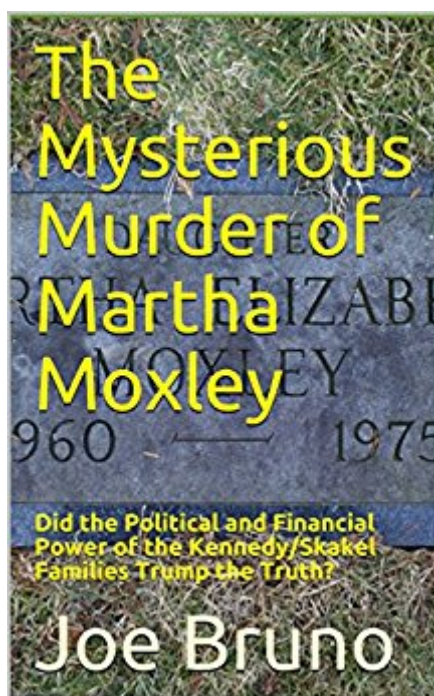


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# The Mysterious Murder Of Martha Moxley: Did The Political And Financial Power Of The Kennedy/Skakel Families Trump The Truth?



## Synopsis

And in the Kindle version, as a BONUS, you'll get absolutely FREE: "JULIUS AND ETHEL ROSENBERG - SPIES OR SCAPEGOATS?" Making it 2 books for the price of 1!\*\*\*\*\*Ranked #1 on /USA in Hot New Releases in "Law Witnesses," "Law Enforcement" and "True Crime-Hoaxes & Deceptions"Ranked #1 on /USA in "Law Witnesses" and "Media & the Law"\*\*\*\*\*At around 9:30 pm on October 30, 1975, blond and beautiful 15-year-old Martha Moxley had just left the Skakel residence and was walking to her home on the other side of Walsh Lane, in the swank Belle Haven section of Greenwich, Connecticut. Suddenly, someone rushed up behind her and bashed in her head with a 6-iron that belonged to a set of clubs that was later found in the Skakel residence. The killer then dragged Martha's body down a deep slope and deposited her, face-down, under a huge pine tree. He then stabbed her in the neck with a splintered shaft of the golf club, and pulled her jeans down to her knees, exposing her buttocks. The killer had either been unwilling, or was physically unable to sexually assault the half-naked girl. The Greenwich police had not investigated a murder case in over 30 years. They bungled the crucial initial investigation and the subsequent follow-ups. It wasn't until 2002, 27 years after Martha's murder, that Michael Skakel, the nephew of Ethel Skakel Kennedy, the wife of former Attorney General, Robert F. Kennedy, was tried and convicted of Martha's murder. Was the Greenwich PD totally incompetent in their initial and ongoing investigation of Martha's murder? Did the state's Attorney General look the other way because he was afraid of whom he might offend? Did the Skakel/Kennedy cabal intimidate both the Greenwich PD and the state's AG from doing their jobs? This book will try to answer those questions. To order, SCROLL to the top of this page and hit the "BUY" button. \*\*\*\*\*Author's note: I started this project with no preconceived notions. With 40 years of journalistic experience and more than 45 published books in the bank, I did my research by reading more than 20 books on either the Moxley murder, or the Kennedy family's connection to the Skakels; in particular those concerning Ethel Skakel Kennedy, Michael Skakel's blood aunt, and the wife of the late US Attorney General, Robert F. Kennedy. I also pored over more than 200 magazine and newspaper articles; especially those in the Stamford Advocate and Greenwich Times, and the New York Times. I also read the entire Sutton Report, commissioned by Rushton Skakel, Michael's father; a report that was instrumental in convicting his son. This book is my honest opinion of what transpired in the Martha Moxley murder case. Of course, opinions are like noses; everybody has one. But I back mine up with facts, not other people's opinions. I have no horses in this race, and I have no axes to grind. My facts are verifiable in numerous court documents, and police and newspaper reports. Most importantly, I don't, to shield a blood relative, snatch two new suspects out of my butt, with

no proof they were ever in Greenwich on the night of the murder 41 years ago. Skakel relatives and friends, who have ulterior motives, are entitled to their own opinions, but they are not entitled to their own facts. I feel great compassion for the Moxley family. They, along with Martha, are the real victims of this tragedy; no matter what anyone with a vested interest in the final outcome of this case may say. R.I.P. Martha Moxley (1960-1975)

## **Book Information**

File Size: 3398 KB

Print Length: 382 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Knickerbocker Publishing (August 6, 2016)

Publication Date: August 6, 2016

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01GONEAUW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #410,028 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #32

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## **Customer Reviews**

This novel was 100 pages too long. There is a lot of juvenile psychological evaluations. In the end I think the juries got it right. The families connections are amazing.

This book was edited so poorly, and more importantly, not even fact checked. Certain towns, for instance, are not even id'd in the correct state! Too many errors to list. Loses all credibility with huge errors like these. Another example of the dumbing down of publishing...very sad.

I think Bruno did a good job but after reading Robert Kennedy's book regarding the trial and sentencing of his cousin, I'm going to go back and reread Bruno's work. Once I've finished, I'll come back and give a full review. I do suggest readers should read additional documentation regarding the murder of Martha Moxley, in particular Kennedy's book.....

Joe Bruno tells it like it is, Great job telling the true story behind the veil of wealth.

Enjoyed this novel he always writes interesting novels

Another home run from Joe Bruno. I have said before that reading Joe Bruno's books is like having a conversation with a friend. Learned a lot about the Kennedy family and will watch with interest the outcome of the Michael Skakel trial. Also the bonus feature about the Rosenbergs was great.

I had forgotten this page in history.

NOTE: The author graciously gave me a copy of this book and asked me to write a review.FURTHER NOTE: The material on the Moxley/Skakel case takes up about 75% of this book. The remainder is a short work about Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. It's not an excerpt but a self-contained discussion of their lives and trial and is a worthwhile companion piece to the main book.In October, 1975, a 15-year-old girl named Martha Moxley was brutally beaten to death in an upper-class neighborhood in Greenwich, CT. The crime shocked the local citizenry and, as the years passed without an arrest, became a national sensation as well. Finally, in 2002, a neighbor, Michael Skakel, who was also 15 at the time of Moxley's murder and a relative by marriage of the Kennedy family, was convicted of the crime. Both before and after the trial, numerous authors and legal experts have weighed in on Skakel's actual guilt and the possible identity of the actual killer, if not Skakel. Now Joe Bruno provides readers with his own version of events, entitled "The Mysterious Murder of Martha Moxley," based on meticulous research and told in his usual hardnosed yet folksy style. The crime and the mystery behind it are fascinating, but this is not Bruno's best work.Joe Bruno and the trial jury aren't the first people to convince themselves of Skakel's guilt. In addition, noted author Dominick Dunne, disgraced O.J. Simpson cop Mark Fuhrman, and a dedicated local journalist named Leonard Levitt all wrote books proclaiming Skakel's guilt. On the other hand, Skakel's cousin, Robert Kennedy, Jr., has recently written a book in which he alleges that Skakel was framed. The various accounts of the case agree on two things,

both of which mean that the case will live on for years with authors. First, there was no direct physical forensic evidence implicating Michael Skakel or any other individual in the killing and no eyewitnesses to the crime. And second, the original police investigation was badly botched, either due to inexperience with this type of crime, a reluctance to tangle with a rich and powerful family, or both. The case against Michael Skakel was based partly due to opportunity. He lived next door to the Moxleys and, along with his older brother Tommy, had been with Martha earlier on the evening of her death. In addition, she was killed with a golf club from the Skakel home. In larger part, however, Skakel was convicted because he ran his mouth off too often, making numerous statements over the years that suggested or admitted his guilt. Most damaging was a detailed recounting of the night of the murder he gave to an author who was contemplating ghost writing Skakel's memoir. I can't repeat his claim of what he was doing that night, but it's so bizarre that it undoubtedly influenced the jury. In his book, Bruno recaps the investigation and the trial at length. The description is at times a bit confusing and episodic because the investigation itself was largely start-and-stop over the course of a quarter of a century before Skakel's trial (and even later throughout the appeals process). But where Bruno goes beyond other accounts of the story is in his research and the content about the Skakel family in the decades prior to Moxley's murder. The Skakels weren't just Kennedy kin who happened to live next door to a murder victim. Instead, their family was even wealthier than the Kennedys, with as many colorful and often tragic characters. After a brief introduction in which he mentions the murder, Bruno spends the first third of his book talking about the Skakels, including patriarch George Skakel, who made a fortune in the coal business and whose children included daughter Ethel (who married Robert Kennedy) and son Rushton (father of Michael and Tommy). That material is as colorful and entertaining as anything Bruno has written about the hundreds of gangsters and crooks who populated his other books. Although "The Mysterious Murder of Martha Moxley" is often quite lively and entertaining, the book is marred with some major problems. First, it's quite sloppily written, with a number of often distracting typos, spelling errors, and factual errors. These go well beyond anything I've encountered in other Bruno books and aren't simply a matter of Bruno's colorful writing style. The book needs some significant additional editing. Even worse, in my view, is the fact that Bruno lets his emotions, particularly his distaste for the Kennedy family, get the better of him in his writing. The book contains a substantial number of often gratuitous putdowns of John, Robert, Ethel, Ted, and other Kennedys, which is surprising and completely unnecessary considering that, with the

exception of Ethel, none of them play a really significant role in the book. Worst of all is a chapter in which Bruno says he won't get into theories about the Kennedy assassinations just before he throws out some completely unsupported conspiracy theories. This evident bias does not help Bruno's credibility as a reporter of facts. Also, in stating his case against Skakel, Bruno goes beyond mere opinion and commentary and shows either an ignorance or disregard of some basic precepts of legal proceedings and police procedure. For example, he criticizes the local police for wasting time on other suspects, such as a live-in tutor for Michael and Tommy Skakel, who had just started working for the family the day of the Moxley murder. Police should be thorough in cases without eyewitness testimony, since defense attorneys often claim the police failed to properly conduct just such an investigation. While they undoubtedly did not investigate Michael and his brother Tommy as closely as they should have in the hours and days following the murder, an attempt to look at other possible suspects is thorough police work, especially when, as in the case of the tutor, his activities in the years after the murder proved somewhat suspicious. Overall, I still enjoyed "The Mysterious Murder of Martha Moxley" and think it's a valuable addition to the literature on the case, especially for the in-depth look at the Skakels, who, despite their wealth, are certainly not household names. But the various errors (which could easily have been caught with better editing) and biased statements cast doubt on Bruno's ability and credibility, making it easier to dismiss the book as just another hatchet job. For the record, I haven't read any of the other books on the case, including Robert Kennedy Jr.'s, and I suspect that I might have made similar contents about bias in the Kennedy book as well. The Moxley/Skakel case is a serious, ongoing legal matter and deserves the best efforts of writers, including Joe Bruno. This book just doesn't fully measure up to that standard.

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