

**IAGO IN BRENTWOOD
HOW MARK FUHRMAN GOT AWAY WITH MURDER**

Jasper Garrison

**Smartfellows Press
18031 Pennington
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Chapter 1: A NATIONAL IQ TEST
Chapter 2: GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER
Chapter 3: BEYOND DOUBT
Chapter 4: THROUGH THE EYES OF A KILLER
Chapter 5: THE PROPER VERDICT
Chapter 6: THE NEXT SKIRMISH
Chapter 7: PEOPLE LIKE JAMAL
Chapter 8: CYBER-CIVIL WAR
Chapter 9: COURAGE
Chapter 10: WORDS AND THINGS
Chapter 11: BACK ON TRACK
Chapter 12: OUR RIGHTS
Chapter 13: OUR BIGGEST PROBLEM
Chapter 14: UNIMPRESSED
Chapter 15: WHAT HAVE WE BECOME
Chapter 16: VINDICATION
Chapter 17: INTERSECTING WORLDS
Chapter 18: ADDRESSING THE ISSUE
Chapter 19: NO SUCH ALLEGATIONS
Chapter 20: THE THRILL OF VICTORY
Chapter 21: HITTING THE TARGET
Chapter 22: IN THE NAME OF THE CHILDREN
Chapter 23: FUHRMAN'S POLYGRAPH
Chapter 24: BEATING THE MACHINE
Chapter 25: A MINOR DISAGREEMENT
Chapter 26: DETAILS
Chapter 27: THE SCIENCE OF REASON
Chapter 28: SLEIGHT OF HAND
Chapter 29: FUHRMAN AT THE MOVIES
Chapter 30: BLOOD TRAILS
Chapter 31: O.J.'S ALIBI
Chapter 32: A MOUNTAIN OF EVIDENCE
Chapter 33: IMAGE ASSASSINATION
Chapter 34: PROFILE OF A KILLER
Chapter 35: 20 QUESTIONS
Chapter 36: A CLOSER LOOK
APPENDIX

Dedication

For Jamal and Hargrove, the brightest stars of the Court TV Discussion Group

Acknowledgments

Many of the people who made this book possible are featured herein as worthy advocates for their point of view in our O.J. e-mail discussion group. The bravest of the lot has to be **Regina Avraham** (a.k.a. Tiger) who is about as smart as they come. She was not always at her best. That, you will see. What you won't see, is the Reggie I came to know when the subject was anything other than the O.J. Simpson case. Her willingness to stand by what she said and to wish me well speaks for itself. People with that kind of courage and integrity are rare. Without them very little of the truth in history would be available to tell us where we came from as a civilization and to help us arrive at a better place.

Gary Carrier (a.k.a. Openmind) is another of those people whose strength of character has to be acknowledged here because it doesn't come across in the book. With Gary it was a case of mistaken identity. We each thought that the other was something he wasn't. Still, when I put the first draft of *Jago* online, he took another look and pressed hard for the others in the group to support it. He did this knowing he was scarcely mentioned and thinking that the book was a done deal. His only reward was the truth. When I grow up I want to be just like Gary.

In any difficult enterprise, there comes a time when the going gets so tough that the kindest words from your dearest friends and staunchest allies don't help. Those are the times you need a quite voice of reason to carry you through. For me, **Sandra Wilkins** was that voice.

If Mark Fuhrman was correct in his description of a knife he said the killer used, so was my one killer/two knife hypothesis. Paradoxically, confirmation of that hypothesis came from **Dr. Henry Johnson** who was firmly convinced that there were two killers, a right-hander and a lefty. He didn't know that Fuhrman was trained to use both hands. What he did know was proof all by itself of O.J.'s innocence. What I knew, combined with what he knew, was proof of Mark Fuhrman's guilt. Similarly, the work of **Chris Springer**, author of *If O.J. Didn't....*, and **J. Neil Schulman**, author of *Frame of the Century*, have to be acknowledged for crucial insights that originated with them.

Finally, to balance the ogre-like public personae of "The Evil Ones" (a.k.a. Lion, Tiger and Bear) who were often kind and helpful in their private correspondence, it was necessary to show that in private we "OJ's" were sometimes no better than they were in public. I cannot say enough for the courage of everyone who agreed to have their private letters published which sometimes showed them at their worst. There has to be a lesson in that for anyone who cares about the truth. – J.G.

Foreword

Having been a Detroit police officer for nearly thirty years, a number of incidents reminiscent of *Iago in Brentwood* come to mind. The following scenario is taken from an actual case.

Picture this:

Three armed men enter a store and relieve the frightened clerk of the store's receipts. Unaware that the clerk activated a silent alarm notifying police of the robbery, the trio exit the store.

Police are uncharacteristically in the right place at the right time only a few blocks away. Activating only the emergency lights, they wisely avoid using the siren, thus negating an audible notice to any suspects of a police response.

The robbers are now in full flight on foot. They observe the flashing lights of the approaching vehicle a block away. Two of the culprits run down an alley while the third slows to a walk on the sidewalk and endeavors to compose himself. There is nervous sweat on his face and his heart beats perceptively in his chest. As the police pull alongside the walking man, he points down the alley towards his fleeing cohorts.

The offices now have two alternatives. They can do what their instinct and training tells them to do and take off in hot pursuit of the men who have obviously made themselves suspicious by their flight. Or they can observe the sweat on the walking man's face, the fact that his heartbeat is discernable beneath his shirt and other subtle clues to his true identity and proceed from there. The first option may not result in exemplary arrests. The latter guarantees three quality arrests worthy of note.

You can see why focus on the walking man means that arrest and probable conviction of the other two will follow. But that is not what would make the exercise of the second option worthy of note.

By definition, instinct is a natural tendency, aptitude or talent. In the case of police officers, training, procedural routines, and experiencing similar circumstances repetitively tends to produce a Pavlovian response to each circumstantially similar encounter. This tendency to "cut to the chase" is more pronounced within the ranks of experienced criminal investigators. That's a good thing to know if you are an experienced detective who wants to put your fellow detectives on the wrong track. Are you thinking about the lead investigators in the O.J. Simpson case? According to the guy you're about to meet in these pages, you should be.

Twenty-one of my twenty-nine years in the Detroit Police Department involved general criminal investigations, sex crimes, and homicides. I was working homicide during the O.J. Simpson murder trial when I was approached by the author—my younger brother and champion of lost causes—for my assessment of the case against Simpson. I, of course, being the expert and the older, wiser brother, gave him the definitive answer based on the evidence I new about from TV and my years of experience with similar cases.

“O.J. did it,” I said.

“But George—” he said.

“O.J. did it.”

“But...”

He was a car designer. What did he know about murder investigations? Wasn't that the reason he came to me, for my inside knowledge? I then explained to him what the tip-offs were that made O.J.'s guilt so obvious.

“I don't think he did it,” he said. He then went to work on his latest crusade with the brand new eyes of a homicide cop. He had this theory that another plausible suspect existed, someone knowledgeable enough and close enough to the case to point the finger at O.J. Simpson the moment the police arrived on the crime scene.

After years of dedication to the task of building a case that fits the obvious and subtle facts, he invited me to look at the finished product. I did. I invite you to do the same.

Admitting you're wrong can be hard but it's better than staying that way.

Don't make up your mind until you give *Jago* a good look for fit and finish. Test it for mechanical defects. Kick the tires and take it for a spin.

George E. Garrison
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Detroit Police Department 1970-1999