

Time To Let Jodi Arias Rot

By **Alexander Baron** - Mar 10, 2015



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For the past two years and more, the people of Arizona and more generally of the United States have been treated to the spectacle of a capital trial that should have lasted no more than a week, the trial of Jodi Arias for the murder of her former lover Travis Alexander. The two had enjoyed a tempestuous relationship since they first met in September 2006, but Alexander broke with her realising she was alluring poison.



Jodi Arias

Sadly, he could not resist that allure for long, and in June 2008, she turned up at his house, lured him into bed, and then into the shower where she induced him to pose for photographs, and while his back was turned, stabbed him. There is murder, and there is overkill; altogether, Travis Alexander was stabbed over twenty times, his throat was cut so deeply his head was nearly hacked off, and just for good measure, Arias put a bullet in his brain. His body was found days later by friends, decomposing in the Arizona heat.

When she was arrested the following month, she denied any knowledge of the murder, but the evidence she had left at the crime scene, including the camera, was overwhelming. Her denial was recorded on video, as was her new story about being present when he was murdered by two unidentified individuals. Finally, when her trial opened in January 2013, she admitted killing him but pleaded self-defense. Incredibly, she even produced two so-called expert witnesses who testified that her behaviour was symptomatic of a battered woman. One of these so-called experts even had the audacity to claim she was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder on account of the killing.

Some of her other courtroom antics beggar belief, including dragging the victim's name through the mud with the insinuation that he had child pornography on his computer. The

trial meandered on until May 8 when she was convicted of murder. Then began the penalty phase. By way of contrast, in 1962, the trial of James Hanratty at Bedford Assizes for the A6 Murder was then the longest murder trial in English criminal history; it opened on January 22, Hanratty was convicted February 17, and after an unsuccessful appeal he was hanged April 4.

More was to come in the Arias circus however; on May 23, the jury was unable to reach a decision, so in October last year, there was a new penalty phrase. Although there was a break for Christmas and New Year, the hearing dragged on until March 5 when a mistrial was declared. As things stand, Arias will be back in court on April 13 when Judge Sherry Stephens will have to decide whether to sentence her to life with the possibility of parole after 25 years or life without parole.



Victim Travis Alexander

Incredibly, because Arias is a beautiful young woman – with the caveat that beauty is only skin deep – she has her supporters, largely white males of a certain age who keep their brains inside their trousers. There is at least one website that proclaims her innocence. She has also been the subject of documentaries and a TV film, *Dirty Little Secret*. If some men love Arias, most women recognise her for what she is. Notwithstanding the endless hours of court testimony available on YouTube, the time has come to consign Jodi Ann Arias to the dustbin of history. If ever a woman deserved to die for one murder, then surely it was her and this one, but as she is now to live, let her live if not a living death then

an anonymous one. Hopefully when she is sentenced next month there will be nothing more than a token turnout for what should be a routine event.

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