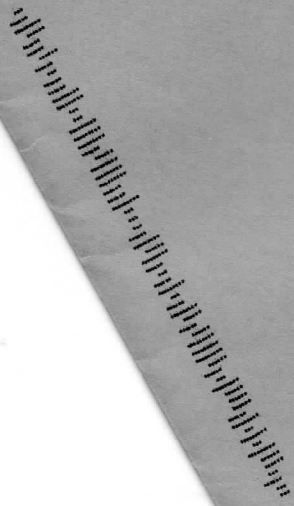


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CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION  
MARIETTA, GEORGIA 30067

Russ DAVIS  
Box 2088  
Forney, TX 75126-9947



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Greetings Rudy & Erin,

① And great blessings to you. I spoke to [redacted] yesterday. She speaks so highly, of both of you!

② ENCL: 4 Articles from SQ QUENTIN NEWS. That paper is published by prisoners at SQ Prison yet goes all over the USA & the world. (To limited circulation, but still significant).

2 of the 4 articles I asked you about before - if you could get me ALL AVAILABLE CONTACT INFO for BROWER, & SMITH.

I've enclosed 2 other articles. Of course the world is full of millions of authors & film makers - too many for all but a few to have relevance to my quest for freedom. These 4 articles do have that relevance because (a) they are profiled in SQ NEWS & (b) all 4 are involved in prisoner - help activities.

So please find me what ever contact info you are able & willing to try to find. And of course, as always, I NEVER take for granted anything - and ALWAYS appreciate greatly all that you can squeeze in to do for me. I know how busy you must be.

Thank you so much - Free

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JUNE 2018  
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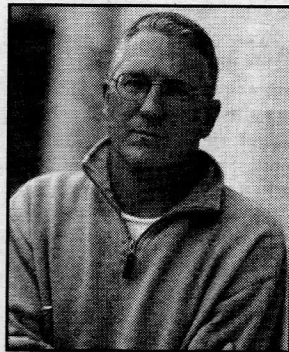
# War correspondent and filmmaker reflects back on his fatal mistake

By Achilles Williams  
Journalism Guild Writer

One thoughtless mistake traumatized many lives and landed Donovan Webster in prison, according to his account in *AARP The Magazine*. Webster was a writer, war correspondent and filmmaker, until he caused a fatal crash one night in August 2014.

Webster was driving intoxicated down a curvy mountain road, when he sideswiped Wayne T. White's car, causing it to be crushed by an oncoming 18-wheeler. Webster had an alcohol blood level of 0.10 percent, according to the article. The legal limit is 0.08.

"We lived in a small town. Everyone knew who I was, and everyone also knew my wife. And when I went to prison for killing a man, she became the public face of



File Photo

Donovan Webster

our family and my deed. It shamed her, unbearably so," Webster wrote.

As a war correspondent, Webster witnessed bloody conflicts and beheadings in Africa, Iraq and Afghanistan. He was part of a team sent to Southeast Asia after the 2004 tsunami. Those memories accumulated.

"Inside the zone, we all

wore surgical-style masks. If you didn't tiny particles of dust and rotting human flesh blown on the wind would attach themselves to your teeth and tongue and the roof of your mouth," Webster said, about the conditions immediately after the tsunami.

He was diagnosed three times with post-traumatic stress disorder. Psychiatrists prescribed Webster a litany of medications for anxiety, panic attacks and insomnia. He stopped taking the meds, which included Valium, Xanax, Lexapro and trazodone, and started drinking instead.

Webster never saw his drinking as a problem, but gradually, it overtook him, he said.

That drinking led to the fatal crash that took White's life. White was described as an invaluable member of the community. He was a farm-

er and churchgoer with a spouse, children, and grandchildren.

"My son and daughter are divided between wanting to love me and wanting to walk away from all the pain," Webster wrote.

Following almost two years in prison, Webster faced a broken family, no money and no job opportunities. Now that he's out, he is engaged in self-reflection and wrote that he has "powerful remorse" for his crime.

"But I have realized that there's some great power in being around long enough to comprehend that no matter the damage we've done, a new door will open," Webster concluded. "No matter what age you are, staging a comeback is only a matter of taking the rest of your life seriously and making the next smart move, and the next."

RUBY - In trying to get all contact info on her.

# By day, she interviews scientists, by night, a dystopian novelist

## A 2018 Elizabeth George Grant for her novel-in-progress, *The Clearest Way into the Universe*

By **Juan Haines**  
Senior Editor

Mackenzie Smith spends her days at a university interviewing scientists. Her nights are devoted to revisiting her dystopian novel. It's about two sisters, on opposite coasts, trying to reunite.

She spent Feb. 28 in a non-fictional place—San Quentin State Prison. There, she shared stories with inmates in Zoe Mullery's creative writing workshop.

"The writers are engaged, talented and committed to each other.

their writing—far more than I've experienced," Smith said.

They read the short story *Yours* by Mary Robinson. In *Yours*, the young Allison, 35, is married to 78-year-old Clark.

The story takes place as the couple sits outside their home cutting up jack-o-lanterns for Halloween.

Lawrence Pela noticed that Allison wore a wig but didn't expect that she was dying.

Richie Morris thought the characters complemented each other.

"Their age wasn't an issue," Morris said. "They were both coming to the end of their lives."

James Metters said he liked the symbolism that the jack-o-lanterns represented—"with all the different facial expressions."

No wasted words is what struck Nelson Butler.

"There was little need for back story," Butler said. "I was able to use my imagination to fill in the rest of the story and still get what she wanted readers to get."

Next, they read *Dinosaur*

by Bruce Holland Rogers. It's a man's whole life told in three paragraphs.

The story begins from a boy's perspective, progresses into adulthood and, as his health declines, regresses back to childhood.

Kevin D. Sawyer spoke about the irony in the story.

"In the end, he became a dinosaur," Sawyer said. "Something that's extinct."

Smith asked the men to pay attention to time and images in the stories.

The class created a list of activities that two people can do.

Their list included Frisbee, basketball, Scrabble, seesaw, playing the electric guitar, making love, card games, bank robbery, patrol and tango.

Then, they named images: Campbell's tomato soup, G-Shock watches, Colgate Two-in-One toothpaste, glasses, a rippling lake, neon signs, a dead mouse, a greenhouse, ants, a crown, an electric

chair and a cross. Smith asked the men to choose some of the activities and images to make a story.

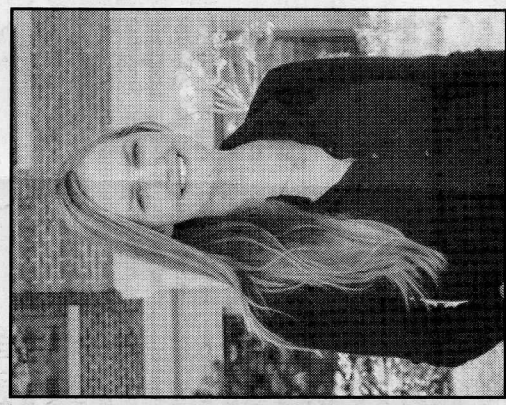
When the men read their stories, every one of the activities and images appeared.

Smith's stories and nonfiction have appeared in *ZYZZYVA*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and *TriQuarterly Online*, among other journals.

She is the recipient of a 2018 Elizabeth George Grant for her novel-in-progress, *The Clearest Way into the Universe*.

Smith holds degrees in creative writing from Carnegie Mellon University and Oregon State University.

She has taught writing workshops in Belize, India, Montenegro, and Timor-



Courtesy of Mackenzie Smith

Mackenzie Smith

Leste and has also taught incarcerated women in Oregon.

A former Fulbright Fellow and Luce Scholar, she is currently a science writer for University of California Berkeley's College of Natural Resources.

- 25% Drop in State prison incarceration
- 10% Drop Statewide average in county jail populations
- 22% Drop in Felony findings

according to "SAFE AND SOUND: ..." by Californians For Safety and Justice Nov. 2017

legislation. Taylor said restoring voting rights would

*I'm seeking all contact info on him (BUTHION)*

# French journalist films journey of San Quentin Death Row inmate

**By Harry C. Goodall Jr. Journalism Guild Writer**

Keith Zon Doolin is on death row despite evidence of his innocence, according to Agnes Buthion, a French journalist who has directed a documentary called "20 Years on Death Row." Interviewed by *The Fresno Bee*, Buthion said that she hoped to highlight Doolin's innocence.

In 1996, Doolin was convicted of a crime spree shooting six sex workers in Central California. The result of his conviction was a sentence of death. Doolin is housed in East Block at San Quentin death row.

During her filming Buthion interviewed Doolin and also interviewed other people involved with the trial.

"I can't say and don't know if Keith Zon Doolin is guilty or innocent," Buthion told *Bee* reporter Pablo Lopez. "But, I am certain that his trial lawyer failed him." Her conclusion was that he did not get a fair trial.

Doolin's trial attorney, Rudy Petilla of Fresno, resigned from the State Bar of California in 2004, possibly due to allegations of misconduct from another case. In December 2013, Petilla died at age 73.

Doolin had no previous criminal record and was working as a truck driver at the time of the crimes.

During an on-camera interview, David Mugridge, a Fresno attorney, provided a sworn declaration that he possessed evidence that could exonerate Doolin. The evidence was from his former client, Josefina Sonia Saldana.

This Saldana evidence is crucial in the eyes of Doolin's attorneys. She had testified under the name Josefina Sonya Hernandez during Doolin's trial, swearing that she heard gunshots, dogs barking and a loud voice that

said, "Oh my God, oh my God." But, she never called the police, according to the article.

Saldana's testimony pertained to the death of Peggy Tucker, who was killed Sept. 19, 1995, behind Saldana's home. Doolin was convicted of killing Tucker and Inez Espinosa, and seriously wounding three other women.

unless compelled by a court. The California Supreme Court upheld Doolin's death sentence in 2009, citing the eye-witness testimony of the surviving victims and ballistic evidence from Doolin's personal handgun.

In 2016, Doolin's death-penalty lawyers, Robert R. Bryan and Pamela Sayasane of San Francisco, petitioned the California Supreme Court for release of Saldana's testimony. The court has yet to rule on the petition.

## States seeking lethal injection cocktails from the black market

**By John Lam Journalism Guild Writer**

Some states have turned to the black market to obtain scarce lethal injection drugs that have caused botched executions, according to *Reason.com*.

According to the report by C.J. Caramella, investigative journalists found that "these states have turned to untraceable cash injections. unregulated

official drove across state lines and purchased execution drugs from a pharmacy using petty cash. Despite a U.S. Food and Drug Administration ban on importing sodium thiopental, the active ingredient in executions, three states paid an Indiana company, Harris Pharma, run by a man with no pharma-

300 executions. The FDA confiscated the shipment, leaving Nebraskan taxpayers on the hook.

Due to the difficulty of obtaining Midazolam and sodium thiopental, Nebraska is looking into using a never-before-tried mix of four drugs: diazepam (Valium), potassium chloride, cisatracurium besylate (a

**"I can't say and don't know if Keith Zon Doolin is guilty or innocent, but, I am certain that his trial lawyer failed him"**

Buthion spent two months in Fresno last year shooting her documentary. The Fresno Police department and prosecutor were invited to participate in the documentary but declined to participate.

Buthion told *The Fresno Bee* that her investigation raised doubts about his conviction, and she thinks Doolin may not have committed all the crimes.

According to Buthion, the French are fascinated with real-life American crime stories. Her documentary on the Doolin case is set to air in four 50-minute segments on *French TV*.

# Nikki Meredith takes a detailed look inside the minds of the Manson women

## BOOK REVIEW

By Juan Haines  
Senior Editor

It took Nikki Meredith more than two decades of prison visits, trips into the California desert, and prolonged research to knit her memories, reactions, opinions together and write the words that describe the crime and the punishment in *The Manson Women and Me: Monsters, Morality, and Murder* (2018).

What makes *The Manson Women and Me* a compelling read is the close scrutiny Meredith applies to investigating the mindsets, before and after, of Leslie Van Houten and Patricia Krenwinkel, two of the three women at the center of the "Manson Family" crimes. Meredith also provides a clear look at the women 40 years after their crimes. Susan Atkins, a third woman involved briefly in *The Manson Women and Me*.

Meredith discusses her own life in the context of the culture and upbringing of that time, adding an historical and personal layer that makes the narrative relatable. While a student at Hollywood High School, Meredith joined a sorority-like social club that included a girl who years later became a trusted recruiter for the Manson Family. Another high school acquaintance be-

came an attorney on the prosecuting team at the Manson trials.

Meredith's own movingly naïve, 1950s perception of how women should handle abusive relationships was interjected into the story, causing readers to think about the 1960s, when the crimes took place, and how much western masculinity influenced Van Houten and Krenwinkel.

Meredith is candid about her brother's teenaged history with the criminal justice system, and writes about her own experience with high school peer pressures, something that all readers can empathize with — social status being vital to the self-image. However, when Meredith writes of the challenges she faced in her own life with the similar challenges of the Manson women, an uncomfortable question emerges: how could these mid-century, middle-class women commit these gruesome murders?

To address the question, Meredith cites psychiatrist Robert Jay Lifton's reference to the Germans during the Holocaust:

*They were very ordinary men who became demonic, doing demonic things. They weren't inherently evil. Human beings aren't inherently evil. Rather we have the capacity for good or for evil and we become what we are through our own personal decisions.*



In the end, journalists, psychologists, law enforcement, and the public might agree that a cunning psychopath manipulated the three women, but as Meredith points out, "they did choose to be with him."

Meredith writes:

*While I believe that Pat and Leslie were subjected to extremely manipulative techniques, it's still astonishing that the socialization of a lifetime was stripped away in a few months and that it took more than five years for their basic humanity to re-emerge.*

"I think that one of the things missed is that Pat and Leslie believed they were important to the world. They were looking for a cause greater than they were, like most of the Jihadists believe that by killing infidels they



Author Nikki Meredith being interviewed by Michael Krasny, the host of the NPR Forum  
Photo by Ben Holbert

are making it a better world," Meredith said on a KQED interview last April. "Manson had convinced them that wealthy families like the Tates, represented conventional society that represented evil in the world."

*The Manson Women and Me* is about understanding the totality of human nature—empathy, and the lack thereof, come up in many of its chapters.

"There is something particularly chilling about a woman without empathy—much more frightening than a man without empathy," Mer-

edith writes. Meredith doesn't hold back when describing the horrific and gruesome details of the Tate-LaBianca murders.

She researched the annals of history, comparing the Manson murders to genocides in Rwanda and German suicides in San Diego and the Jihadist couple's killings in San Bernardino.

An arduous journey of judgments, comparisons, and opinions are featured in *The Manson Women and Me* as the victims' families and prosecutors seek what they

consider a punishment that fits the crime—to never be let out of prison.

After reviewing more than 60 books for *San Quentin News*, *The Manson Women and Me* has extraordinary interest for me. I know Nikki Meredith and what I enjoy most is her commitment to the understanding of human nature and our conversations centered on philosophies, politics, and prisons.

She's an adviser for *San Quentin News*, and has been helping me with book reviews for about the last two years—although not this one.