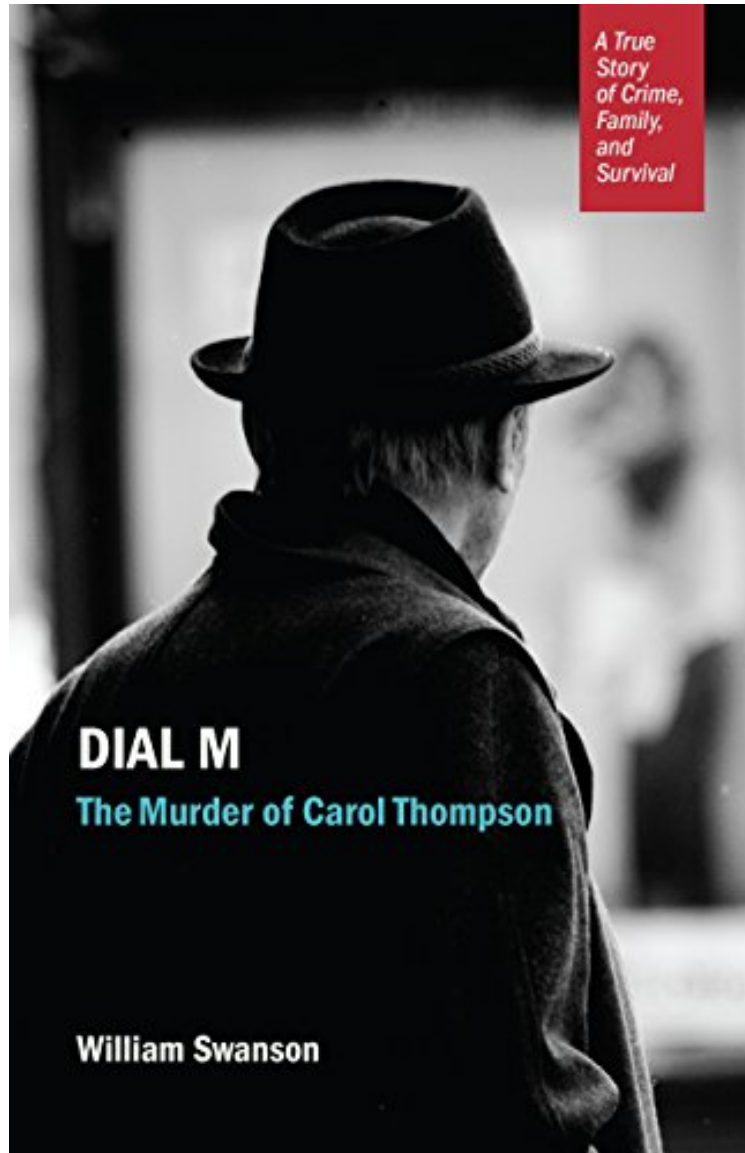


[Ebook free] Dial M: The Murder of Carol Thompson

## Dial M: The Murder of Carol Thompson

*William Swanson*

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**William Swanson : Dial M: The Murder of Carol Thompson** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dial M: The Murder of Carol Thompson:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. True crimeBy JulieA very good book about the murder of a beautiful young lawyer's wife ,and mother of 4 ,that happened in Minnesota back in the early 1960's . She was attacked in her home early one morning and managed to collapse on her neighbor's front porch, while they called for help. Sadly, they were unable to save her . This story was written well, told in detail, easy to follow . It's a story of greed, infidelity , and

a man so self-centered, he can't even be truthful to himself. I liked this book because it went into lots of detail about what happened to the family afterwards. How the kids all turned out in their adult lives and what they chose to feel regarding the murder of their mother when they were all still kids at home. Thankfully, they had a wonderful family backup system that gave them as normal a life as they could possibly have under the circumstances. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I Lived Through This! By Nancy F. Mitchell since I lived thru it with my friends living down the street and she and I sick and home from school and on the phone wondering what had happened it was very exciting at the time so I wanted to see how it was handled in a book many years later. I was very happy to see that Geoff made such a good life for himself but felt badly for his sisters, their dad really made a mess of their lives for his selfish needs. But it sure was an exciting time for St Paul Mn and made for a real life murder mystery. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. High Brow True Crime By TundraBee This is High Brow True Crime (both the neighborhood and the hardcover publisher/printer Borealis Books, an imprint of the Minnesota Historical Society Press.) On March 6, 1963, in the toney doctor and lawyer infested neighborhood of Highland Park, "the wife of a prominent St. Paul attorney" was brutally attacked in her home, yet managed to careen, scantily clad, in the frigid air, to an occupied neighboring house. She was taken to the hospital and died. St Paul was not then a mecca for murder and the case garnered statewide attention - which soon focused on the philandering, upwardly too-mobil husband. As a literate descendant of Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*, William Swanson's retrospective is a wrap on the crime, the time, and the long term effect on the couple's four children. Part 1 covers the Crime and Convictions. Part 2 delves into the effects on the other victims - the children of a mom murdered by Dad's botched, (this guy makes the baddies in the movie *Fargo* look like Einsteins) but nonetheless fatal plan, loosely and poorly modeled after Hitchcock's movie, hence the title of this book. Here's an example of Swanson's swell style: Given her age, hairstyle, and demeanor, she could have been the slightly younger sister of another wholesome face born and bred in the Twin Cities: General Mills' all-American homemaker, Betty Crocker. If you were a kid of, say, fifteen or under, Carol Thompson could have been your mom. And though not their usual habitat, Borealis Books has done a fine job of conforming to the conventions of the true crime genre. There are the requisite photos in the middle (although a more current, post parole photo of T. Eugene would have been welcomed) and acknowledgements at the end (so as not to spoil it all before the story even starts.) Rating: 5 bright Northstars if you live in the Land of Sky Blue Waters, 4 stars if you're not that lucky and are therefore unfamiliar with the people and places. /TundraVision, Reviewer

At 9:00 on the morning of March 6, 1963, in the quiet St. Paul neighborhood of Highland Park, Mrs. Fritz Pearson glanced out her window and saw something almost unimaginable: slumped on the front steps of the home across the street was a woman, partially clothed in a blue bathrobe and bloodied beyond recognition. The woman, Mrs. Pearson would come to learn, was her beloved neighbor Carol Thompson, wife and mother of four. Earlier that morning, T. Eugene Thompson, known to friends as "Cotton," dropped his son off at school and headed to the office, where he worked as a criminal attorney. At 8:25 am, he phoned home, later telling police that he did so to confirm evening plans with Carol. Mr. Thompson lied. Through police records, court transcripts, family papers, and extensive interviews, William Swanson has re-created Middle America's "crime of the century," the deadly plot by a husband that made headlines around the world. But *Dial M: The Murder of Carol Thompson* also tracks the lives of the Thompsons' children. Their journey from disbelief to acceptance culminates in a private family trial where they decide whether their father truly was responsible for the violent act that crushed their childhood and forever altered their views of the world. "Engrossing, emotionally compelling. . . . An unlikely tale of resilience and redemption, told in a sensitive, straightforward fashion."—*Entertainment Weekly* (graded "A") "I have never read a book that dealt so expertly and dramatically with the private lives of those who survive incomprehensible tragedy. I highly recommend it."—Ann Rule, author of *Green River*, *Running Red*

From Publishers Weekly Veteran Minneapolis journalist Swanson has crafted a compelling look at the brutal 1963 murder of a local housewife, a case that attracted international attention. With a novelist's skill, the author opens with the morning of the crime, when a neighbor found the bloodied and battered Carol Thompson at her door in a quiet St. Paul suburb. The victim died soon after reaching a nearby hospital, leaving behind a grieving husband and four children. The dogged police investigation rapidly saw through the family's Norman Rockwell facade, and the widower's long history of philandering enabled them to focus on identifying the hit men he employed for the crime. Despite a careful murder plot with many elements just like Hitchcock's *Dial M for Murder*, the execution of the contract was bungled, and T. Eugene Thompson was quickly given up by his associates. This slim volume stands out from similar explorations of local crimes that have long been forgotten by the nation, thanks to the sensitive and detailed attention given to the characters of Carol Thompson's murderers and of her children and their attempts to come to terms with the horrific reality of their mother's death. (Mar. 1) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist T. Eugene "Cotton" Thompson, brush-cut-crowned, go-getting Minnesota lawyer and upstanding citizen, was as shocked as anyone else when his wife, Carol, was found bloody, battered, and dying on a neighbor's front stoop on March 6, 1963, in a quiet upper-middle-class St. Paul

neighborhood. Or was he? As police started putting events together, Cotton's prim world and his nominal alibi dissolved. Turns out the fussy, clean-cut image he projected was largely a lie. Swanson quickly disposes of the mystery here: Cotton did it. He hired a sleazeball to kill his wife and make it look like an accident, but said sleazeball subcontracted the job to an incompetent amateur. The meat here is the aftermath as Thompson's kids tell of dealing with their father, who was eventually paroled, and forcing him to admit his guilt. This dandy true-crime excursion constitutes a detailed slice of mid-twentieth-century, middle-class existence in middle America, spiced with pithy observations about media portrayals of sensational crime then and now. Mike Tribby Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "A riveting account of St. Paul's most celebrated murder case, but with a twist. Especially fascinating is Swanson's description of the second 'trial' of T. Eugene Thompson, conducted by the children themselves after his release from prison." Larry Millett, author of "Strange Days, Dangerous Nights: Photos from the Speedgraphic Era" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders" "Engrossing, emotionally compelling. . . . An unlikely tale of resilience and redemption, told in sensitive, straightforward fashion."--"Entertainment Weekly, March 3, 2006" "I have never read a book that dealt so expertly and dramatically with the private lives of those who survive incomprehensible tragedy. I highly recommend it!" Ann Rule, author of "Green River, Running Red "and "Worth More Dead"