

AUXmedia, a Division of AQUARIUS PRESS
20615 Fenkell, #23096, Detroit, MI 48223
877.979.3639
auxmediaAG@gmail.com
www.AUXmedia.studio

Contact: Toni Gardner, AUXmediaAG@gmail.com

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Grand Canyon Murder Mystery Explored in Forthcoming Book

Award-Winning Journalist's 10-Year Investigation Inspires Domestic Violence Campaign

(DETROIT)—Award-winning journalist Annette McGivney will chronicle her experiences investigating the most brutal murder in Grand Canyon history in an upcoming book. **PURE LAND: A True Story of Three Lives, Three Cultures & the Search for Heaven on Earth** is the story of the most brutal murder in the history of the Grand Canyon and how McGivney's quest to investigate the victim's life and death led the author through her own life-threatening crisis. McGivney's work on the book has spurred her to create a campaign that raises awareness about domestic violence.



Tomomi Hanamure

PURE LAND revolves around the murder of Tomomi Hanamure, a Japanese citizen who loved exploring the rugged wilderness of the American West. She was killed on her birthday in May 2006 during a hike to Havasu Falls on the Havasupai Indian reservation at the bottom of Grand Canyon. Hanamure was stabbed 29 times. Her killer was an 18-year old Havasupai youth named Randy Redtail Wescogame who had a history of robbing tourists and was addicted to methamphetamines.

"It was the most brutal murder ever recorded in Grand Canyon history," McGivney said. "I wrote an article about it for Backpacker Magazine, and the article received more reader mail than any story in the last decade. This story resonated with readers on many levels."

A woman who also enjoys wilderness hiking, McGivney felt a bond with Hanamure. Following the trail Hanamure left in her journals, McGivney embarked on a years-long pursuit to Japan and across the American West to learn more about her. In the process, McGivney made a connection to Wescogame, Hanamure's killer, which unexpectedly triggered long-buried memories about violent abuse McGivney experienced as a child.

"**PURE LAND** is a story of this inner and outer journey, how two women in search of their true nature found transcendence in the West's most spectacular landscapes," McGivney said. "It is also a tale of how child abuse leads to violence and destroys lives. Ultimately, it's a story of healing."

This healing component led McGivney to establish a public outreach campaign that will include a nonprofit that immerses child victims into the healing power of nature. The Healing Lands Project will provide guided wilderness river trips for child victims of domestic violence with mental health professionals.

PURE LAND will be released in October 2017 by AUXmedia. For more about Annette McGivney, visit www.AnnetteMcGivney.com.

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