

# Britain’s Own Norfolk Four?



CRIME   FEATURED   GNEWS  
NEWS

By Alexander Baron



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In July 1997, a military wife was murdered at Norfolk, Virginia, as a result of which four American military personnel confessed in double quick time to the crime and were convicted. Notwithstanding the fact that they should have been made of sterner stuff, their confessions are now recognised as spurious, and the case as **a miscarriage of justice**.

Now it seems that the UK has its own Norfolk 4, because away from the ludicrous headlines about **Westminster paedophile rings** and the well publicised trials of hapless celebrities, another trial is going on, that of ten people – six of them women – for grotesque sexual crimes against five young victims between 2004 and 2010. The trial has in fact now finished bar the sentencing of those convicted; as things stand, this will take place late next month.

Little information has been published about this trial outside the County of Norfolk and the BBC, but there are reasons to believe this may be yet another terrible miscarriage of justice. The four principle reasons are the involvement of so many women, the apparent lack of physical/medical evidence, the extraordinary nature of some of the allegations, and the acknowledged tampering with prosecution documents by at least one social worker.

Let's deal with the first one first. While it is undoubtedly true that there is no wickedness like the wickedness of a woman, women who commit sex crimes are rare birds indeed, and even in those few cases they are almost always subservient to a male partner-in-crime. Vanessa George, the woman at the centre of the *Little Ted's scandal*, was acting more under the control of rather than in concert with a male paedophile; the self-styled paedo whore seemed to think what they were doing was funny, although she isn't laughing now.

While there are always exceptions to the rule, and stereotypes can be dangerous, are we really supposed to believe not only that two women were involved in this sexual abuse but that one of them was the ringleader? There were actually ten defendants in this case, but six were cleared of all charges, four of them women. So it is reasonable to assume that the Crown believed there were ten paedophiles in this ring including these four women, something even an English jury refused to swallow. The oldest defendant, Kathleen Adams, is now 85. This is reminiscent of *Elizabeth Southern*s, hanged for witchcraft in 1612, who at least confessed, or perhaps more fittingly of the elderly *Virginia McMartin*.

Alleged ringleader Marie Black elected not to testify, which could only have hurt her defence. She was convicted of 23 charges, including rape. The most frightening thing about Black is her mugshot, which bears more than a passing resemblance to Sarah Silverman.



Marie Black (Image credits: BBC)

Point two: the physical/medical evidence, or rather the lack thereof. These crimes were said to have taken place over a period of several years; rape is a crime that leaves physical evidence, more so the rape of a child. Where was it? If there had been any credible medical evidence, this trial would have been much shorter and would have involved far fewer defendants because the innocent parties would have rounded on the guilty, and even the guilty would have thrown each other under the bus. While it is not true that three people can keep a secret only if two of them are dead, conspiracies of the nature purported here are not like those in which people simply look the

other way. Anyone knowing of abuse of this nature would surely have reported it if only for fear of being implicated themselves. Could the four convicted – if really guilty – have done so? This is what makes conspiracies of this nature so implausible, because the more people working alongside the conspirators, the bigger the conspiracy would have to become. This is why at the moment the Metropolitan Police and other forces who are crediting this Westminster paedophile ring nonsense have been looking into politicians from both Houses and police officers. At some point they’re going to have to rope in secretaries, caretakers, doormen, cleaners...and at some point further they’re going to have to admit the whole thing is ridiculous and own up to the prosaic fact that they’ve been had.

Point three: the allegations include the young victims being forced to drink blood. Does that sound even remotely credible? Wouldn’t a child forced to do this be revolted, or choke? Wouldn’t others have been informed?

Point four: at least one social worker is said to have tampered with prosecution documents. The prosecution of this case actually dates back to 2010, but it was dropped when the authorities were unable to corroborate the allegations. A cynic might ask if after the convictions of **Rolf Harris** and **Max Clifford** corroboration is required at all? But the social worker Gail Barnard conducted her own investigation, and, surprise, surprise, look where we are now. Curiously, or perhaps not so curiously, the book at the top of Norfolk County Council reading list for victims of childhood sexual abuse (along with *Breaking Free*) is *The Courage To Heal*, one of the most perfidious books ever written. You can read a review of it [here](#); other skeptics are less complimentary.



**Book Prescription Scheme**

**Books that help you to manage and overcome a range of emotional and psychological difficulties**

Theme	Title	Author	Date
Abuse	Breaking free	Carolyn Ainscough	2000
	The courage to heal: a guide for woman survivors of child sexual abuse	Ellen Bass	2002
Anger	Overcoming anger and irritability: a self-help guide using cognitive behavioural techniques	Frank Tallis	1990
	Managing anger: Simple steps to handling your temper	Gael Lindenfield	2000
Anorexia	Overcoming anorexia nervosa: a self-help guide using cognitive behavioural techniques	Christophe Freeman	2002
Anxiety	How to stop worrying	Frank Tallis	1990
	Feel the fear and do it anyway	Susan J Jeffers	2007
	Overcoming anxiety: a self-help guide using cognitive behavioural techniques	Helen Kennerley	1997
	Overcoming paranoid and suspicious thoughts	Daniel Freeman, Jason Freeman and Phillipa Garety	2006
	Coping with Anxiety (CD)	Talking Life	2005
	Anxiety & Phobia Workbook	Bourne, Edmund	2005
	An introduction to Coping with Anxiety	Hogan, B & Brosan, L	2007
	Overcoming Anxiety	Chris Williams	2003

Norfolk County Council reading list

There is also another reason to be suspicious of the actions of Norfolk social services in this case, certainly with regard to their treatment of Marie Black, because this is not a nursery case. Three years ago, she was at the centre of a custody battle. She appears to have had a troubled life, or at least a troubled marriage. A mother of five, her husband is said to have been abusive – which can mean almost anything – but clearly she wanted out of the marriage. Taking up with another man, Joe Ollis, she fled to France where their daughter Luna was born. Incredibly, she was pursued to France where social workers seized the baby intending to put her up for forced adoption. The grounds for this were that Black was said to have kept in touch with her estranged husband secretly.

It was the defence case that foster carers and social workers had fabricated the allegations against Black; it remains to be seen if they did this consciously, but the dishonest rhetoric of prosecutrix Angela Rafferty QC does little to allay such suspicions.

Due to the usual hysteria over sex offences and in this case the ages of the alleged victims, the five were not named. However, it should be pointed out that Marie Black was known formerly as Marie Adams, and that her co-defendant Jason Adams had previously served a year in prison for assaulting her and a child. He had also pleaded guilty to the non-sexual charges. This was and undoubtedly is the only grain of truth in this admittedly distasteful case.

In the absence of real evidence of sexual abuse, all we have in this case are words. How reliable are these words? One of the boys said in an interview **recorded five years ago** that he had said initially he had not been sexually abused, but later this became he had been sexually abused since the age of two. This boy was the oldest of the five siblings. It is thoroughly documented that the memories of a two year old are not worth the paper Sam Goldwyn's verbal contract was printed on, so how and why was this nonsense of coaching young kids until they gave *correct* testimony permitted?

He said too that Marie Black would take photographs of him having sex with (ie being raped by) three of the others. Again, if these photographs had really existed, this would have been a very short trial.



*Marie Black's defence was that she was the victim of difficult circumstances (Image credits: Julian Sturdy/BBC)*

In March 2011, the Crown Prosecution Service published lengthy protocols for achieving what it calls **best evidence in criminal proceedings**, by best the CPS means the most incriminating. These protocols include measures instituted to protect supposedly vulnerable witnesses. Very young, young and indeed not so young witnesses (ie women in rape cases) testify now from behind screens or even by video-link to avoid the *male gaze*, or in this case the witch gaze. Of course, there is another entirely different reason for this protection, especially in child abuse cases. What if the victim were to see the accused sitting in the dock and say something like "Hi Granny Adams, what are you doing here?" Where would that leave the prosecution?

Something like that happened to Kelly Michaels, **according to Dorothy Rabinowitz** who worked on her case tirelessly for years. If you are not *au fait* with the bizarre ordeal of this young woman,




here she is in 2003 [discussing it with Oprah Winfrey](#). Incidentally, Oprah has come a long way in less than a decade because in 1994 she gave space on her show to a lunatic who claimed to have witnessed the ritual murders of babies.



*Kelly Michaels*

Although the evidence in the current case does not appear to be as outlandish as the evidence used to convict Kelly Michaels, and indeed many others, the question must be asked how reliable is the testimony of the young victims, so-called? There is now a voluminous literature on this subject, but in lieu of wading through academic books and peer reviewed journals the reader might like to check out this fascinating report [from American TV](#) which covers false memories induced by leading questions, the fallacy of using anatomically correct dolls, and outright dishonesty by police, prosecuting lawyers and others. Kelly Michaels was convicted in 1988 and was not finally cleared until December 1994. In the UK we have seen similar witch-hunts, and indeed we are in the middle of one now, yet there has been no critical coverage of the conviction of Marie Black and her alleged coven, in spite of the six acquittals. As that Santayana bloke said back in 1923: “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”



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There are many female paedophiles. Please don't make excuses for them.

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