broadly, in the prosecutor's past.

Listen on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Stitcher. 13 episodes total. Running time: 40-67 minutes per episode.

The Moth, Michael VonAllmen

In 1983, [Michael VonAllmen](#) was wrongfully convicted of beating, raping and robbing a 22-year-old woman in Kentucky due to a mistaken eyewitness identification and misconduct by law enforcement officials. He was paroled in 1994 and sixteen years later, the [Kentucky Innocence Project](#) found the true perpetrator, a man who looked like Mr. VonAllmen and had been found guilty of a similar crime in the area before. In 2010, Mr. VonAllmen was exonerated and now works to advocate for an end to the death penalty.

Listen to VonAllmen's story [here](#). Running time: 15 minutes.



The Moth, Rickie Johnson

In 1983, [Rickie Johnson](#) was wrongfully convicted of raping a 22-year-old woman in Louisiana and sentenced to life without parole, on the basis of a mistaken eyewitness identification. He was exonerated in 2008, after serving 25 years, with the help of the [Innocence Project](#) and the use of post-conviction DNA testing.

Listen to Mr. Johnson's story [here](#). Running time: 5 minutes.

Undisclosed, Season One: The State v. Adnan Syed

This podcast, hosted by Susan Simpson, Rabia Chaudry, and Colin Miller, investigates wrongful convictions while finding new evidence that never made it to court. The first season examines the case of Adnan Syed, a man who was convicted of murdering his girlfriend in 1999 when he was a high school student in Maryland. Mr. Syed was sentenced to life plus 30 years in prison. The podcast looks at evidence that points to his innocence.

Listen [here](#), on Spotify, and Stitcher. Nine episodes total. Running time: about 60 minutes per episode.



Breakdown, Season Four: "Murder Below the Gnat Line"

This podcast, hosted by Bill Rankin of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, tells the story of [Georgia Innocence Project](#) client Devonian Inman. Mr. Inman was convicted of shooting a woman in a robbery in 1998. 20 years after his conviction, testimonies that pointed to his guilt have been recanted and DNA tests have identified a different suspect.

Listen on [the AJC website](#), Stitcher, Spotify, and iTunes. Six episodes total. Running time: about 40 minutes per episode.

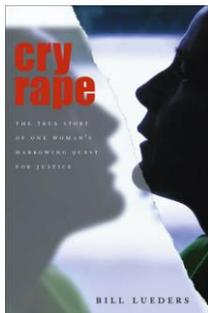
[Actual Innocence](#)

This podcast, now discontinued, was started by social worker Brooke Gittings to bring awareness to the widespread prevalence of wrongful convictions. In each episode, Ms. Gittings interviews a person who has experienced the injustices of wrongful conviction.

Listen to past episodes on Spotify, Stitcher, and Apple Podcasts. Running time: about 50 minutes per episode.



Books

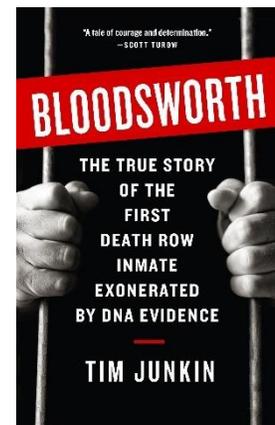


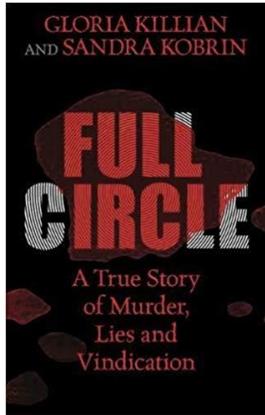
Cry Rape: The True Story of One Woman's Harrowing Quest for Justice, by Bill Leuders (2006)

In 1997, a visually impaired woman named Patty was raped by an intruder in her home in Wisconsin. When law enforcement could not find evidence of the rape, Patty was forced to recant, and the district attorney filed charges against her for falsely reporting a crime. The charges were eventually dropped, but Patty continued to demand justice, filing complaints, and a federal lawsuit against the police.

Bloodsworth: The True Story of the First Death Row Inmate Exonerated by DNA Evidence, by Tim Junkin (2004)

In 1984, [Kirk Bloodsworth](#) was wrongfully convicted of the rape and murder of a nine-year-old girl in Maryland and sentenced to death. Maintaining his innocence, Mr. Bloodsworth was able to convince a new lawyer to petition for the then-innovative DNA testing. In 1993, Mr. Bloodsworth became the first death row inmate in America to be exonerated by DNA evidence. He was subsequently pardoned by the governor of Maryland and has since gone on to advocate against capital punishment.



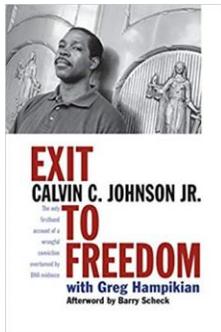
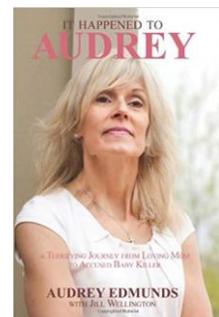


Full Circle: A True Story of Murder, Lies, and Vindication, by Gloria Killian (2012)

In 1986, [Gloria Killian](#) was wrongfully convicted of first-degree murder, attempted murder, robbery, burglary and conspiracy to commit robbery after two men entered the home of an elderly couple in Rosemont, California and fatally shot the husband. The only evidence against Ms. Killian was the testimony of one of the perpetrators, who testified in exchange for a shorter sentence. Ten years later, massive exculpatory evidence, hidden documents, prosecutorial misconduct and perjury was uncovered in Ms. Killian's case. Ms. Killian was finally exonerated in 2002.

It Happened to Audrey, by Audrey Edmunds (2012)

In 1996, [Audrey Edmunds](#) was wrongfully convicted of murdering an infant in her care. The faulty science of shaken baby syndrome (SBS), which had been widely popularized by media at the time, was used to convict Ms. Edmunds, claiming that shaking a baby resulted in fatal brain damage and immediate unresponsiveness. When the [Wisconsin Innocence Project](#) took her case in 2003, medical research had discredited SBS, and experts testified that shaking alone would not cause that level of brain damage. In 2008, Ms. Edmunds was exonerated.

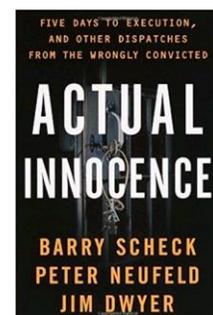


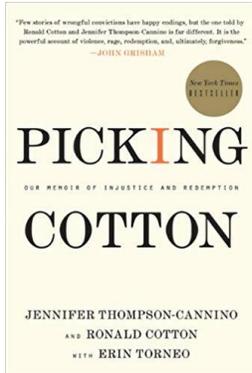
Exit to Freedom, by Calvin C. Johnson, Jr. and Greg Hampikian (2003)

In 1983, [Calvin C. Johnson, Jr.](#) was wrongfully convicted of raping a woman in Georgia after eyewitness misidentification and forensic testimony at his trial actively misled the jury. Mr. Johnson was sentenced to life in prison and spent 16 years incarcerated before he was freed in 1999. With the help of the [Innocence Project](#), DNA testing was conducted and conclusively showed his innocence.

Actual Innocence: Five Days to Execution, and Other Dispatches from the Wrongly Convicted, by Barry Scheck, Peter Neufeld and Jim Dwyer (2000)

Mr. Scheck, Neufeld, and Dwyer tell the stories of ten wrongfully convicted men, and how careless police work, corrupt prosecutors, jailhouse snitches, mistaken eyewitnesses, and other all-too-common flaws of the trial system caused their imprisonment. The authors also discuss what it takes to exonerate these men and set them free.





***Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption*, by Jennifer Thompson-Cannino, Ronald Cotton, and Erin Torneo (2010)**

In 1985, [Ronald Cotton](#) was convicted of two counts of rape and burglary on the basis of an eyewitness identification. After DNA from the scene was found to not match Mr. Cotton, he was exonerated in 1995. Jennifer Thompson, one of the victims who had identified Mr. Cotton as the perpetrator at the time, has since gone on to speak out against relying solely on eyewitness identification to convict. In this book, Mr. Cotton and Ms. Thompson tell their stories of pain, injustice, and forgiveness, and how they've since formed a friendship that has changed their lives.

***Convicting the Innocent: Where Criminal Prosecutions Go Wrong*, by Brandon L. Garrett (2012)**

In this textbook on wrongful convictions, author Brandon L. Garrett uses information gathered from trial transcripts, and interviews with lawyers, prosecutors, and court reporters on 250 cases of actual innocence. Mr. Garrett examines who these innocent people were, and what common practices, such as eyewitness identification procedures or coerced confessions, led to their convictions.

