



## Safe Harbor: A Murder in Nantucket

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## **Safe Harbor: A Murder in Nantucket** Brian McDonald

In October 2004, the island of Nantucket, home to some of America's richest families, was the scene of a shocking murder. Safe Harbor is the story of what happened. 8-page photo insert. Martin's Press.

## **Safe Harbor: A Murder in Nantucket Details**

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Author : Brian McDonald

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# **From Reader Review Safe Harbor: A Murder in Nantucket for online ebook**

## **Sandy says**

This was such a sad story. I really wanted Beth to get away and find happiness in this life. It seemed such a tragedy that she worked so hard and was such a success just to have Tom Toolan take advantage of her and then take away her life. What a sad excuse of a human being he was.

I believe this is the first time I had read one of Brian McDonald's books, but I found it an easy read.

I enjoyed the book and the description of Nantucket took me there.

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## **John says**

Being roughly the same age as the murder victim, and familiar with Nantucket - although her path and mine never (directly) crossed - I found the book well-researched. Author stresses that the McMansion-strewn island of today does not represent Beth's Nantucket, which is an important point. Definitely recommended.

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## **Koren says**

This was a very interesting True Crime book. The victim is a likable and interesting person. There is only one thing I didn't like about this book and that is the fact that it was written before the trial and verdict. I'm not sure why authors do that. Maybe to get the book out why the murder is still fresh in people's minds. I don't know. There is a lot of description and history about Nantucket in this book, which was interesting.

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## **Elaine Crockett says**

Thought it was great. Accidentally gave it a one star the first time around. Don't know how that happened.

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## **Lisa says**

Interesting true story about the life and tragic ending (murder) of Beth Lochtefelds (self made millionaire) life.

The story at times did not flow too well. Quite a bit of jumping around and going off on tangents. But overall a good read.

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### **Sherry Haning says**

A well written partly sad story of a remarkable woman!

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### **Rita says**

This woman who worked so hard all her life and had everything took a chance on love. Unfortunately, she picked the wrong guy and what transpired from there was riveting and I couldn't read it fast enough. It is a must read story that has all the elements. I recommend this book.

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### **Sally A. says**

This is the story of Thomas Toolan III's murder of Elizabeth ("Beth") Lochtefeld in October of 2004. I was a little annoyed by the book's sloppy editing-- a few typos and repetition of information. I was also a little disappointed that the author's writing ended after Toolan was arrested. He offers no information on how Toolan was punished. Nevertheless, the book gave a detailed account of the incident, as well as a double biography-- of the killer and victim. Both people were New Yorkers.

The killer (Tom) had been an alcoholic since high school. He had had a few other relationships with women in which he was a jealous, abusive liar.

The victim (Beth) was, at 44 years old, still looking for a lifelong mate. It was unclear why she couldn't find a permanent significant other.

An acquaintance of Beth's had innocently set up Tom and Beth, even though she was aware of Tom's sordid past. Beth was so desperate for a man, she rationalized away his lies and abusive behavior for a few weeks. Finally, Beth told him she was breaking it off with him. He wouldn't accept that.

In the end, Tom flew to Nantucket, bought a fishing knife, and walked straight into Beth's rented cottage and killed her. Sadly, her aikido skills at the time were insufficient to fend him off and save herself.

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### **Jeannie says**

Frightening true crime story of a woman who had it all and then chose the wrong man. I really enjoyed reading about Beth's life growing up and learning more about Nantucket. The book concentrated more on that than the crime itself so that made it stand out for me. Most true crime books follow the same pattern and that gets old for me after awhile. This one didn't.

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### **Suzie Flohr says**

I loved this book. I felt like I knew the people and family. I also like how it wasn't about the court case.

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### **Christine says**

Well, I was all life long a big Nantucket fan, so when I found this book at our local library about a murder case that happened on Nantucket in 2004, I had to read it.

I read mixed reviews about the book, but really enjoy reading it (am on page 100 now).

It's fascinating (and that's more than I can say about lots of books that i started reading lately and then skipped after 100 + pages).

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### **Shira Selkovits says**

2.5 stars. Even more interesting than the crime is learning about the history and culture of Nantucket.

McDonald paints an exhaustive picture of both the victim, Beth Lochtefeld and accused murderer, Tom Toolan.

Beth's upbringing, education, and career path are extensively explored and actually quite fascinating.

Ultimately, I wish this book had been written after the trial instead of before. I now have to go and look up everything that happened!

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### **Erika says**

I couldn't tell what the point of the book was. It sounded like the author was smitten with the victim, but most of his information on her seemed to come from her memorial website. It seemed like most of the information on both the victim and murderer came from news stories, tabloids, and the memorial website. He had interviews with some of the friends and family of the two, but the book seemed to be a compilation of information gleaned from other written materials. Kind of a slow read.

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### **Julie Cavasos says**

I finally got through this one. Kind of depressing. The only reason I finished it was because I started it. I hate putting a book down that I started.

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### **Jenn says**

A much different true crime book than I would normally read. It has no trials, no views from police officers and no lawyers. At the time of writing Toolan was yet to be tried for this murder. There was a lot of history involved - both family history and geographical history. I do hope that Toolan was found guilty and sentenced to life for his selfish act of murder.

