

## Workshop Intro ONE

### Episode Six: The Splash

The two years of the Atlanta child murders were a very confusing and frightening time. Time and time again, a poor black child was picked off the streets, asphyxiated, then dumped. At least 28 children were murdered in this fashion from 1979 to 1981. Wayne Williams, at the time aged 23, became a prime suspect during a stakeout involving the bridges where bodies of the children could have been thrown from. The podcast *Atlanta Monster* is a story told by Payne Lindsey, where he interviews family members of the children murdered, the investigators that were involved with some or all of the 28 cases, and conspirators that don't trust what the investigators have to say. In episode six of the series, titled "The Splash", Payne makes it a point to passively shape the presentation of the evidence in order to persuade listeners to believe that Wayne Williams is innocent of these crimes.

### Episode Six: The Splash

The two years of the Atlanta child murders were a very confusing and frightening time. Over and over again, poor black children were picked off the streets, asphyxiated, and then dumped. At least twenty-eight children died in this fashion from 1979 to 1981. In Payne Lindsey's podcast *Atlanta Monster*, he interviews family members of the murdered children, the investigators who were involved with some or all of the cases, and skeptics from the general public who mistrusted the ethics or diligence of the investigators. Lindsey recounts that Wayne Williams, age twenty-three, became a prime suspect during a stakeout under the James Jackson Parkway Bridge. Investigators surveilled specific bridges in Atlanta over a thirty-day period because they believed the killer might be using them to dispose of victim's bodies. In episode six of the series, "The Splash," Lindsey makes it a point to passively shape the presentation of the

evidence in order to persuade listeners to believe that Wayne Williams is innocent of the murders of Nathaniel Cater, Jimmy Ray Payne, and the children. (Here, the author can decide how to differentiate

between the argument Lindsey makes and the author's response to that argument. For example, something like this could work: In episode six of the series, "The Splash," Lindsey passively presents evidence to persuade listeners that Williams is innocent of the \_\_\_\_ murders. Lindsey's assertions seem suspect because \_\_\_\_\_. (OR: Lindsey's arguments seem valid because \_\_\_\_\_.)

## Workshop Intro TWO

"Wrongful convictions have stolen at least 20,000 years from innocent defendants." You read that correctly. Radley Balko, a writer for the Washington Post, reports that over 250 lifetimes have been forfeit due to wrongful convictions. The unfortunate truth, as estimated by the Innocence Project, is that are likely more than 20,000 innocent people incarcerated today. Wayne Williams, primary suspect of the Atlanta Child Murders may be one amongst many falsely imprisoned. In the sixth episode of the Atlanta Monster podcast, Payne Lindsey details the evidence against Williams. Lindsey asks his audience to think critically, calling into question the validity of the evidence presented, as well as evidence ignored by prosecutors and law enforcement. This evidence includes the "bridge episode", the mysterious fibers, and eyewitness accounts of other perpetrators. The circumstantial, and otherwise questionable, nature of the evidence against Wayne Williams makes it difficult to believe that Williams committed the murders charged against him, let alone the murders that are still left unsolved.

## Creative Title

Wayne Williams, primary suspect of the 1979 to 1981 Atlanta Child Murders, may be a victim of false imprisonment. According to the Innocence Project (follow with a brief explanation of what this is), the unfortunate truth is that there are likely more than 20,000 innocent people incarcerated today (citation). In the sixth episode of the *Atlanta Monster* podcast, Payne Lindsey details the evidence against Williams. He revisits the night Williams was pulled over and questioned during surveillance of the James Jackson Parkway Bridge, discusses matching fiber evidence that escaped public scrutiny, and publicizes eyewitness accounts of other potential perpetrators. Lindsey asks his audience

to think critically, calling into question the validity of the evidence presented, and brings to light evidence ignored by prosecutors and law enforcement. The circumstantial, and otherwise questionable, nature of the evidence against Wayne Williams makes it difficult to believe that he committed the murders investigators charged him with, let alone the murders that remain unsolved.