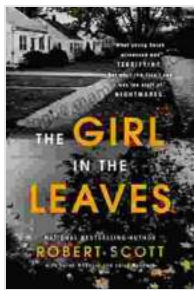


# The Girl in the Leaves: A Haunting True Crime Account of a Child's Murder and the Search for Justice

On September 13, 1991, Lisa Pruett, a nine-year-old girl, disappeared from her home in St. Augustine, Florida. Her body was found two days later in a wooded area, and her death was ruled a homicide.



## The Girl in the Leaves (Berkley True Crime) by Robert Scott

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3776 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 337 pages



The case went unsolved for over two decades, but in 2014, a DNA breakthrough led to the arrest of John Couey, a convicted sex offender. Couey was convicted of Lisa's murder in 2016 and sentenced to life in prison.

The Girl in the Leaves is a gripping account of Lisa's murder and the search for justice for her family. The book provides a detailed look at the investigation, the trial, and the impact of Lisa's death on her community.

## **The Investigation**

The investigation into Lisa's murder was one of the largest and most complex in St. Augustine's history. Hundreds of law enforcement officers were involved in the search for Lisa, and the FBI provided assistance. The investigation quickly focused on Couey, a convicted sex offender who lived near Lisa's home. Couey had a history of violence against children, and he was known to have been in the area where Lisa disappeared.

In 2014, a DNA breakthrough linked Couey to Lisa's murder. DNA evidence found on Lisa's body matched Couey's DNA profile. Couey was arrested and charged with Lisa's murder. He was convicted in 2016 and sentenced to life in prison.

## **The Trial**

The trial of John Couey was a highly publicized event. The prosecution presented a strong case against Couey, including the DNA evidence that linked him to Lisa's murder. Couey's defense attorneys argued that the DNA evidence was not conclusive and that Couey was not responsible for Lisa's death.

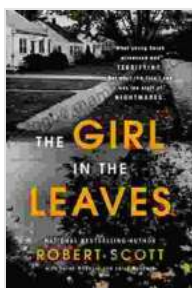
The jury deliberated for less than two hours before finding Couey guilty of murder. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

## **The Impact of Lisa's Death**

Lisa's murder had a profound impact on the St. Augustine community. The community was outraged by Lisa's death, and residents were fearful for the safety of their children. The murder also led to increased scrutiny of sex offenders in the area.

Lisa's family was devastated by her death. Lisa's mother, Cheryl Pruett, has become an advocate for victims of violence. She has spoken out about the need for more resources for law enforcement and for victims' families.

**The Girl in the Leaves is a powerful and moving account of a child's murder and the search for justice. The book is a reminder of the importance of never giving up on unsolved crimes and of the need to support victims' families.**



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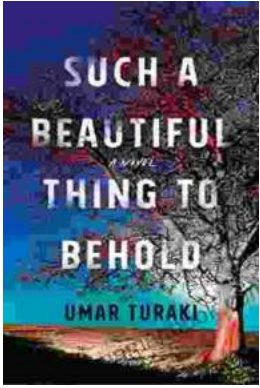
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