



Bad Boy from Rosebud: The Murderous Life of Kenneth Allen McDuff

By Gary M. Lavergne



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-- Kenneth Allen McDuff's crimes -- committed after he walked away from the death house a free man! -- would forever change Texas law, earning that state its current reputation for severe and uncompromising justice!-- Really excellent True Crime forces readers to ask tough questions about the imagined day-to-day security they enjoy. Bad Boy does just that, causing law abiding citizens to question the entire justice system and its ability to keep people like them safe...and people like Kenneth Allen McDuff behind bars!

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Editorial Review

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"Bad boy" falls laughably short of describing Kenneth Allen McDuff, and "evil" seems too charitable. "Big Mac" was part Ted Bundy, part legendary small-town ogre Ken Rex McElroy (see Harry N. McLean's *In Broad Daylight*, 1988). He hated women, and his signature crime was to "take" a young woman and "use her up." He would force "around the world" sex (oral, anal, and vaginal penetration) on her and then murder her. Lit cigarettes and other instruments of petty torture figured prominently in his homicidal rituals. Lavergne's descriptions of McDuff, his crimes, and the trouble the minions of justice had in putting him away (he was on death row twice--years apart--before being executed) are the stuff of a book in which many a chapter ends with a cliff-hanger that impels the reader into the next. McDuff's monumentally cruel, breathtakingly brutal antics may make even the most hardened true-crime fans sweat. A must for aficionados of the grisly and a thrill ride to hell for more casual crime fans. *Mike Tribby*

From the Author

"Texas still feels the pain inflicted by Kenneth Allen McDuff, despite the relentless efforts of law enforcement officials to solve his crimes and bind up its wounds. *Bad Boy from Rosebud* is an impeccably researched, compellingly detailed account of the crimes and the long search for justice. Gary Lavergne takes us directly to the scenes of the crimes, deep inside the mind of a killer, and in the process learns not only whom McDuff killed and how--but why. This is classic crime reporting."--Dan Rather, CBS Anchor and Managing Editor and reporter of Kenneth Allen McDuff on 48 Hours

"Gary Lavergne succeeds in giving us an inside look at one of the most savage killers in our history, and at the same time exposes the failure of our criminal justice system."--Gary Cartwright

In October of 1989, the State of Texas set Kenneth Allen McDuff, the Broomstick Murderer, free. It was not a trial error, or a ruling by some judge. McDuff was paroled.

All of a sudden fear returned. Calls came in from housewives afraid to leave their kids by themselves during broad daylight. Schools took precautions, and bus drivers were warned to be on the alert for the Bad Boy from Rosebud. Thirty years after he had dropped out of school, Kenneth McDuff was still scaring school children and giving principals trouble.

By choosing to murder again while on parole, McDuff became the architect of an extraordinarily intolerant atmosphere in Texas. He brought about the restructuring of the third largest criminal justice system in the United States. The spasm of prison construction and parole reforms collectively called the "McDuff Rules," resulted from an enormous display of anger vented towards the system that allowed McDuff to kill, and kill again.

Bad Boy from Rosebud is a chilling account of the life of one of the most heartless and brutal serial killers in American history. Drawing from dozens of interviews, a careful review of primary documents, and recounting his personal involvement with law enforcement officers in efforts to recover victims, Gary M. Lavergne goes beyond horror into an analysis of the unbelievable subculture in which McDuff lived. Equally compelling are the lives of remarkable law enforcement officers determined to bring McDuff to justice, and their seven-year search for his victims.

"Gary Lavergne provides a fascinating account of McDuff's killing sprees and how a dysfunctional criminal

justice system released him to kill again. Anyone who questions the wisdom of the death penalty or why we need tough criminal laws, needs only to read this book."--Ken Anderson, author, Crime in Texas

Gary Lavergne has earned degrees from the University of Southwestern Louisiana and McNeese University. His previous book, A Sniper in the Tower: The Charles Whitman Murders received rave reviews and a number of awards and recognitions. Lavergne is currently the Director of Admissions and Guidance Services for the Southwestern Regional Office of the College Board. Helives in Cedar Park, Texas, with his wife and children.

Users Review

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Bruce Jackson:

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Jesus Curry:

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