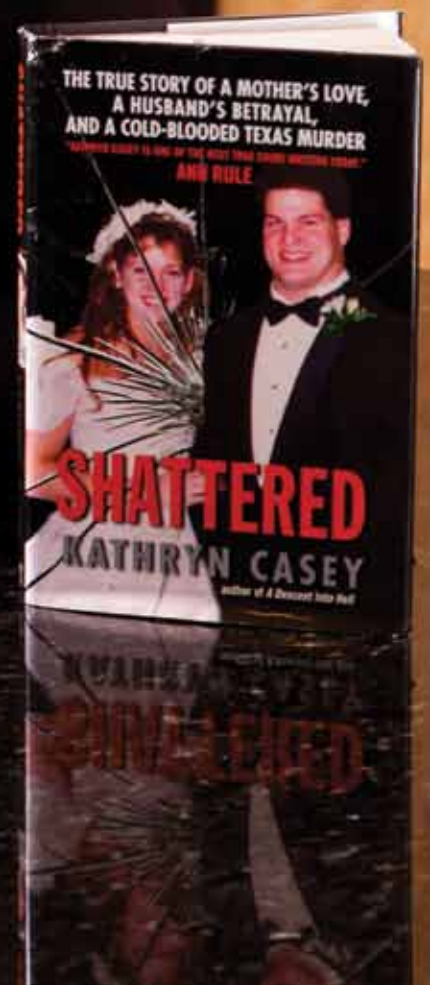


Writing gave true crime author Kathryn Casey the opportunity to meet what are considered some of society's most fascinating criminals





# Shattered

Author Kathryn Casey pens true crime novel detailing the murder of Katyite Belinda Temple

Written by Kirsten Ham | Photography by Jason Lehecka

In January 1999, the devastating murder of Belinda Temple and her unborn daughter Erin rocked the Katy community. Immediately drawn to the unusual facts of the case, local author Kathryn Casey knew this was going to be the subject of her next book, *Shattered*. “Cases give a lot of insight into human nature and what people think they can get away with,” explains Casey. “I’ve seen intelligent people do stupid things when they’re trying to cover up a crime.”

## A Tragic Tale

With family ties extending back multiple generations into the heart of Katy, the Temple name was well-known. In a town that lives and breathes football, David was a star on the field as a linebacker for Katy High School. “There’s a lot of curiosity about guys like David, who was a beloved figure in Katy football and a ‘golden boy’ of sorts,” says Casey.

When David met Belinda Lucas, they were both attending Stephen F. Austin State University and it seemed as though they made a perfect match. The couple settled in Katy, with Belinda teaching special education at Katy High School and David pursuing his love of football through coaching. From the outside looking in, they had a fairytale marriage.

Shock waves rippled through Katy when Belinda’s lifeless body was found in her bedroom closet. As husband David stood by dry-eyed and emotionless, police scrambled to find evidence as to why such a fate had befallen an obviously adored person. After an eight-year investigation, David was arrested for the murders.

## Courtroom Saga

Watching the case unfold, Casey became a fixture in the courtroom. “The Temple case was fascinating on multiple levels, especially the fact that it took so long to bring it to trial,” says Casey.

The only evidence that seemingly implicated David was the fact that he only waited two short years before marrying Heather Scott, the woman with whom he was accused of engaging in an affair. “I was just as perplexed as the jurors,” recalls Casey.

Courtroom chaos ensued as the prosecutor and defense attorneys, both well-known legal titans, battled for six weeks. “It’s like watching a saga unfold,” explains Casey. “There are larger-than-life characters, exhaustive exhibits, and narcissistic impulses. It’s enthralling.”

“Writing true crime books is a commitment,” explains Casey. “For the Temple case, I spent seven months doing interviews and talking to 80 to 100 people.” As Casey researched, David’s long-standing tendency toward violence became apparent, and she realized it was vastly overlooked.

“I didn’t realize how far back David’s anger went until I began the interviews,” says Casey. “He had a history of violent relationships with women.”

Casey described David’s court presence as articulate, steady, and soft-spoken. “He definitely surprised me,” recalls Casey. “He stayed pretty cool on the stand and did a good job.”

When Casey requested an interview with David, he refused.



David and Belinda, along with their son Evan on a family vacation

## Closure for Katy

Casey feels that *Shattered* provides a lot of closure for Katy residents. "Some people were on the fence a long time about this," she explains. "I felt people were glad that someone was coming in and taking a good look at the case."

Casey offers words of praise for the Katy residents she spoke to. "People were great about talking to me; very open, honest, and helpful," she shares. Casey says that the "locker room" insights she was given into David's past make the book even more compelling and fascinating.

## After the Verdict

There is no doubt that there have been many heated conversations about the Temple case in Katy over the years. Some believe that David was unjustly convicted and that he should be free to return home to his wife and son. David's case still remains on appeal.

When asked if she still feels that David is guilty, Casey answers without a moment's hesitation, "Yes. Based on the evidence, I believe David Temple murdered his wife." KM



*KIRSTEN HAM enjoys being on the editorial team for Katy Magazine and as an avid true crime buff, enjoys Kathryn Casey's books.*

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*Editor's Note: Katy Magazine would like to thank Chateau Polonez for lending us their facility to capture the beautiful photography for this story.*

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