

Donald Gaskins Biography

Donald Gaskins

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.

Contents

Donald Gaskins Biography.....	1
Contents.....	2
Biography.....	3

Biography

South Carolina's most notorious criminal, Donald "Pee Wee" Gaskins was put to death in 1991 after being linked to the murders of 14 people, but in an autobiography released after his death, he claimed to be responsible for over 100 deaths. He also gained notoriety as the first white killer of a black person in South Carolina to be executed in over a century, and the first white man to be executed in the United States for killing a black man in over half a century.

Various birth dates ranging from 1931 to 1937 are given for Donald Gaskins. He was nicknamed "Pee Wee" because of his short stature. Throughout most of his life, he was in and out of reform school and prison, and when he was not incarcerated he was a drifter who spent most of his time in South Carolina.

In 1975, investigation into the disappearance of 13-year-old Kim Ghelkins led South Carolina police to property owned by Gaskins. They discovered eight bodies there. Gaskins was charged and convicted in the death of one of them and sentenced to die. Later, five more bodies were found and linked to Gaskins, including Ghelkins and Gaskins' niece. Gaskins was saved from the electric chair when South Carolina's death penalty was ruled unconstitutional, and he later confessed to eight of the murders. He was sentenced to ten consecutive life terms.

Gaskins went back on death row after being convicted for murdering fellow inmate, Rudolph Tyner, whom he killed with a homemade bomb. He was executed for that crime on September 6, 1991.