



TEXAS



SERVANT GIRL



MURDERS

1 X 55 HD



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In 1885, a string of gruesome murders terrorized the people of Austin, Texas. Three years before Jack the Ripper struck London, a killer—or possibly multiple killers—brutally attacked and murdered eight women. Almost all of the women were bludgeoned with an ax, dragged from their beds, and raped. The heinous crimes stopped as abruptly as they began, and the slayings have remained unsolved for over a century.

Could this be one of the first known serial murders in the United States? Why were those responsible never brought to justice? Six of the eight victims were African American—were the crimes racially motivated?

Desperate to find someone to blame, the authorities first rounded up hundreds of black men. Later, they pointed the finger at a white man, James Philips, whom they accused of murdering his teenage bride. Although Philips was eventually acquitted, the trial was akin to the OJ Simpson trial, with sensational, lurid details spilling out in court. After the furor and panic died down, so did the memory of the killings.

Armed with modern forensics, a team of historians interview descendants of the murdered women and enlist the help of modern-day experts in an effort to solve this historical whodunit. Can they finally crack the case?

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CREDITS

Producers, Directors: Billy Shebar, Bruce Barrow, Lisa Kalikow, Anna Wong

Presenters: Wes Cowan, Kaiama Glover, Tukufu Zuberi

Executive in Charge of Production: Kevin McLoughlin

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