

Anonymous

Prof. Pam Murphy

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Seized Suspect: Flawed Justice in the Atlanta Child Murder Investigation

In “Atlanta Monster Seized,” the third episode from *Atlanta Monster* podcast, host Lindsey Payne presents evidence that potentially ties Wayne Williams to the Atlanta child murders in the late seventies and early eighties. The episode’s argument focuses on Williams’s presence on the James Jackson Parkway Bridge at 2 am. The investigators immediately suspected Williams for the deaths of up to twenty-three children in the area, and later connected him to the murders of Nathaniel Cater and Jimmy Ray Payne for which he was eventually convicted. This was due to _____’s testimony regarding the splash he heard near the bridge, as well as the fact that Nathaniel Cater’s body appeared upstream the next day. The episode also states that the investigators found strange things in his car such as nylon rope, gloves and a bag of young boy’s clothes. Families of the victims wanted answers, and it seems like the investigators accused the first suspect they felt they could tie to the cases. Even though they had very little evidence, authorities connected him to the murders without actually doing a real, thorough investigation.