

The Beauty Queen Killer

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Christopher Bernard Wilder was a race car driver with the appearance of a dream life - cars, money, and fame, but behind the facade, there was a dark side filled with kidnapping, rape, torture, and murder. Wilder was ultimately responsible for a series of rapes and murders across the country in the mid 1980's leading to a shootout ending in his death. Through a composite sketch, Wilder became a possible suspect in a sexual assault that occurred in South Florida in 1980. This case, which was processed with the most current serological methods at the time, would have been one of the earliest cases in Wilder's illicit criminal history. With the passage of Senate Bill 636, advent (and improvement) of DNA technologies, and the diligence of cold case detectives this case was re-examined 27 years later at the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory to finally determine the true identity of the rapist.