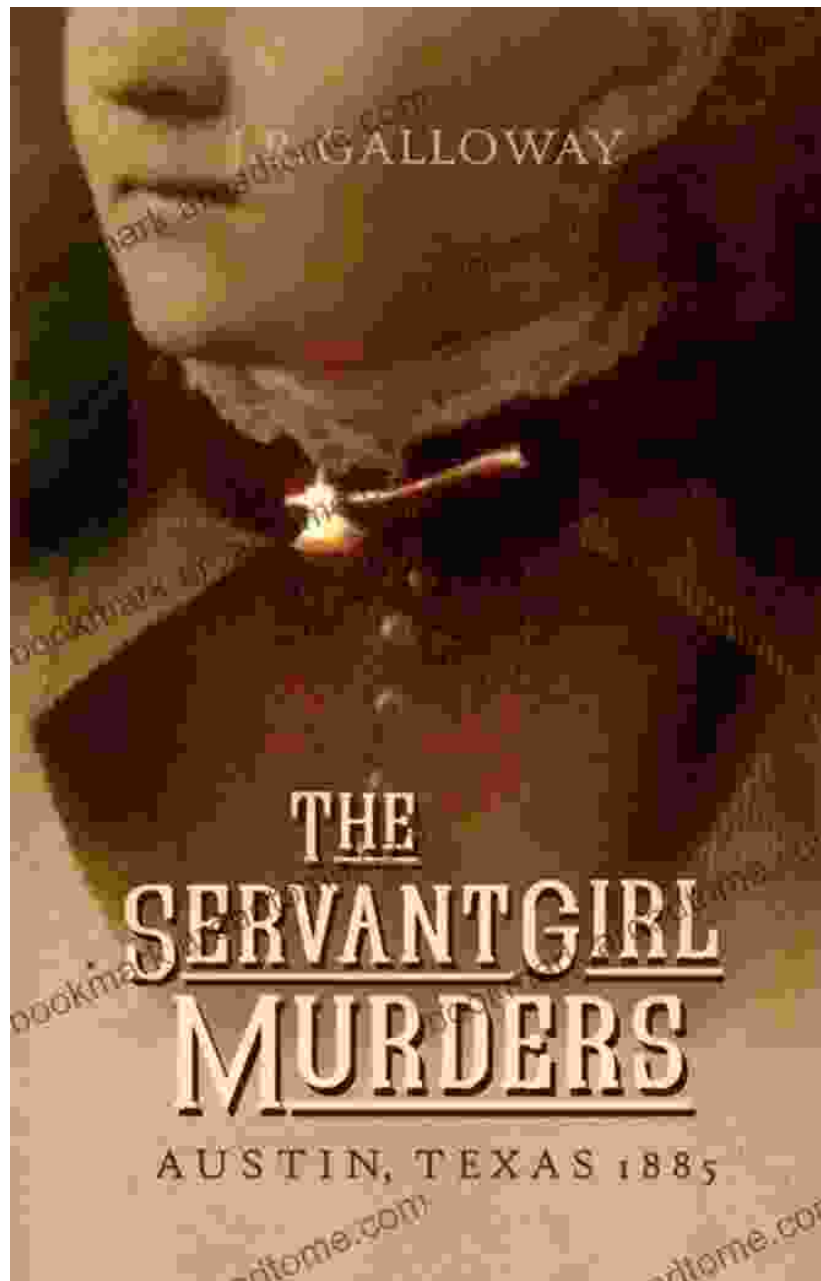
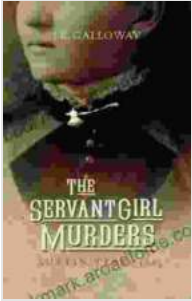


# Unsolved Murders and Racial Tensions: The Servant Girl Murders of Austin, Texas, 1885

Intriguing cover of "The Servant Girl Murders Austin Texas 1885," featuring a vintage photograph of three women



**Austin, Texas, 1885:** A series of gruesome murders sent shockwaves through the city, leaving a trail of unsolved mysteries and lingering questions that have haunted historians and true crime enthusiasts alike for over a century.



## The Servant Girl Murders: Austin, Texas 1885

by J.R. Galloway

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 827 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 346 pages  
Lending : Enabled



The victims were all young servant girls, their lives tragically cut short by a brutal and relentless killer. As the murders piled up, fear and suspicion gripped the community, fueling simmering racial tensions and casting a dark shadow over the city's burgeoning prosperity.

### The Historical Context

Post-Reconstruction Austin was a city on the cusp of change. The abolition of slavery had brought about significant social and economic shifts, but the legacy of racial inequality lingered. African Americans, while legally free, faced discrimination and limited opportunities.

This volatile atmosphere provided a breeding ground for mistrust and resentment, creating an undercurrent of fear that would ultimately manifest in the servant girl murders.

## **The Victims and the Crimes**

- **Mollie Smith:** An 18-year-old African American woman, brutally murdered in February 1885.
- **Lucy Johnson:** A 16-year-old African American girl, killed in March 1885.
- **Fanny Currey:** A 15-year-old white girl, murdered in April 1885.
- **Susan Reed:** A 13-year-old white girl, killed in May 1885.
- **Clara Brown:** A 19-year-old African American woman, murdered in June 1885.

The murders shared eerie similarities. The victims were all found with severe head wounds, their bodies often mutilated or disfigured. The brutality of the crimes indicated a level of depravity that horrified the community.

## **The Investigation and Suspects**

As the investigation unfolded, numerous suspects emerged, including both African American and white men. However, the lack of concrete evidence and the inherent racial biases of the time hindered the progress of the case.

**Jack Johnson:** An African American man accused of killing Mollie Smith. His trial was marred by racial prejudice, and he was convicted and sentenced to death, only to be acquitted on appeal.

**William Simpson:** A white man accused of killing Lucy Johnson. He was eventually acquitted due to insufficient evidence.

**Sam Robinson:** An African American man accused of killing Fanny Currey. He was tried and acquitted, but many believed he was guilty.

## **The Aftermath**

The servant girl murders cast a long shadow over Austin. The unresolved crimes left the community reeling, and the racial tensions that had simmered beneath the surface erupted into public view.

No one was ever definitively convicted of the murders, leaving behind a tragic legacy of unanswered questions. The case remains a chilling reminder of the complexities of race and class in America's past.

## **The Servant Girl Murders Austin Texas 1885**

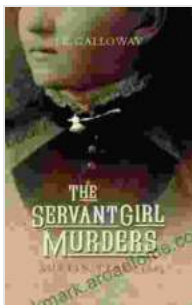
In her captivating book, *The Servant Girl Murders Austin Texas 1885*, author Sarah Cohen explores the unsolved murders in meticulous detail, shedding new light on the victims, the suspects, and the social and political context that shaped the events.

Cohen meticulously pieces together the fragmented evidence, weaving a gripping narrative that combines historical research with true crime

storytelling. She delves into the lives of the victims, illuminating their hopes and dreams cut short by tragedy.

Through her insightful analysis, Cohen exposes the racial and class prejudices that hindered the investigation, highlighting the systemic injustices that allowed the killer to evade justice.

*The Servant Girl Murders Austin Texas 1885* is a powerful and thought-provoking read that offers a window into a dark chapter of American history. It is a must-read for anyone interested in true crime, racial inequality, and the complexities of human nature.



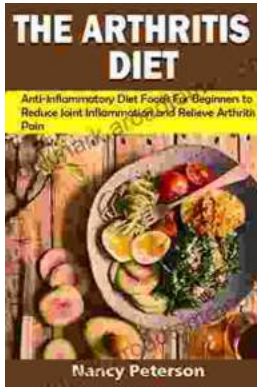
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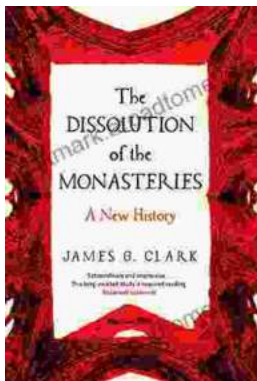
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