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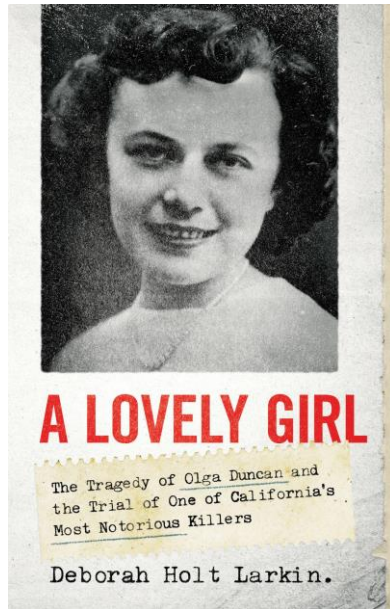
**On Sale: October 4, 2022**

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*The incredible story of a 1958 murder that ended with the last woman to ever be executed in California—a murder so twisted it seems ripped from a Greek tragedy.*

## **A LOVELY GIRL** **by Deborah Holt Larkin** *Publication Date: October 4, 2022*



Deborah Larkin was only ten years old when the quiet calm of her California suburb was shattered. Thirty miles north, on a quiet November night in Santa Barbara, a pregnant nurse named Olga Duncan disappeared from her apartment. The mystery deepened when it is discovered that Olga's mother in-law—a deeply manipulative and deceptive woman—had been doing everything in her power to separate Olga and her son, Frank, prior to Olga's disappearance.

From a forged annulment to multiple attempts to hire people to “get rid” of Olga, to a faked extortion case, Elizabeth seemed psychopathically attached to her son, yet she denied having anything to do with Olga's disappearance.

But when Olga's brutally beaten body is found in a shallow grave, apparently buried alive, a young DA makes it his mission to see that Elizabeth Duncan is brought to justice. Adding a wrinkle to his efforts is the fact that Frank—himself a defense attorney—maintained his mother's innocence to the end.

How does a young girl process such a crime along with the fear and disbelief that rocked an entire community? Decades later, Larkin is determined to revisit the case and bring the story of Olga herself to light. Long overshadowed by the sensationalism and scandal of Elizabeth and Frank, *A Lovely Girl* seeks to reveal Olga as a woman in full. Someone who was more than the twisted family that would ultimately ensnare her.

**A LOVELY GIRL: The Tragedy of Olga Duncan and the Trial of One of California's Most Notorious Killers**  
by Deborah Holt Larkin

October 4, 2022 ♦ Pegasus Publishing ♦ 304 pp ♦ Hardcover ♦ ISBN 9781639362448 ♦ \$27.95

As we follow the heart-pounding drama of the case through Larkin's young eyes—her father was the lead reporter for the local newspaper—*A Lovely Girl* is by turns page-turning yet poignant, and makes the reader reexamine how we handle fear, how we regard mental illness, and how we understand family as we carve our own path in a dangerous world.

### **About Deborah Holt Larkin**

**Deborah Holt Larkin** holds a bachelor's degree in American History and Literature from the University of California at Davis, and she studied creative writing at the University of California at San Diego. She has a master's degree in the Education of Exceptional Children from San Francisco State University. She has spent more than three decades teaching students with special needs before becoming an elementary school principal.

### **Inspiration behind A LOVELY GIRL**

*“My life-long interest in true crime stories began in 1958 when Olga Duncan vanished from her Santa Barbara apartment in the middle of the night. At the time, I was a passionate Dagnet and Nancy Drew fan. But when Olga’s brutally-beaten body was discovered a month later in a shallow grave on a lonely road near my home town, my focus shifted to the real-life mystery. And with a constant source of information from both my father’s newspaper articles about the murder and his never-ending monologue around the house detailing the bizarre case, I became obsessed with the true crime story. My mother tried to rein Daddy in with an occasional, “Shhh, you’re scaring the girls, Bob,” but he had few boundaries when it came to the news of the world. I hung on his every word because I wanted to understand about evil people and how to avoid them.*

*I was inspired to write about this unbelievable crime, filled with dark humor and bumbling killers, by the many conversations I had with my father. But I didn’t want to write the type of ripped-from-the-headlines, mass market book you find on the spin rack at the supermarket.*

*To me, this story is inextricably linked to a more innocent, unsophisticated era just before the dramatic changes of the 1960s, when we all believed that bad things didn’t happen in our own small towns if we all followed the rules. In between the carefully researched true crime procedural chapters, the thread of the story winds back to chapters of my coming-of-age memoir about our quirky family life and my dawning realization that sometimes terrible things can happen to good girls. That evil can hide behind a mask of normalcy.”*

### **Connect with Deborah Holt Larkin:**

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