



State of Florida vs. Ruby McCollum, Defendant

By Dr. C. Arthur Ellis Jr

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In 1952, Ruby McCollum, a wealthy married African-American, murdered her white paramour, a physician and recently elected state senator. The subsequent trial sent shock waves through the Segregationist South, revealing a complex web of sex, lies, illicit gain, and illegal drugs and liquor. An all-white male jury, many of whom were the doctor's patients, sat on the edge of their seats during the trial, in fear of what Ruby would have to say in her own defense. Through a barrage of rapid-fire objections that were sustained, Ruby's testimony revealed her torrid love affair, and Adams' role in the illegal gambling ring that made her and her husband rich. It also revealed an even darker secret of forced sex and a love child, with another on the way.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Dr. C. Arthur Ellis, Jr. is the only historian of the Ruby McCollum trial who knew all of the characters in the story. He has made it a decade goal of restoring the trial transcript, enriching it with annotations from his personal knowledge of the events and characters in this sordid tale.

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