

***Bone Deep: Untangling the Betsy Faria Murder Case* by Charles Bosworth Jr. & Joel J. Schwartz**

You may have heard of the brutal murder of Betsy Faria on December 27, 2011, in Troy, Missouri. It was shockingly brutal – over 50 stab wounds. Her husband, Russ, found the body after coming home from an evening with friends. He immediately called 911 and suspected suicide due to Betsy's occasional depression and recent terminal cancer diagnosis. However, it wasn't suicide – it was murder and the police focused on Russ to the exclusion of all other suspects.

This true crime book is co-written by Joel Schwartz, the lawyer who defended Russ through two trials. The book spans 10 years of investigation, court trials, and unexpected twists. It thoroughly presents the steps taken (and not taken) by the police, prosecution, and the defendant as they sought to solve the crime. The story was featured widely in St. Louis news and was featured on the Dateline TV series. In 2022 it became a six-episode miniseries (*The Thing About Pam*) airing on NBC starring Renee Zellweger (available on DVD through interlibrary loan or streaming on Amazon Prime).

This book was chosen for February's Monday Morning Mystery Book Club selection at the Eureka Public Library. Members will be sharing their thoughts on the book and the crime on Monday, February 12 at 10 am at the library. The group is open to everyone. We do something different each month – a book-in-common, an author-in-common, a theme or sub-genre, or whatever we've been reading lately. It should be an interesting discussion – I couldn't put the book down and finished it well in advance of the meeting (a rare thing)!